



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

July 1, 2018

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



July 1

Liberty and Unitarian Universalism in these Uncertain Times

We will explore the subject of religious liberty as promised through our Unitarian Universalist faith, especially now. In these uncertain times when hope seems hard to come by, what could Unitarian Universalism continue to offer with all that we are facing?

-Led by Rev. Chris Long, Community Outreach Minister, West Shore UU Church

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

Focus Collection: The Kids' Book Bank

July 8

The Poor You Shall Always Have With You: Liberty from Lifelong Poverty

The Bible verse The Poor You Shall Always Have With You (Matthew 26:11), is familiar biblical scripture used when issues of poverty are discussed in America. Often it is used to avoid asking hard questions about poverty and accountability. In this service we apply a liberal religious lens to interpret this verse, changing the moral conversation around the intersection of poverty and racism.

-Led by Rev. Rina Shere, UU Society of Cleveland

Worship Associate: Leslie Van Kuren

July 15

Freedom For Fun

Let us be intentional what we use our time and energy for in our lives. Not taking the freedoms we have for granted. This morning we remember the intentions we set for ourselves in January and take this time mid-year to re-commit to what brings us joy.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Bruce Melville

July 22

Liberty for All?

Is this society free for everyone, do we all share in liberty? What is life like for someone different from ourselves? In these days of #MeToo, Black Lives Matter and angry denouncement of differences how do we find our center and a path forward?

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

(Continued on Page 2)

The Forum

(Continued From Page 1)

July 29

Living Fully

In this Sermon, purchased by Deb Celinski at our Auction, we will explore the liberation we can have when we acknowledging the reality of death in our lives. Come join us for this courageous celebration of living fully.

-Led by

Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

Message from your Minister

Liberty

“There in the city’s harbor is the most extraordinary sight of all: It is an ordinary woman lighting the way—a lady offering us the liberty to pursue our dreams if we’ve the courage to begin.”

- Libba Bray

I am writing this from Bon Secours Retreat Center outside Baltimore where I am delving deep into how to companion others on their spiritual journeys. Walking with all of you, being a witness and support as you go through the ups and downs of life is a great gift. I am so glad to be your minister.

And so we arrive at July! With the theme of Liberty. What does that even mean? We can look it up and read, being free from oppressions imposed by authority. In this faith we are free from a creed, an imposed statement of theological beliefs. Maybe more importantly, we are free to seek the holy and name what is meaningful, to work together for justice and to be welcomed in beloved community. Our faith and Liberation theology remind us we also carry some responsibility for the freedom of others and the interdependent web.

What I know is that standing in the truth that we are all connected, that the Holy is Love, that each and every one of us matters is a radical stance today. It should not matter the color of our skin, the amount of money of our family or our national origin – liberty and human decency belong to all of us. May we live out of this truth.

I leave you with a few questions to ponder this month: What liberation have you experienced in your life? When has your liberty been infringed upon? What have you felt freedom for? Please make the most of these warm summer days. No matter what else is happening in your life, may you appreciate the sunshine and the green grass and the soft breezes. May you spend time with folks you love doing things that matter to you. May you name your longing and make space for depth in your life. Toward what dreams and liberation is the Spirit leading you? I’d love to hear your answers or to have some time together with you.

Know that you are loved,

Rev. Kristen

minister@swuu.org

The Forum

Focus Collection for July: The Kids' Book Bank by Mark Jackson, Youth Advisor

Our SWUU Youth Group elected to donate the July Focus Collection to The Kids' Book Bank (<http://www.kidsbookbank.org/>). We all know the importance of reading to a child's success both inside and outside of an academic environment. What you may not know, is that up to two-thirds of low income children do not have easy access to reading materials. The Kids' Book Bank distributes books to children and families in need through specific local literary agencies, schools, pediatricians, childcare centers and after-school programs, and even small free libraries. Their Mission, as stated on their website, is "to foster improved literacy and a love of reading by providing free books to children in need", and they are good at what they do! Since March of 2016 they have distributed over one million books! You can read more about the important work that they do on their website (printed above). Thanks for your support



Books change lives.

Kids need books to learn - and to feed their imagination.
Together we can create a city of readers.



Help put books into the hands of Cleveland children in need.

Urban Hope

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Urban Hope was a big success Sunday, June 10. Mary & Tom Brooks, Carol & Jim Jagers, and Susan Paxson and her friend took the food and did the serving and clean up. There was a huge tray of pasta and meatballs that were quite a hit. We had plenty of cheese, crackers, nuts, veggies and sweets. Reports are that the food was very much appreciated, and it was a positive experience for all. We will return to Urban Hope on Sunday, July 8, and then we will take off the month of August. Please check out the sign up sheet in the lobby. As usual, thanks for your generosity.

