



# The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

[www.swuu.org](http://www.swuu.org)

December 1, 2018

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Roylton Road, North Royalton

### **December 2**

*Peace in Forgiveness*

Your Worship team agreed that peace begins within, with ourselves. Which leads to the question how does one create inner peace? Join us this morning as we begin with forgiveness to see what we might foster within.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

Focus Collection: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



### **December 9**

*Whirled Peas*

How do we create peace in our world? Our UU history holds many examples of those who led the way and to the 2010 UU Statement of Conscience articulates priorities for creating peace. Let's explore together.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

### **December 14**

*Blue Christmas*

On **Friday, at 7:00 pm**, we offer a quiet time of stillness and care. For anyone who finds the long nights or the pace, expectations or memories of the holiday season challenging, come rest in this contemplative gathering.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

### **December 16**

*Finding Peace...*

Mike Gold, Gay Cady and Leslie VanKuren will each explore the ways they "Find Peace" through Buddhist and Native American traditions as well as through their own experiences.

-Led by SWUU's own Mike Gold, Gay Cady, and Leslie VanKuren

### **December 23**

*The Snow Tree*

Join us for this fun and interactive Solstice Sunday as all our generations celebrate the turning of the year and the return of the light. We will need your help to decorate an evergreen tree.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm, and Jenni Papp

Worship Associate: Jenni Papp, DRE

*(Continued on page 2)*

# The Forum

(Continued from page 1)

**December 24**

*Christmas Peace*

Join us **at 5:30pm** for our traditional Christmas Eve celebration of the ancient story of the Prince of Peace. We will celebrate intergenerationally in song, story and candlelight to discover the joy and peace of the season.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

**December 30**

*Words (that) Matter 3.0*

Let's have a conversation about the Spirituality of Words. Words that have shaped us, individually and collectively. These words, that thrill us, the ones that scare us, and the ones we refuse to say, they ALL MATTER. They are all a part of defining who we are as a spiritual being and community.

-Led by Barbara Walker, Member, West Shore UU Church

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

## **Message from your Minister**

### **Peace**

*“Peace is not something you wish for; it is something you make, something you are, something you do, and something you give away.”*

- Robert Fulghum

Here we are in the holiday season again. I invite each of us to find times of quiet, to prioritize and do what we genuinely enjoy during this month. Let's follow the practical wisdom of fellow UU, Robert Fulghum, as we explore our theme of Peace this December.

Many of us probably agree that peace begins with us, learning to be peaceful inside our selves and in our own lives. Like most spiritual tasks, that sounds simple and yet is hard to do! It takes practice and attention as we utilize habits that calm and center us so that peace is a possibility when frustration, anxiety, conflict, and crisis enter our day. It takes graciousness with ourselves and others, along with forgiveness for all our perfectly human shortcomings. Here are two questions for your contemplation: How can you choose peace in your own daily life? How might we be part of making peace more real in our increasingly fractious world?

If the long nights or the holiday season is challenging for you, please plan to come to church on Friday, December 14th at 7pm for Blue Christmas, a time to rest in the quiet. Perhaps this is your first holiday without a beloved, maybe the expectations for presents, cards, and parties is too much. Come for this contemplative and caring gathering. Or reach out to me and we'll find some time together. Though it might appear that everyone is filled with bustle and joy, know that you are not alone.

We have our annual Intergenerational Cookie Bake and Tree Decorating happening on Saturday, December 15th. Bring your favorite cookie dough and join the festivities. On Sunday, the 23rd we will enjoy a 'pageant from the pews', a playful Solstice celebration.

My great hope is that each of us will find moments of light and love in the weeks ahead. Maybe it is to watch the snowflakes fall, to listen to the laughter of a child or to hug a friend. Maybe it is a quiet walk, a heartfelt phone call, a song on the radio. May you find ways to create peace and happy holidays.

Know that you are loved,  
Rev. Kristen

# The Forum

## **Focus Collection for December: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our December Focus Collection will go to The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). This has been the end of the year focus since the church's inception. Many of us fondly remember it as "Guest At Your Table." UUSC aims to challenge injustice and advance human rights. It isn't just a relief agency; the UUSC works anywhere rights are threatened by natural disasters, armed conflict, genocide, forced migration and systematic injustice. They create grassroots collaborations and have been at it since WWII. This year the money will be used to support "Justice Across Borders." Donations of \$40 or more earn you a UUSC membership. Contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. You may make your checks out directly to UUSC or to SWUU. The checks will be mailed together. Please designate them as Focus Collection. Please join the UUSC in their work to support human rights and social justice. Thank you for your generosity.

