



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

January 1, 2019

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



January 6

Graceful Beginnings

We begin the New Year with our Burning Bowl service where we name what we're ready to release from the year past and then set intentions for the year ahead. Join in beloved community to start the year off with grace and with a little fire.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

Focus Collection: Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity

January 13

The Cup of Our Life

Grace is a mystery that encourages us to see the glass half full rather than half empty. This morning we ask how do we meet life, how do we see ourselves and our world. Come as we explore the gifts of ease and fluidity.

Stay after the service for a *Conversation on Race* as we gently explore what it means to be white.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Leslie VanKuren

January 20

Grace in the Ordinary

So often we think that the best and most important things come with fireworks. What might we be missing by seeking the extraordinary? What might we find in the everyday moments of our lives?

A Chalice Blessing will be part of the service, bring your chalice from home.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

January 27

What Do UUs Believe?

Ever struggled to explain who Unitarian Universalists are and what we believe? Or maybe you've heard that "Unitarian Universalism is the faith where you can believe whatever you want." Guest speaker Michelle Ma suggests that that's maybe not quite true, and furthermore will help you craft an "elevator speech" to explain who UUs are and what we believe.

-Led by Michelle Ma, Ministerial Intern, West Shore UU Church

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

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Message from your Minister

Grace

“I do not understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are and does not leave us where it found us...it is the light or electricity or breeze that takes you from that isolated place and puts you with others who are as startled and embarrassed and eventually grateful as you are to be there.”

- Anne Lamott

Welcome to January of 2019. The start of the year once again comes as a surprise to me. Maybe it is the preparing extra services in December. Maybe it is the fun of being present with family and friends keeping me solidly in the moment. Each January I have to remind myself to look ahead, to make some plans. How about you, how do you greet the new year?

This year I am inviting myself to move into the year gracefully. What does graceful bring up for you? Our theme for the month is Grace, and I suspect most of us have a better sense of what graceful might mean! So let's start with what we know. Graceful brings up for me the movements of dancers, athletes, or wild animals. The creative gifts of artists and musicians. A sense of ease, fluidity and peaceful groundedness.

What I know of grace is that it is a gift. We can't make it happen, we don't earn it with good behavior, and we can't buy it. We can only receive it. I sign all my emails to you 'peace and grace' for this reason. I want to remind all of us to be open to receiving the many gifts of life, gifts from others, gifts from the Holy. I don't want to miss any grace that comes my way. I don't want you to miss any either. You are beloved and you deserve some smooth, effortless moments of light and joy in your daily life. So let us all be open to grace in the weeks ahead, whatever that might mean to you.

I am here to be with you when your life is not feeling graceful. Reach out and we will find some time together.

Know that you are loved,
Rev. Kristen

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Focus Collection for January: Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

The January Focus Collection will benefit Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is a non-profit organization that builds and renovates homes in partnership with qualified families who invest hundreds of sweat equity hours before they move into their homes. The goal is to create hope by building homes, strengthening neighborhoods, and rejuvenating communities. This is consistent with several UU Principles involving dignity, compassion, and justice for all.

Your donations will be used to purchase building materials and support neighborhood cleanups. Habitat crew chiefs work with skilled and less experienced volunteers to make sure the job is done according to code. This past summer, 16 high school students participated in a training experience during which they had classroom instruction followed by practical application rehabbing two homes under the watchful eye of skilled workers. During 2018, 20 homes were rehabilitated and closed, while work was done on 26 homes. 90,145 hours were volunteered by various teams and families in Greater Cleveland.

The Habitat ReStore, located at 2110 West 110th St., Cleveland, accepts your donated appliances, furniture, tools, plumbing supplies, etc. for use by others. Plus it's a fun place to shop for items you might need! Please visit www.clevelandhabitat.org for more information.

Urban Hope News by Jan When, Social Justice Committee

First of all, thank you for all of the generous donations you have been bringing for us to take to Urban Hope. The items are needed and appreciated by all. We had a wonderful Sunday visit on December 9. It was cold but dry, and many guests were happy to be there. We had Sloppy Joes which were an absolute hit (thanks Mary & Tom), as well as plenty of fresh fruits and sides. Fortunately, there was homemade chicken noodle soup left over from Saturday night, and so there was plenty of hot food for all. Our next visit is Sunday, January 13. Please sign up for donations on the board in the lobby. If you would like to come along and see what is happening, let Jan Wehn, Debby Gorencic or Nancy Peltola know! Thank you.

Congregational Meeting Announcement

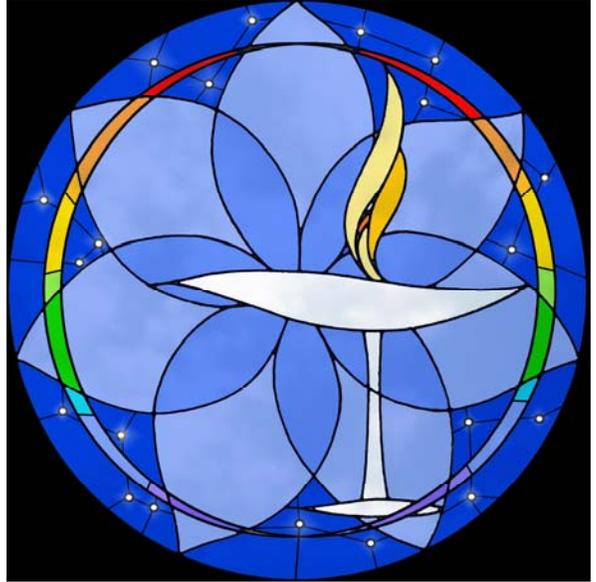
Please plan to attend the mid-year SWUU State of the Church Meeting on Sunday, January 27, following the worship service. The Board of Trustees will present a status report on our progress toward goals for the congregation that were established at our 2018 fall retreat.

