



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

September 1, 2018

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton

September 2

Reflections from an Arizona Desert

Clergy were called recently to support humanitarian aid workers in the Arizona Desert in Faith Floods the Desert. Rev. Kristen will share Rev. Laura's reflections from her experience in the desert and witnessing Operation Streamline.

-Led by Rev. Laura Shennum & Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Bruce Melville

Focus Collection: Minister's Discretionary Fund



September 9

Calling All of You

Come and bring some water for our Ingathering, when we join Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country in the annual Water Ceremony. All our generations will re-commit to another year of building the beloved community together.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

September 16

Let Your Life Speak

Let us explore what Vocation might mean using the work of Parker Palmer, Quaker and mindfulness educator. Each of us has unique gifts and skills to share, and all of us can learn to ask good questions and listen differently.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

September 23

What's Your SuperPower?

We often ask kids, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" Might better questions be, "How will you make this world a better place?" and "How can you live out who you are to your fullest?" Come explore how we each might meet the world's need.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

September 30

Reflecting on Our Calling

What have you been called to do in your life? When have there been divides or mergers in the work that inspires you? Explore what a calling can mean or has meant to you through the personal reflections on vocation of members in our own congregation.

-Led by SWUU's own Worship Associates Adrienne Ellis and Mike Gold

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Message from your Minister

Unity and Diversity

“Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.”

- Frederick Buechner

September brings mixed feelings for me. I have some sadness as summer is waning, the hot sunny days the last for the year. I also feel the energy of new beginnings, another school year, another harvest, another election cycle. Like so much of life, it is both/and. As we return to community after our summer adventures, we remind ourselves of what matters most to us. We recommit to the relationships that sustain us, to this beloved community that is both our safe harbor and the place that consistently encourages us to grow and deepen our spirits. Consider joining a Covenant Group this year to share your story, try one of our other groups, or sign up for the Sermon Writing Workshop or UU History class I’ll be leading this fall and winter. Find your way to engage and enjoy.

Our theme for the month is Vocation, which is not a word we use often. We talk instead of our jobs, of what we do/did for a living. Vocation is subtly different, asking us, what are you called to do? What is uniquely yours to bring to this world, to contribute? In our culture, we spend decades growing our brain and cognitive skills. Let us also grow our spirit and self-discernment skills. Vocation asks us -- who am I? Whose am I? What is mine to do? So often we hear the voices from outside ourselves, the expectations of parents, partners, bosses, friends, the media. Vocation invites us to listen to the softer voice within. Listen, notice, and care.

There is only one you; how can you be yourself more fully? How can you live into your gifts, live out your gifts more fully? Let this September be a time of new beginning in knowing ourselves and what we are meant to be doing. It may have little, or much, to do with our paid work. Let us be generous with ourselves, caring about what calls to us from inside. You matter. May you find the place of your deep gladness. I suspect the world will be there to meet you.

I know that I will meet you there. Come talk with me.

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

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Focus Collection for September: Minister's Discretionary Fund by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

During September services, we will collect monetary gifts to benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund. As is our custom, on the first Sunday of the month, all money not designated as pledges or something else specific will go to this Fund. Throughout the rest of the month, offerings collected must be clearly designated on your check or envelope for the monthly Focus Collection if that's where you want it to go.

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is used to assist members and friends of SWUU to meet their basic living needs, such as buying food, paying a utility or medical bill, or paying for transportation. Rev. Kristen has discretionary and confidential use of these funds. A private appointment may be made with Rev. Kristen to discuss a special monetary need that a member or friend may have. Thank you for your generosity.

Urban Hope

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our next visit to Urban Hope is Sunday, September 9. The Storefront was closed in August, and so it will be the first day back for the guests since July. We anticipate a big group of people ready to come back to a Sunday Activity filled with food and camaraderie. We have crackers and nuts left over from the summer, but will be eager to receive donations of fruit, fresh veggies and any other special treats. Thank you for signing up on the poster board in the lobby. All donations need to arrive at church by that morning. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



4 ways to give:

1-one time gift

2-Credit Card

3-Debit Card

4-Recurring from your bank

SWUU ANNOUNCES ONLINE GIVING!!!

***Download SecureGive from the
App Store or SecureGive Vision
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phone and choose SWUU!***

For Online Giving go to:

<https://app.securegive.com/swuu>

Payments can go to:

1-Pledge

2-General Donation

3--Focus collection

4-Auction

SEE JOHN GOGA, LESLIE VANKUREN OR LYDIA AVERY WITH QUESTIONS

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Covenant Groups Coming Soon!

by Rev. Kristen Rohm

This fall we will be offering the opportunity to participate in a Covenant group here at SWUU. A Covenant Group is a fixed small group that meets once a month for 8 months. It is an opportunity to get to know others and to be known in a deeper way than most of us usually experience. Each month we engage with one of our worship themes and group members receive some information ahead of time on the theme and related questions to ponder before the meeting. During the meeting each member has the opportunity to respond.

These are not typical "discussion" groups--they have a unique format so that each person speaks once in response to a question without interruption or follow-up questions or comments. This allows for a different kind of focus on listening (rather than responding) than most of us usually practice. And those who are naturally quieter or slower to formulate thoughts can relax, knowing that they will get a turn. It is a gift to be able to share ideas and feelings, knowing that you will not be interrupted or challenged. Here are some comments from some of last year's group members.

"I consider Covenant Groups as a spiritual practice in listening."

"It is a human need to be heard and validated without advice or commentary."