## **Urban Hope News** by Jan When, Social Justice Committee

November 11 was not only a successful day at Urban Hope, but we also celebrated a Brown's Win! May I say the crowd at the Storefront went wild?? Debby, Nancy, Denny, Jan & Scott were pretty pumped, too.

We had a wonderful crowd of appreciative people. They certainly got their daily dose of vitamins with the abundance of fresh fruit. It was greatly appreciated, as well as all of the leftover Halloween candy. (We believe in balance). There were plenty of take aways to be stuffed in pockets and enjoyed later, and they also loved the hot casserole, fresh veggies, cheese, crackers and nuts. It was a day of abundance and gratitude.

Our next visit is Sunday, December 9. We still have plenty of crackers and nuts but would appreciate any donation of fruits, veggies, special treats and anything that you think might be enjoyed. Please sign up on the poster in the lobby. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

## **Holiday Fun at SWUU** by Susan Paxson, Membership

Here at Southwest UU, we have a long-held tradition of baking cookies together around the holidays. Everyone brings their own dough or batter, and we work together to bake lots of different kinds of cookies. At the end of the party, everyone goes home with a variety of cookies instead of the one kind they started out with. We usually save some for our Christmas Eve Service as well.

While the bakers are working on the cookies, others can work with Ken Ellis on putting up and decorating the SWUU tree. We hope you will join in this fun intergenerational gathering on Saturday, December 15th from 1-4. It is a wonderful way to unplug from all of our devices and have some good old fashioned fun. If you can't be there the whole time, come when you can! Hope to see you there!

# The Forum

## Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

This month's column is devoted to only two things: our steeple project, and our stained glass window project. It's going to be a bit long, but it's a good read!

Let's start with the steeple. The renovation/repair project is at long last complete! We are beyond thrilled with the work that was performed by our contractor Matt Sumutku (aka Extreme Renovations) and his crew. The photo at right shows the newly sided and newly roofed masterpiece. Now, you may not think that it's much different from the original steeple (other than being spanking clean), but it is vastly improved.

Here is a list of what was done:

- All of the old vinyl siding and soffit was removed.
- All the old, slightly rotting wood shake siding below the old vinyl siding was torn off and disposed of.
- The steeple walls were re-sheeted.
- The columns supporting the roof were re-framed to make them square again, and then re-sheeted.
- A vapor barrier was installed
- New vinyl siding and soffit were installed.
- The roof was torn off and replaced with high quality 3 tab shingles to match the rest of the church.
- Shingle repairs were done to the existing church where there were missing shingle tabs
- The missing piece of rake metal was replaced and a few pieces of loose siding at the top of the gable were re-secured on the south face of the church.

That is an impressive renovation! It represents considerably more service than we had anticipated needing, but the crew took it all in stride since they have experience working with older buildings like ours. It is not uncommon to discover 'complications' when old siding is removed. The work is even more impressive when you stop to realize that it was all performed from inside a lift cage, sitting about 30 feet in the air, during an unusually cold late October and early November!

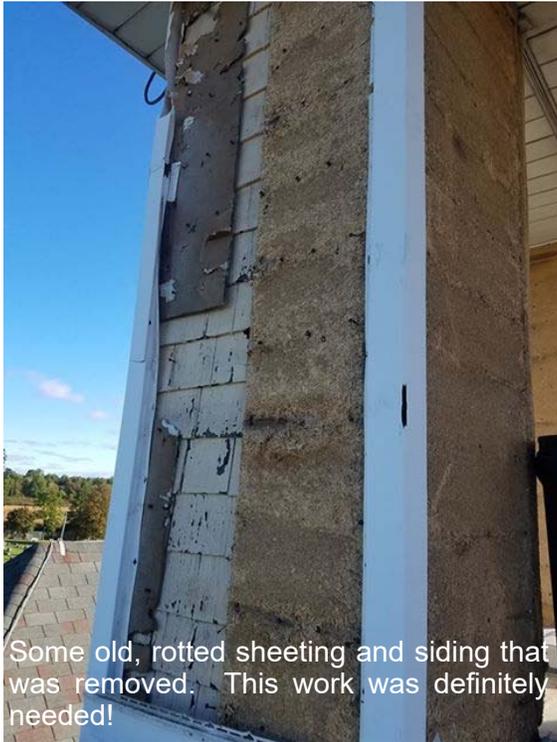
Our Fully Renovated Steeple



(article continues on next page)