The Forum

Welcome New Members

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

Last month, SWUU welcomed seven new members into our community. You will recognize **Jeanne and Sean Merchant** because they have an adorable 9 month old, Sam, whose cooing you might have heard during a service or two. Here's what they have to say about SWUU: "We chose to join SWUU, because of the warmth of its members, devoted service to community, appreciation and respect for diversity and culture, the promotion of wonderment, self-study and introspection. We dedicate ourselves to serving others, bettering ourselves and strengthening our relationships. We promise to contribute all that we may to SWUU, its members and its missions." **Gayle and Steve Doucette** have been attending since the fall. They have two sons and eight grandchildren. They grew up in Massachusetts, but have lived in the Cleveland area since 1979. Currently they are Parma residents; but since retirement, they spend their summers at their camp site at Chautauqua Lake in New York. **Chet Scalse** recently moved here from the east side. He says, "I have been a friend of the UU since my very first service in 1998. I come to SWUU from an earth-centered path that has inspired and uplifted me for over 20 years. It is an honor to be part of a church that shares my values and understands the importance of diversity." **Lindsay Andrews and Marc Amante** have come to us most recently from Illinois. All of their pictures are on the bulletin board in the lobby. Take some time to get to know our newest SWUU members.

Recycling at SWUU

by Susan Paxson

Did anyone else see the article in the PD about recycling in Cuyahoga County? The gist of the article was that many people who have embraced recycling are still not doing it correctly, and as a result are contaminating the system. After reading the article, here is what I found most helpful. "Acceptable items include any can, steel or aluminum; glass bottles and jars; plastic bottles and jugs; paper and cardboard, and cartons of milk or juice. Acceptable plastic items for recycling include rinsed water and soda bottles, shampoo bottles, milk, water and juice jugs, laundry detergent jugs and bleach bottles." I confirmed this information by calling the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

Since I have taken responsibility for collecting the recycling at church, I would appreciate it if you could only place these items in our blue recycling container. There will be a sign on the container reminding you of the items which are acceptable, and those that are not. I would like to also emphasize that the items need to be rinsed out, especially the soda bottles! Thanks for helping us do our part for the environment!

The Forum

Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

Due to some scheduling issues involving both me and Rev. Kristen, and the fact that the board met twice in May, we did not meet in June. As such, there is no formal news to report on regarding our activities. This is not to say that we weren't busy. Here are some updates.

You may have noticed at the annual meeting that members were not presented with a slate of officers to approve (President, Vice President, Secretary). This is stipulated in our bylaws, but at the time of the meeting (a week earlier than usual) those positions were not completely filled. Working with our Leadership Development Team (LDT), we have now worked most of these out. I will be serving a second year as your President. This is a bit unusual, but it made sense, and I've somewhat got the hang of the role, so I was happy to serve again. Hallie Davis has accepted the Vice President position, with the expectation that she will become President next year. Hallie has been very effective in her first year on the board and is very well suited for this role. The position of Secretary has not yet been filled, but we have decided to try a new approach and seek someone from outside of the board. This was a suggestion from the LDT. We have realized that being secretary (i.e. taking minutes) and being fully engaged at meetings is remarkably difficult. As such the idea of having a church member whose only job was to take minutes once per month seemed appealing. The LDT has identified some candidates for us. I will let you know when our selection is made. This is a one year experiment.

We have been interacting with Chalice Lighter officials and our chosen contractor for the steeple repairs. It looks like we will receive our funding in mid-July, and the estimated 5-6 day repair work will begin toward the end of July.

We had a great SWUU showing, and a great time at Pride this year. This has nothing whatsoever to do with the board, but I'm writing this article, I was at Pride and well...I just wanted to share how good it all felt.



Cooks' Night Out for July

by Candy Poissant

Our Cooks' Night Out this month will be Friday, July 20th, at 6:30. We will be dining at Simons restaurant in Brecksville. They have a room where we can hear each other! This is a great way to connect with other members and friends in a casual, fun atmosphere. Watch for more information in the Thursday News and in the announcements on Sunday morning. If you are interested in attending or if you have questions, either call, text, or email me. Hope you can come!

The Forum



SWUU on the Web

For general information about SWUU, services, sermons, committees and the most up-to-date calendar of events, visit our website at:

www.swuu.org

Receive The Forum Electronically!

