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# The Forum

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A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

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

February 1, 2019

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton

### February 3

*Exchanging Self for Others: Compassion from the Inside Out*

Compassionate action begins in the heart. Through meditation we can develop a heart that is full of love for ourselves and others. Then compassionate action, rather than being an outward moral task, becomes a natural expression of who we are inside.

-Led by Ani Palmo Rybicki, Buddhist Nun, Director Songtsen Gampo Buddhist Center of Cleveland

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

Focus Collection: Domestic Violence Child Advocacy Center



### February 10

*Open Handed*

Eastern wisdom teaches us that we enjoy life more when we can let go of our attachment to people, states of being and possessions. Come explore how might we learn to let go and open our hands to life.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

### February 17

*Grace in Letting Go*

Bringing some of the service from the 'Snow Day' in January, we explore the spiritual lessons of letting go when things don't go as planned. How do we find grace in these ordinary moments and in our everyday lives?

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

### February 24

*Learning to Fall*

Athletes, dancers, and theater folk all learn how to fall so that their performance is richer and fuller. Might the same thing be true for all of us? Come and let's explore together how surrender might increase our appreciation for life.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

# The Forum

## Message from your Minister

### **Surrender / Letting Go**

*“I’ve discovered there are two modes of the heart. We can struggle, or we can surrender. Surrender means wisely accommodating ourselves to what is beyond our control.”*

- Sylvia Boorstein

Our theme for the month is Surrender/Letting Go. I think they added letting go because surrender is such a fraught word in our culture. We are taught that surrender is the worst thing we can do. It is born of weakness, it is a capitulation. This may sometimes be true in a competitive world, but the reality is that at times surrendering is a courageous choice. It is a brave recognition of the underlying reality of life. It is a hero’s action to let go of what is not working, to make room for what might be possible.

Surrender is one of my favorite spiritual topics. I know...how odd is that? How about you? What does ‘surrender’ bring up? I have found that unless and until I can surrender to what is, I am not living fully. I am engaged in the illusion of control. We humans think we are in control our lives when the uncomfortable reality is we seldom are! We don’t control the weather, other people, random events, our children’s futures, our loved one’s behavior. All we are really in charge of is our own inner lives. We have some control of our thoughts, words and actions, though not always as skillfully as we’d like.

When in your life have you held onto your position longer than was helpful? When have you attempted to control what wasn’t yours to control? When have you let go? What was that like? I know that when I intentionally choose to let go it is an acknowledgment that I am not the center of the Universe. It is a choice to set aside the inner toddler who wants what I want when I want it, no matter the cost. And then things generally go more smoothly.

This month we have our Annual Service Auction and Celebration on February 9th, which is a blast. We have fun gathering in the heart of winter to share a meal, to bid on gifts and services, to sign up for small group social events throughout the year ahead. Plan to come and enjoy time with SWUU friends.

Please reach out to me if you are having winter blues or challenges of any sort.

Know that you are loved,  
Rev. Kristen

## The Forum

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Kathy Villwock, our Office Administrator, will be on vacation during the month of February. Please be patient with our volunteers stepping in to do pieces of her job.

### **Focus Collection for February: Domestic Violence Child Advocacy Center** by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our committee is always passionate about the non-profit community organizations we pick as recipients of our monthly Focus Collections. We have been including the Domestic Violence Child Advocacy Center in with our Christmas Collection for several seasons. This year I wanted to give the DVCAC an entire month, and when I called, I discovered that they are in need as The Violence Against Women Act was not renewed because of the government shutdown. Although it is expected that the funding will be renewed with the government open, the services are still being affected. I spoke with Carol Carberry, Chief Development and Engagement Officer. She was beyond grateful that we were planning on including them in our Focus Collection. Carol explained, **“DVCAC is upheld as a national model specifically for the integration of the children’s program and domestic violence programming which empowers adult victims. The mission of Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center is to empower individuals, educate the community, and advocate for justice to end domestic violence and child abuse.”** Types of Domestic Violence include not only domestic, physical, and sexual abuse, but also emotional, financial, and spiritual. Domestic violence is a community problem, and we are asking you to donate money to our February Focus Collection in order to assist our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity.