# The Forum

(continued from previous page)



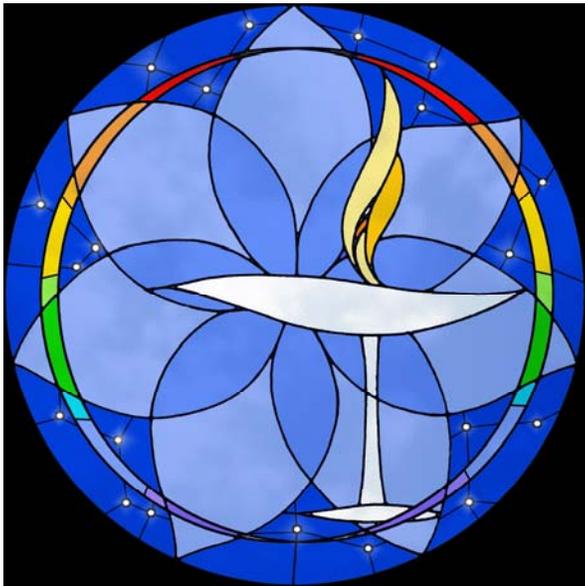
Some old, rotted sheathing and siding that was removed. This work was definitely needed!



Those workers are a long way up!

With this project completed, we have restored the integrity of the steeple, and ensured its trouble-free existence for years to come. It is a boon to our church community and, given the historic nature of our building, it is a boon to the entire North Royalton community. We are immensely grateful to the UUA's Chalice Lighter Growth Committee for giving us the grant money that allowed this project to happen. I encourage everyone to read the follow-up to this article on page 8, and consider becoming a Chalice Lighter.

And now onto our stained glass window project. As you may have heard from our SWUUList e-mail group, the response to our survey was fantastic. Nearly everyone expressed enthusiastic support for this beautiful piece of art to adorn our sanctuary. As such, the board of trustees decided to move forward with this project. We announced that we were starting a fund drive to finance the \$4,600 needed to make it a reality, and you certainly responded! We are a mere two weeks into the campaign and already 75% of folks who said they would consider donating on the survey have donated. It is thrilling to see such enthusiasm. Thank you all so much. I am confident that we will reach our goal in the coming weeks.



It is worth noting that if we exceed our goal, we are formulating plans to purchase lighting for the window so that it will be visible at night from the outside. How's that for a beacon on a hill!

# 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](http://www.swuu.org)

## Receive The Forum Electronically!

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

[forum@swuu.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@swuu.org)

## Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the Board Minutes via email, contact [office@swuu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month  
Submissions should be sent to [forum@swuu.org](mailto: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

## **December Donations for Urban Hope** by Debby Gorencic, Social Justice Committee

Once again the Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a special December Donations Drive for Urban Hope. We are requesting the items most needed during the coming winter months as identified by the Urban Hope Steering Committee of which Jan and Debby are members. These items include men's underwear and T-shirts (M, L, XL) and women's underwear (L, XL), as well as hats and gloves for men, women and children. Additionally, razors for men and personal hygiene products (tampons and pads) for women are always in demand. While men's and women's socks are very useful items, there is not a current need for socks due to a large donation from the Community West Foundation.

As you are enjoying your holiday shopping for family and friends, please consider adding a small gift for our neighbors at Urban Hope. Donations can be placed in the basket on the table in the lobby throughout the month of December. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

## **Evening Book Group** by Hallie Davis

The Evening Book Group will begin the new year with a new read, "Sacred Hoops: Spiritual lessons of a Hardwood Warrior" authored by Phil Jackson and Hugh Delehanty. Phil Jackson (Chicago Bulls Head Coach) developed a paradigm of leadership based on Eastern and Native American principles. Not just for sports fans, but anyone interested in the potential of the human spirit. The book will be on the table for the next few weeks with a sign-up sheet where you can list preferred days. The group will decide the date and location in early January. For more information see Hallie Davis.



## **Save the Date!** SWUU's Annual Service Auction a Celebration of Chinese New Year! **Saturday, February 9, 2019**

Bid on services and events offered by SWUU members, enjoy a Chinese-themed dinner, play games, bid for raffle baskets, listen to music, and more!

