


The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

June 1, 2019

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royaltown Road, North Royaltown

June 2

Elec Simon's Assembly of Life

To kick off summer, something a little different... Elec Simon. Simon's life mission is to spread his positive message through music. He's done this in churches, schools, arenas, the streets of New York City, and on stage as a touring member of STOMP. Having lost his best friend to bullying, Simon is especially passionate about taking his anti-bullying message into the schools. He comes to SWUU bringing his upbeat, high-energy message about respect, love and believing in yourself. If you have any small percussion instruments like bells, maracas or any kind of shakers, tambourines, triangles, drums, please bring them as Elec wants you to participate and feel the transcendent power and joy of music.

-Led by Jenni Papp, DRE

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

Focus Collection: LGBT Community Center

ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS THE SERVICE



June 9

Discovering Faith Together

All people are lovable beings of infinite worth, imbued with powers of the soul. We are obligated to use our gifts, talents, and potentials in the service of life. This Sunday we will rediscover the power of our Faith as we act in community. We will offer a Congregational Commitment Ceremony of Child Dedication, recognize the commitment of our congregation as we appreciate the dedication of our RE leaders, and celebrate with three youth who will be bridging out of our RE program and into a new life phase.

-Led by Jenni Papp, DRE

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

June 16

Toltec Wisdom and Unitarian Universalism

The Toltec people were a society of scientists and artists in ancient Mexico. They teach that this world is an illusion, and they offer four primary agreements that can reconnect us with reality, starting with *Be impeccable with your word*. Join us for an exploration of Toltec wisdom and how these ideas relate to Unitarian Universalism.

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

Worship Associate: Ted Macosko

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June 23

Can the Imperfect be Beautiful?

The Rev. Joe Cherry returns to our pulpit so he can ask in a sermon "Can the imperfect be beautiful?" (Spoiler Alert, the answer is probably yes.)

-Led by Rev. Joe Cherry, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

June 30

Wake, Now, My Senses

As we are navigating through the months of this year, and recount all that we've experienced, we make resolves for the betterment and existential support for ourselves and our community. We are behoove to ask, what does my heart call me to do as I move into a spiritual and just life? Can I, we, awaken myself, ourselves, to a different prospect and reality as an opportunity for our serving this precious life?

-Led by Samuel Prince & Cir L'Bert jr.

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

BIG NEWS!!!!

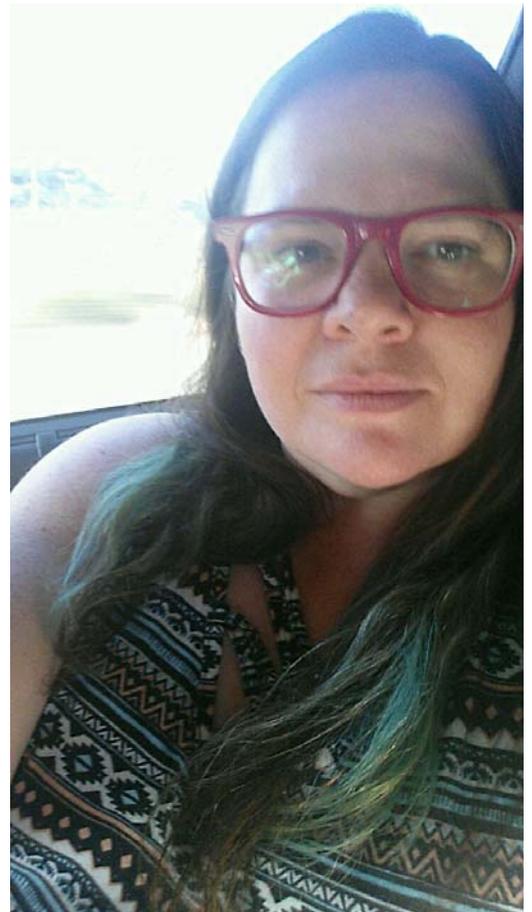
Your Ministerial Search Committee and The Board of Trustees are **thrilled** to announce that WE HAVE A NEW MINISTER!!!

Rev. Megan Mathieson is a native of Baltimore, MD and received her Masters of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. She and her wife Nicky have 3 teen kids: Hannah is a student at the University of Maryland, Adam will be entering his junior year of high school, and Michael will be entering 8th grade in the fall. They also have a 10-year old border collie named Cricket.

Rev. Megan describes her theology as "Christian-friendly agnosticism," and finds great joy in religious pluralism and ministerial work. In moments of extreme candor, she will admit to actually being a golden retriever dressed as a minister.

