



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

August 1, 2018

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



August 5

Weaving the Web

Join us as we begin to explore the theme of Unity and Diversity with ancient Hindu wisdom as found in the story of Indra's Web. We will do some weaving of our own to see how the beauty of our diversity creates a more intriguing unity.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

Focus Collection: Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

August 12

Unifying Statements: Seven Principles and Six Sources

Unitarian Universalists embrace diversity—including theological diversity, racial and gender and class diversity. So what do we all have in common? One way that we proclaim our UU values is through the seven principles and six sources of our faith. These statements are constantly evolving, including a change in wording that was voted upon this summer. Join us to explore and question what unites us as Unitarian Universalists.

-Led by Andrew Frantz, Ministerial Intern, UU Fellowship of Wayne County

Worship Associate: Bruce Melville

August 19

Circles and Ripples

Our lives unfold in ripples of change and learning. We are tempted to live within fixed circles due to fear, prejudice, and ignorance. There is so much to gain if we ride the ripples and experience the joy of expanding our knowledge and seek or see beyond ourselves, our community, our country, and our planet.

-Led by SWUU's own Ken Ellis

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

August 26

Energetic Engagement

This week we explore Pluralism, an ancient idea offering a modern path to engage in meaningful ways across differences. Let's move beyond tolerating people and ideas that differ from us, to learning about them and from them.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Leslie Van Kuren

The Forum

Message from your Minister

Unity and Diversity

*“He who is different from me does not impoverish me – he enriches me.
Our unity is constituted in something higher than ourselves...”*

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Unity and Diversity is our theme for August. At first glance, it seems like we’ve got this, this is what Unitarian Universalism is all about. Our church, like many UU congregations, doesn’t look as diverse as we’d like, yet when we ask about any religious topic we get a wide diversity of answers. When we share our life stories and our deepest values we find again both surprising diversity and unity. And, as I sit with this theme, it gets more challenging. How does one truly honor both diversity and unity? How do we really engage with someone who is different? Rather than merely sit next to them. How do we learn about, come to care about, begin to genuinely understand divergent ideas and people? When we do, we ourselves are changed by this authentic interaction. Am I practicing this? How? Are you?

In the last month of summer, during these long warm days, here are some questions to ponder as you sit in the shade or walk in the woods: What does unity mean to you? What does diversity call you to do? How have you been changed by coming to know a person or idea that feels different?

I remind us all of the Board’s invitation to continue our work dismantling internal racism by engaging with diversity this summer. There is still time to read a book or watch a movie from a different perspective or have a conversation with a friend or family member about how race and racism has shown up in your life. Let us walk our talk and open our hearts by intentionally engaging with difference.

I’m eager to hear how it goes. One of the things I love about being your minister is the opportunity to get to know you, hearing some of your stories, your questions, your concerns. If you’d like to take a walk or share some iced tea, reach out. Let’s find some time together. I am here for you.

Know that you are loved,
Rev. Kristen
minister@swuu.org

Save the Date for **Tea-Time for Peace!**

Your Social Justice Committee invites you to put Tea-Time for Peace on your calendar for Thursday, September 12th at 6:30pm. We will be joining an Interfaith Group to sponsor this opportunity to be in conversation with our Muslim neighbors. Tea-Time for Peace will be held at Brecksville UCC Church.

Tea-Time for Peace was started by April Stolz of West Shore UU Church along with Isam Zaiem of CAIR, Council on American Islamic Relations two years ago to counter the negative, fear filled language of the election cycle. It is a chance to sit, have tea, pastries and conversation with neighbors from diverse communities about our values. With 70% of Americans not knowing anyone who is Muslim and knowing little that is accurate about Islam, it can be easy to let fear take hold. Yet, we have seen the deep longing people have to be in authentic conversation.

Please plan to come and join in these small group conversations, building common ground, and helping to heal our divided community and world.

The Forum

Focus Collection for August: Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center by Mary Brooks, Social Justice Committee

This August the focus collection will support the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center that provides opportunities for over 9000 children each year via overnight, day, and summer programs in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The campus includes overnight dorms, garden-to-table greenhouse and onsite kitchen, classrooms, trails, ponds, and wetlands. For most students, this is an experience that marks many firsts: hiking along a creek, learning to skip stones, sitting around a nighttime campfire, and learning about how their daily lives connect to the surrounding environment. Teachers and rangers welcome and engage students from diverse urban and suburban communities. Learning activities include water testing along the river for oxygen and temperature to gauge the river's health as well as discovering plants and animals of the Cuyahoga River watershed on campus trails. At the hoop house campers see food go from garden to table before their eyes. Night hikes are unforgettable for many kids who have never walked in the woods, complete with hooting owls and wind in the trees. A community of new friends live in cozy, safe dorms on campus where having fun is the norm. Please help with your contribution.

Urban Hope

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Sunday, July 8 was our last summer visit to take Healthy Snacks to Urban Hope. Nancy, Denny, Debby, Jan & Scott took the goodies and served. We had a bountiful feast of summer foods including fruits, veggies, and salads. It was all supplemented with cheese, crackers, nuts, cupcakes, cookies, puddings, granola bars and other pre-packaged take-always. Rest assured, there was not one crumb remaining, and our guests were thrilled. We were told it was the best crowd since our last visit! Thank you for your generosity. No worries about August! We will ask for donations In September!