If you would like to receive The Forum via email, contact

forum@swuu.org

Join the SWUUList

If you would like to join a newsgroup focused on those issues of importance to SWUU, check out the SWUUList. Go to www.SWUU.org and click on SWUUList for details.

Sermons

If you would like to receive sermons via email or by mail, contact office@swuu.org

Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the Board Minutes via email, contact office@swuu.org, and put "Board Minutes" in the subject line

Editorial Team

Dan Paxson
Susan Paxson

Would you like to submit something to The Forum?

- ◆ Write as if the reader is new to SWUU
- ◆ Include first and last names, and area codes
- ◆ Include a contact person, phone number, and email if possible
- ◆ Include the city in which the event is located
- ◆ Avoid or explain insider terms and abbreviations
- ◆ Explain Who, What, Where, and When (How and Why are often helpful as well.)
- ◆ Encourage volunteering and participation gently.

Submission guidelines apply to articles and Order of Service announcements. Order of Service announcements may be sent to office@swuu.org by Thursday morning of each week.

Articles are edited minimally, only to ensure that these guidelines are met.

The Forum is published on the 1st day of each month
Submissions should be sent to forum@swuu.org by the dates listed in the calendar of each issue.

The Board of Trustees meets once per month. Check the calendar in each Forum for the specific date. Everyone is welcome to attend. Minutes from the meetings will be available for members upon request to the Board Secretary.

The Forum

Circle the Cities With Love 2018

by Susan Paxson

Two years ago, Dan and Bruce Melville and I participated in an event where a diverse group of people held hands in silence for 30 minutes and sent love out to our city right before the Republican National Convention. It was a moving experience.

This year, there is another similar event which will be downtown at Voinovich Park on Sunday July 29th. So far, Dan, Anastasia Birosh and I are participating. Won't you join us? See the flyer below with information on how to register.

STAND TOGETHER IN SILENCE,
HOLDING HANDS
TO EMBODY THE POWER OF LOVE
THAT BRINGS HEALING, PEACE & JUSTICE
IN THESE TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY, TURMOIL & UNREST



JULY 29, 2018

**VOINOVICH
PARK**

EAST 9TH STREET PIER
CLEVELAND, OHIO

2 to
4 p.m.

STANDING TOGETHER
IN SILENCE: 3-3:30 P.M.

**REGISTER
FOR FREE**

& PURCHASE T-SHIRTS
CircleCityWithLove.com

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON CELEBRATING THE POWER OF LOVE, INCLUDING 30 MINUTES UNITED IN SILENCE

CircleCityWithLove.com



July 2018

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, or make an appointment to see her, call or email: 440 877-1686, or minister@swuu.org

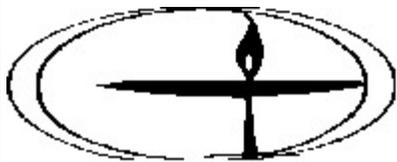
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 Liberty and Unitarian Universalism in these Uncertain Times -Led by Rev. Chris Long	2 1:30 PM Meditation 5:00 PM Safety Team	3	4 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee @ Mathews	5 7:00 PM Evening Book Group	6	7	
8 The Poor You Shall Always Have With You: Liberty from Lifelong Poverty -Led by Rev. Rina Shere	9 1:30 PM Meditation	10	11 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	12 10:00 AM Membership Team 4:00 PM Social Justice 7:00 PM Earth Alliance 7:00 PM Worship Team	13 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	14 SWUU Summer Camp at Oak Openings Park 3:30 PM Women's History	
11:45 AM—Coming of Age Meeting							
15 Freedom for Fun -Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm	16 1:30 PM Meditation	17	18 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	19 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	20 2:00 PM Women's Group 6:30 PM Cooks' Night Out	21	
22 Liberty for All? -Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm	23 1:30 PM Meditation	24 FORUM DEADLINE	25 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	26	27	28	
29 Living Fully -Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm	30 1:30 PM Meditation	31					
12:00 PM Memory Support Group 2:00 PM Circle the City with Love—Voinovich Park	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a **</p> </div>						
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us.</p> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Week day meetings are held at the church in North Royalton unless otherwise noted.</p> </div>	

The Forum

Sharing and Caring

** send your joys and sorrows to forum@swuu.org for inclusion in the next issue*

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
6320 Royalton Road
North Royalton, Ohio 44133**



We are happy to mail The Forum to anyone who would like to receive it.