# The Forum

## **It Takes a Village (of Chalice Lighters) to Grow Our Faith**

by Hallie Davis

SWUU received a *Chalice Lighter grant* of \$20,000 to repair our steeple. We are thankful to the Chalice Lighter Grant Committee of the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

A *Chalice Lighter* is an individual who makes a commitment to respond to a call from the UUA Chalice Lighter Program to support one or more new congregational projects like our steeple repair project. These calls come out three times a year. The suggested commitment is \$20 per call or \$60 per year. Gifts of any size are welcome. Sherry Spencer is our Chalice Lighter Ambassador and can give you more information.

Please consider becoming a Chalice Lighter, so that more congregations can get the help they need to grow our faith. Be that spark to light a grant for other UU congregations! It's easy to sign up online at [www.uua.org/centraleast/programs/chalichelighter](http://www.uua.org/centraleast/programs/chalichelighter).

## **Game Night in December**

by Susan Paxson

I have agreed to host the Game and Puzzle event at SWUU On Friday, December 14th. I would like to see who is planning to come so please email me or call and let me know. I realize it is such a busy time of year, and that people might be too busy to come. If no one responds, we will continue game night on the second Friday of each month starting in January.

## **Christmas Luncheon & Christmas Day Breakfast**

by Gay Cady, Hospitality Committee

Our annual Christmas Luncheon will take place **Friday, December 21**, at 1:00pm at (Eddie's) Creekside restaurant, located at 8803 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio, 44141. Please join us if you are able to attend. Also, please call me or e mail me if you would like to be included or have any questions. Thank you!

And for our newer annual tradition, we will serve breakfast on Christmas Morning for all who would like to join us in the fellowship hall at church.. We will meet at 9:00 am. A **sign up sheet** will be posted on the table outside of the sanctuary. Please indicate if you need vegan, vegetarian, or gluten free options. If you find out on Christmas Day that you'd like to attend, just come! The more the merrier!

## **Introducing the Caring Team**

by Hallie Davis

The Minister has primary responsibility for pastoral care for the congregation. The Caring Team is an integral part of the minister's ability to provide this ministry to the whole congregation.

The Caring Team may make a hospital or home visits; arrange for rides to doctor and therapy appointments, or home from the hospital, etc.; Other ways they help are to arrange meals for congregants as needed; and provide a helping hand and a listening ear with confidentiality.

Members are Sylvia Banks, Gay Cady, Judy Newell, Nellie VanRoden, Karen Weaver, Pat Woodside and Hallie Davis with support from Rev. Kristen Rohm. Members have a helping hand on their name badge.



# December 2018

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, or make an appointment to see her, call or email

To see the web version of our event calendar, go to:  
<http://www.swuu.org/events>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify u         </div>						
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a **         </div>						
2 <i>Peace in Forgiveness</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm	3 1:30 PM Medication Group	4	5 9:30 AM Coffee 12:00PM UUMA Mtg 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	6	7	8 3:30 PM Women's History Concert
9 <i>Whirled Peas</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm	10 1:30 PM Medication Group	11 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	12 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:30 PM Covenant Group	13 4:00 PM Soc. Justice 7:00 PM Earth Alliance 7:30 PM Choir	14 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night-downstairs 7:00 PM Blue Christmas service in the Sanctuary	15 1:00 PM -4:00 PM Cookie Baking/Tree trimming at SWUU
16 <i>Finding Peace</i> -Mike Gold, Gay Cady, and Leslie Yankuren	17 1:30 PM Medication Group	18	19 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:00 PM Worship Team	20 1:30 PM Covenant Group 7:30 PM Choir	21 1:00 PM —Holiday Lunch @Creekside 7:00 PM Men's Group	22 <b>FORUM DEADLINE</b> 7:00 PM Youth Group
23 <i>The Snow Tree</i> -Rev. Rohm and Jenni Papp	24 5:30 PM Christmas Peace -Rev. Kristen Rohm	25 9:00 AM Christmas Breakfast	26 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	27	28	29
30 <i>Words (that) Matter 3:0</i> -Barbara Walker	31 8:00 PM-1:00 AM New Years Gathering- @ The Ellises'		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted.           </div>			

# The Forum

## Sharing and Caring

Please keep **Anastasia Birosh** in your thoughts and prayers as she navigates the death of her younger brother who was her last living relative. She can use all of our good thoughts and support.

**Shirley Kowalski** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery. Cards are welcome.

**Lois Veraguth** will be having knee replacement surgery on December 4th.

*\* send your joys and sorrows to [forum@swuu.org](mailto: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.