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

It is with gratitude and pride in our congregation that the Social Justice Committee thanks you for the generous contributions to Urban Hope. Sunday, January 13 was a frigid day, and it was wonderful to serve hungry, cold neighbors delicious, hot and healthy food. There was an abundance of fresh fruit and veggies plus a couple of delicious salads. Mary made Chili which was complemented by Nancy’s corn muffins. Besides that there were nuts, cheese and crackers. A special treat were snack packs of a variety of chips, sweets, puddings and other take aways. The line was never ending, and fortunately there was a casserole left over from another time when the chili ran out. The crowd was very grateful! We will be returning Sunday, February 10. We would love to have you join us! Generally, five people are needed to provide good service. Thank you!

# The Forum

## **Service Auction Fundraiser on February 9th from 5-8:30**

by Susan Paxson, Fundraising Committee

By the time you read this, I am hoping to have a few more items in our auction list. I want to thank those of you who have sent them in! We are up to about 30. If you have not had a chance to do it, you still have time. I will finalize the list early next week. Unfortunately, the list will not come out until the end of the week, a day or two before the actual event. There are already some creative and interesting events and the usual stand-bys.

Did you rsvp with your intent to attend and your food preferences on the red sign-up sheet at church? Please do this on Sunday so we can plan accordingly for Chinese food. We want to have enough of the right items- chicken, beef, veggie and gluten-free. If you will not be at church, you can email Sherry by February 5th as she will be ordering for us from a local Chinese restaurant.

I look forward to seeing everyone there for a fun night of raising money for our wonderful church!

## **Board Happenings**

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

In case you missed our state of the church mid-year meeting, here is a ridiculously condensed recap of what was presented. We heard from our DRE, Jenni Papp, and our Music Director, Sarah Barford on the great things going on in their respective areas. We heard from our Treasurer, Lydia Avery about our budget, which is on a great trajectory. And we heard from yours truly about how we are progressing on the goals that we set during our fall retreat. Those goals and the steps we have taken are listed below. Please excuse the shockingly dull presentation of what are really some pretty lofty ideas.

- Establish best practices for SWUU's administrative and financial well being
  - Hilary Beatrez (CPA) officially doing payroll services and advising since August
  - Hired Myron Hren (CPA) for bookkeeping and month end reconciliation assistance
  - Both moves have been well worth the funds spent and have professionalized our financial operations
- Engage with anti-racism work, strengthening justice work & increase sustainability practices at SWUU
  - Social justice discernment conversations held in October (part of UUJO pilot program)
  - Age appropriate anti-racism R.E. curriculum implemented
  - White fragility dialogue initiated in December
- Follow through with Safety & Emergency Team's activities
  - Fire Marshall walk through
  - Consultation with NR police
  - Establishing prioritized list of needed modifications
- Follow through on Planning for Growth Team's Recommendations
  - Secured additional Sunday morning parking at Leimkuehler Prosthetics
  - Reserved 2 east lot spaces for visitors
  - Reserved seats in the sanctuary for visitors
- Focus on strengthening Communications - social media presence, electronic giving & endowment fund, wider UU world, etc.
  - Continue monthly columns in The Forum Newsletter
  - Implemented SecureGive
  - Initiated effort to establish professional web space services

# 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](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.

## 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:

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## 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

# The Forum

## **Greater Cleveland Congregations Delegate Assembly Report**

by Chris Wolf, Social Justice Committee, GCC Delegate

**Rev. Roger McKinney** started the meeting at **Disciples Christian Church** in Cleveland Heights with a prayer. Routine rounds followed. This process supports GCC's emphasis on relationship building within the organization by briefly talking to someone you do not know. The topic this time as stated was "name a moment you had to push yourself to act on something important to you". After the one on one conversations, a whole group discussion began on one of these conversations. It dealt with the difficulty we often encounter when attempting to reach out to others. The upshot was clear. When the effort is made to break down the "walls" that separate us, the result is worth it. It is the way individuals discover their commonality. The bonding and focus that this can create happens to be at the heart of GCC's "bottom-up" approach. It is what unites us in our social change efforts.