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Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

The big news of December is that our stained glass window fundraising has exceeded our wildest expectations. We asked you for \$4,600, and you gave a whopping \$7,800! This is fantastic as it will allow us to not only complete the window, but to illuminate it as well. What a generous congregation we have! Thank you to everyone who contributed. Work will commence on the actual fabrication in January.



In the more ordinary (but still important) department:

- We have secured additional parking space for Sunday services in the Leimkuehler Prosthetics lot which is just west of the Key Bank lot. The more of us that use these lots, the more inviting and open our tiny east lot will be to newcomers.
- We have begun to focus on the recommendations from our safety team's assessment and report which were done earlier in the year.
- We are exploring options for professionally managing our growing inventory of Information Technology (IT) devices and services.

Other items that your board has been working on don't fit well into a brief article like this. Please plan to attend our State of the Church mid-year report after church on January 27 for more information.

Cooks' Night Out

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

Let's do Chinese! We can go to Mandarin House in Parma on Friday, January 18th at 6:30 PM. Located at 10393 West Pleasant Valley Road, in Parma, it has lots of variety and is very reasonably priced. If you are interested in joining, let Susan know you are coming. Hope to see you there!

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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

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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

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Youth Chaplain Training by Joy Haugland

In November, I went to a weekend Chaplain Training at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills in Pittsburgh. I participated in this training because I wanted to take on the role of "Chaplain" for the UU Youth Cons during the next two years. As a Chaplain you would be able to help those who are having conflicts with other kids. You may be acting as an arbitrator or just helping kids see other points of view in a different way. I also want to be there and help kids who may be having personal issues such as eating disorders, unhealthy relationships, and thoughts of suicide.

The training was for both youth and adults. There were more adults than youth taking the training course. We attended lectures and then went off into groups to practice and role play different situations. This training has helped me learn to talk and listen to other people from different backgrounds and age groups, as well as how to deal with situations that can be hard to face and digest. I'm really glad I went and look forward so helping out at the Cons in the future!

The Auction is Coming... by Susan Paxson, Fundraising Committee

...sooner than you might think! We hope you saved the date of Saturday February 9th as the Auction is our **biggest Fundraiser Party** of the year. This year's theme is going to be Chinese New Year and the details about activities will be out in the next few weeks! We do know that we will be looking for volunteers for our usual activities- desserts for the Dessert Dance, themed baskets for the Raffle, and folks to help with set-up and clean-up. Look for the sign-up poster in the lobby! PLEASE if you have attended the auction party before, spread the word and help new people understand how it works.

Here is the rundown of how SWUU raises money while providing social and service opportunities:

- Everyone decides on an event they would like to organize, or a service they can provide. Things like hikes, dinners, concerts, computer service, movie nights, airport deliveries, cleaning or repairs, haircuts, museum memberships, framed photos or other artwork, and massages are just a few examples. Be creative! Share your talents!
- Send the details to Susan via email. Include important things like the date and time of the event, how many people can sign up, and how much it costs. If your item is to be auctioned silently, just tell me the starting bid.
- Then come to the auction, have a nice dinner, buy raffle tickets and sign up for the items which interest you.
- Even if you cannot attend the auction, you can sign up for items the week afterwards.
- No money needs to be exchanged until you receive your itemized bill after the auction. All money goes to the church.
- Enjoy spending time with members and friends at your chosen events throughout the year.

That is the auction in a nutshell. Most people who have attended agree that it is a fun way to raise money. But it can't happen without your donations! So start thinking and please send me your information by January 31st. If you need more information, please direct your questions to me at church, by phone, or email. Hope to see everyone there!



January 2019

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a ** </div>						
6 <i>Graceful Beginnings</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm RE Meeting for Middle School Youth teachers 12:30 PM COA	7 1:30 PM Meditation -Rev. Kristen Rohm	8 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	9 9:30 AM First Wednesday Coffee 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	10 10:00 AM SWUU New Years Walk at West Creek Reservation	11 7:00 PM YAC Meeting Begins	12 YAC Meeting Continues all day
13 <i>The Cup of Our Life</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm 12:00 PM Conversation on Race	14 1:30 PM Meditation -Rev. Kristen Rohm	15 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:00 PM Worship Team	16 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	17 1:30 PM Covenant Meeting 4:00 PM Social Justice Committee 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	18 2:00 PM Women's Group 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	19 6:00 PM Cooks' Night Out
20 <i>Grace in the Ordinary</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm 12:30 PM Memory Support Group	21 1:30 PM Meditation -Rev. Kristen Rohm	22 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	23 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	24 FORUM DEADLINE 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 PM Men's Group	26 7:00 PM Youth Group
27 What do UUs Believe? -Michelle Ma	28 1:30 PM Meditation -Michelle Ma	29 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	30 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted. </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us. </div>	

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Sharing and Caring

Congratulations to John Goga and Marliyn Gauntner on their recent marriage on December 16th!

Sherry and Garry Spencer announce that their son, Shane and his wife, Erin are expecting their first child in mid-June.

** 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.