The Forum

Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

During our last episode of What is The Board Doing This Summer, it was revealed that we were trying a new, one year experiment with the position of Secretary. We decided to seek someone from outside of the board whose singular job would be to take minutes once per month. I am thrilled and grateful to announce that Susan Novotny has agreed to fill this position. As you might imagine, she was approved unanimously. She has already attended our July meeting and done an outstanding job with the minutes. Mind you, she has never taken minutes before. Her comment after the first meeting was that we all talk very slowly, and that she had literally written down everything that we said. The reality, I believe, is that she types like lightning. And as it turns out, she is also very good at distilling what she types since the actual minutes delivered came out to only two pages. Well done Susan! Thanks so much for signing on.

We also had a new development come up in the month of July. Katie Maslar resigned from the board so that she could focus on her health. She, Rev. Kristen, and I all felt that this was best for her and for the board. All of us on the board want to thank her for the two years that she served, and we fully support her decision.

We also want to thank the Leadership Development Team (LDT) who sprang into action and quickly identified an exceptionally qualified candidate to fill the last year of Katie's term. So, for the second time this month, I am thrilled and grateful to announce that Suzy Matlack has agreed to serve this term, and was unanimously (and enthusiastically) approved to do so. Welcome aboard Suzy!

Our July meeting was largely devoted to closing out the business of the old board, saying goodbye to our departing members (Phyllis Hall and Sherry Spencer), and welcoming our new members. For the record, your board members are now Hallie Davis, Dave Chesnes, Bruce Cady, Ellen Hansen-Ellis, Sarajane Willson, Suzy Matlack, and yours truly. We also set a date for the annual board retreat. It will take place on September 1st, and will be facilitated by a colleague and friend of Rev. Kristen's from the west coast named Laura Shennum. She has a great deal of experience with these kinds of events and we are excited to have her visit.

In other news, we have received our Chalice Lighter grant funding. We have been in touch with the contractor and the start date for the week-long steeple repair is tentatively set for August 6th.

The Forum



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.

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

The Forum

Adopt-a-Highway on August 18th

by Susan Paxson

SWUU has been participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program since 2009. Each year, we commit to cleaning up trash on the I-71 ramp next to Pearl Road four times, two times in the fall and twice in the spring. We meet at the Islander Apartments parking lot at 9:00 AM and spend an hour or so cleaning up the various areas around the ramp. In return for our efforts, we have a sign with our name on it! You should look for it the next time you are exiting I-71 onto Pearl Road. This is a great opportunity to live out our 7th principle of taking care of the earth, while also getting some exercise, and getting to know some other members and friends! Garbage bags and safety vests are provided; boots and work gloves are recommended. Does this sound like something you might enjoy? We would love to have you join us on our next clean-up on Saturday, August 18th. Our last clean-up of this year will be in October. Remember that many hands make light work. If you have never done this before, you would need to come at 8:45 the first time you join us, for a brief safety training.

If you are interested in participating with us please email me at susan@paxson.us.

Cooks' Night Out

by Judy White

This month, on August 24th at 7:00 PM, we will be dining out at Amuse Bistro located at 108 Public Square in Medina. Their food is mainly French and Italian and reasonably priced. We were impressed when we tried it out. They also have a parking lot. Check out the website for more information <https://amuse-medina.com/>. All are welcome to attend these informal dinners; they are a great way to get to know some of our members and friends in a casual setting. To sign up to attend, contact Judy.



August 2018

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, call or email

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a *** </div>	For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us.		1 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	2 7:00 PM-Spiritual Book Group @ Hallie's	3 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	4 Outside event at the church
5 Weaving the Web -Rev Kristen Rohm	6 1:30 PM Meditation	7	8 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	9	10 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	11 3:30 PM Women's History
12 Unifying Statements:7 Prin- ciples and 6 Sources -Andrew Franz	13 1:30 PM Meditation	14	15 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	16 10:00 AM Mem- bership Team 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	17 2:00 PM Wom- en's Group	18
19 Circles and Ripples -Ken Ellis	20 1:30 PM Meditation	21 7:00 PM Wor- ship Team	22 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	23 7:00 PM SWUU Board Meeting	24 FORUM DEAD- LINE 7:00 PM—Cooks' Night Out@Amuse Bistro, Medina	25
26 Energetic Engagement -Rev Kristen Rohm 12:00 PM Memory Sup- port Group	27 1:30 PM Meditation	28	29 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	30	31 Meetings are held at the church unless otherwise specified.	

The Forum

Sharing and Caring

Hello to SWUU, (From former SWUU member Pam Wakeman (now in Nebraska))

“It's a joy to see the Pride Banner is still in use! It's with sorrow that I still miss all of you and that E.J. is no longer living. He did the art work for the banner. Steve Grove also helped in designing it. Lots of fond memories....”

Emily Heath Wilson says that she is recovering slowly and appreciates everyone's good wishes.

** 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.