Issue team updates came next. **Tom Nobbe, Administrative Organizer**, gave a positive report on meeting financial goals for the year. Work on GCC's financial base is continuous, and the Money Team would like to have one member from each congregation join them. Next was **Joe Konen**, representing **Catholics for GCC** who reported on his Education Team experience. As an example, he spoke of the badly needed computers and technology support provided to Riverside School as a result of the **Listen Act Win Campaign**. Superintendent Gordon's work with GCC is ongoing and part of this same campaign. The next report was made by **Karrell McDaniel** of **Olivet Institutional Baptist and Life Recovery**. He reviewed criminal justice team work over the past couple years and where GCC stands currently. A one page letter provides another look into this work (copies will be available on the GCC information table in the lobby). Lastly, **Donna Weinberger, Criminal Justice Coordinator**, reported progress made in the **Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign** on gun violence. Her group, among them a WCPN reporter working on a **Guns in America** report, took a trip to a gun safety technology fair in Milwaukee. The spread of safety information presented there is on the rise and will hopefully be used by vendors as an important step in reducing the harm done by guns in this country.

The meeting took a turn when discussion began as to why GCC is not currently and directly addressing the county jail conditions issue. Khalilah Worley responded by stating that GCC has been doing just that and was one of the first organizations to do so years ago. She also reviewed the research-based strategy that remains in play. This in turn led to a vigorous discussion on the breakdown of information sharing within the organization since many members were not aware of this. Changes in how GCC disseminates news is likely.

Before the closing prayer, the need for GCC to strengthen its power base was stressed. Members will continue to reach out and invite relationships in a way that builds our numbers along with unity of purpose.



# February 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: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted</p> </div>						
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a **</p> </div>						
3 <i>Compassion from the Inside</i> Out Ani Palmo Rybicki 12:00 PM Memory Group 12:30 PM COA	4 1:30 PM Meditation	5 7:00 PM Spiritu- al Book Group @ Hallie's house	6 9:30 AM Wednesday Cof- fee 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Keith Mathews'	7 10:00 AM Memb. 4:00 PM Soc. Just. 7:00 PM Earth Alli- ance 7:30 PM Choir	8 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	9 5:00-8:30 PM Annual Service Auction & Cel- ebration
10 <i>Open Handed</i> Rev. Kristen Rohm	11 1:30 PM Meditation	12 12:00 PM—Mj's Lunch Bunch @ Jennifer's in Strongsville 7:00 PM Board Meeting	13 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group@ Keith Mathews' 7:30 PM Covenant Group	14 1:30 PM Covenant Group	15 2:00 Women's Group	16 Youth Group
17 <i>Grace in Letting Go</i> Rev Kristen Rohm	18 1:30 PM Meditation	19 7:00 PM Spiritu- al Book Group @ Hallie's house 7:00 PM Wor- ship T team	20 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	21 1:30 PM Covenant Group	22 FORUM DEAD- LINE 7:00 PM Men's Group	23 7:00 PM Youth Group
24 <i>Learning to Fall</i> Rev Kristen Rohm 12 PM Memory Support Group	25 1:30 PM Meditation	26 Meditation	27 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	28 1:30 PM Movie and Discussion at Hal- lie and Bob's	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us.</p> </div>	

# The Forum

## Sharing and Caring

Please keep Susan Paxson's dad, Charlie West, in your thoughts as he navigates his recent cancer diagnosis.

Sue Davis is mourning the death of her aunt, Gerry Anthony, who was 87 years old and the last of her generation of Sue's family.

*\* send your joys and sorrows to [forum@swuu.org](mailto:forum@swuu.org) for inclusion in the next issue*

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