"The group encouraged me to examine in depth where some of my beliefs originated and to ask if they still serve their intended purpose."

"For me, the experience involved curious, non-judgmental exploration of who I was and am at my very core."

"Our monthly gatherings have allowed me to share my history and thoughts with others and hear, really hear, the thoughts and experiences in the lives of people I have come to know so much better."

"I found being part of a covenant group at SWUU to be a spiritually and emotionally uplifting experience. The time spent sharing ourselves and our journey helped deepen my feelings of connection to my fellow participants and reinforced my decision to join SWUU."

Sign-ups will be coming soon--if you have any questions you can ask Pat Woodside, Sara Davis, or Ken Ellis. It's a great way to get to know people here at SWUU!

Cooks Night Out

by Susan Paxson

Alice Troyan is organizing our Cooks' Night Out for September. This month, we will meet at Olesia's Place on Rt 82 in North Royalton on Friday, September 21st at 6:30 PM. It is a casual bar/eatery offering traditional Ukrainian fare & cocktails along with live music & a patio. For more information, check the website: <https://www.olesiasplace.com/>

All are welcome to join us in this opportunity to have a chance to get to know us a little better in a casual environment. If you would like to come, please email Alice.

Important Meeting Updates

by Gay Cady

- There will be no **Insight Meditation** on Labor Day.
- **Insight Meditations** will be held every Monday from 1:30 to 3:30.
- **Women's Group** will be every 3rd Friday from 2pm to 4pm.
- **First Wednesday Coffee** will be monthly on the first Wednesday from 9:30 at Mom's on 82 and York.

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Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

“The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” So wrote Robert Burns (approximately), and it somewhat describes our past month. You may have noticed that our Chalice Lighter grant funded steeple repair, slated for August...well...didn't happen. It turns out that our selected contractor could not secure rental of the scaffolding he needed to do the job. He apparently tried until about three weeks into August and then gave up, essentially telling us that he couldn't do the job. Although we had done our homework and could have turned to a backup contractor who had offered an earlier bid, we ended up doing something much better. We turned to Super Ted! Our very own Ted Macosko, who knows all the really good contractors, managed to get in touch with the owner of Extreme Renovations. This is the very group that has been doing all the spot repairs on the steeple over the years and who originally identified the fact that the steeple siding was deteriorating. They quickly put together an excellent bid that will go well beyond just repairing the steeple siding and underlayment, but stay within our budget. We have accepted their bid, and they have agreed in writing to commence work in the first week of October. Here's hoping these newly laid plans can defy Mr. Burns' predictions!

Next in the upended plans department was news that our invited Board retreat facilitator had a family medical emergency and was unable to come. Fortunately however, she had already done a fair amount of preparatory work, and done a fair amount of communicating with both Kristen and me. So, we are basically going to follow her outline, and use her material, but Kristen will be leading the retreat. The board is really looking forward to this quality team-building time together.

Of course, these hiccups in our plans have not kept us from progressing on a number of issues brought before us this past month. Among the most important of these was our decision to pursue hiring a professional bookkeeper to spend 3-4 hours each month doing some of the more complex aspects of our financial records (e.g. reconciliation, generating reports, etc.). We believe this move promotes healthy financial practices for the long term.

Finally, the board also approved funding this month for asphalt sealing of our east and west parking lots. It is a three day job (including application, drying, and re-striping) that will take place sometime in the first two weeks of September. Well, that's the best laid plan that your board mice have made. We'll cross our fingers that it doesn't go awry!

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.

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Adopt-a-Highway 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 invite new members and friends to join us on our final clean-up of the year on Saturday, October 6th. 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. Please contact me if you would like more information or if you plan to attend in October.

PLEASE REMEMBER: 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.



September 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
2 Reflections from an Arizona Desert -Rev. Laura Shennum & Rev. Kristen Rohm 12:00 PM Fundraising Meeting	3 LABOR DAY	4 10:00 AM SWUU WALK Brecksville Reservation	5 9:30 AM First Wednesday Coffee 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @Mathews'	6 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 Calling All of You -Rev. Kristen Rohm	10 1:30 PM Insight Meditation	11 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	12 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @Mathews' 6:30 PM Teatime for Peace @Brecksville UCC	13 10:00 AM Membership Committee 4:00 PM Social Justice 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	14 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	15 Youth Overnight Retreat
16 Let Your Life Speak -Rev Kristen Rohm	17 1:30 PM Insight Meditation	18 7:30 PM Worship Team	19 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews'	20	21 2:00 PM 50+ Women's Group 6:30 PM Cooks' Night Out at Olesia's	22 7:00 PM Youth Group
23 What's Your SuperPower? -Rev. Kristen Rohm 12:00 PM Caring Team	24 1:30 PM Insight Meditation	25	26 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews'	27	28 7:00 PM Men's Group	29
30 Reflecting on Our Calling -Adrienne Ellis, Mike Gold 12:00 PM Memory Support Gp	For calendar adds/changes/deletes please notify the editor at susan@paxson.us or (440) 888-3615		Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted.		All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a **	

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Sharing and Caring

Please keep Joan Rizzo in your thoughts and prayers. Her father passed away on Wednesday, August 28th. The family will receive visitors on Thursday, September 06, 2018 from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Waite and Son Funeral Home– Medina Chapel 765 N. Court St. Medina, Ohio 44256

Nancy's mom is in the hospital. Please keep both of them in your thoughts and prayers.

** 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.