To learn more about Rev. Megan's background and beliefs, or to hear some of her sermons, go to www.meganmathieson.weebly.com.

She will be officially starting with us on August 1; however, she is planning an apartment hunting trip here June 3-6. She would love to meet with any of us during that time. Get-togethers are being hastily planned as of this writing! See your Thursday SWUU News e-mail, and Sunday announcements for more details.



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Focus Collection for June: LGBT Community Center by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

The June Focus Collection will benefit the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. Founded in 1975, the Center is a leading non-profit organization that empowers Northeast Ohio's LGBTQ+ community through advocacy, support, education, collaboration, and celebration. The Center is located on Detroit Rd. in the Gordon Square Arts District. The new building is scheduled to open in late May with a grand opening celebration in June.

The most recent impact report cites impressive statistics for persons served, trainings held, and outreach programs attended by youth and over 50's (Sages) as well. Programs serve a wide variety of needs to promote emotional support, community building, health education, exercise, and to train area professionals.

SWUU has supported the exceptional work of the Center for several years because its mission is consistent with our 1st UU Principle, "Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person." Please read the bulletin board downstairs in the Gathering Room and pick up literature to learn more. For additional information, please visit lgbtcleland.org.

Urban Hope Dinner Healthy Snacks by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

There are two more scheduled Healthy Snack Visits for the summer months. We are requesting donations for Sunday, June 16 and Sunday, July 14. The Storefront closes for a clean up in August. We are also hoping that some people can volunteer to join us to help serve. We arrive at the storefront around 2:45 and generally are finished by 5. The help needed is keeping of with the food, clearing, and washing & drying dishes. We realize it is not the most glamorous volunteer job, but we always have fun. As usual, all food donations are appreciated. Fresh fruit and veggies, desserts, salads and any "take aways" are a hit. The Ritz cracker stash is gone! Thank you for your generosity.

Summer Walks by Susan Paxson

Summer is coming and that means more time for walking. If you would like to be on the walking group list, please let me know. I will be doing more walks in the summer, but they will not always be in the forum because of weather issues. If you like to walk, I want to make sure you are on the list so you will be notified when a walk is planned. Getting on the list does not obligate you to attend every walk; however, I do try to plan walks when people want to go. When you ask to be on the list, give me some information about when you are more likely to attend. I will try to plan a variety of walks considering the suggestions I receive. Usually they last around an hour and are within ½ hour from church, but I am open to occasionally going a little further away if there is an interest. Walking together is a great way to get to know one another in a healthy way that costs nothing! Email me to be included!

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“Getting to Know You” Interview by Hallie Davis

Mike and Sharron Gold live in North Royalton with their 2 teenage sons, Jaret & Andrew and their dog Bauer. The Golds have been attending SWUU for about 4 years. Before moving to North Royalton, the Golds lived in Bay Village and were members of Westshore UU in Rocky River since 2001. It was there that Mike was active in the UU Buddhist Fellowship with Rev. Wayne Arnason and Sharron taught RE for many years. After often driving by SWUU, Sharron came to a garage sale here at the church and felt an incredibly warm welcome. Later that December, the family came to a Christmas Eve service decided this was the church for them and joined soon after. They feel lucky to be a part of such a wonderful congregation.



Sharron grew up in Mentor, Ohio, went to Kent State University and is currently a freelance graphic artist with American Greetings. Mike grew up in Los Angeles and attended Santa Barbara college in California. Also an artist, he accepted a position at American Greetings which brought him to Ohio. After 28 years as a lettering artist with the company, Mike has retired from the 9 to 5 job to pursue teaching, writing and freelance. He holds calligraphy workshops across the United States and is looking forward to his hand lettering workshop in Australia this summer, were the family will travel for a vacation.

Both Sharron and Mike are active at SouthWest UU. Sharron is a Religious Exploration teacher for the younger children and prepares the video for our services as a member of the Visual Arts team. Mike serves as a worship associate and was part of the Ministerial Search Team. Jaret has agreed to be a youth worship associate and has recently joined the choir.

Mike enjoys being a dad, making art, running, meditating, and golfing. Sharron enjoys being a mom, gardening, watching mysteries and walking the dog. Jaret loves history, reading, playing piano, following politics and drawing detailed maps. Andrew loves the Cleveland sports teams, playing baseball, being outside with friends, juggling and playing guitar. They all like watching movies & Jeopardy.

Some of their favorite travels have been to the Hawaiian Islands, the Oregon coast and family get togethers at Avon-by-the-Sea on the New Jersey shore, Texas and California. Closer to home they enjoy the Metroparks and taking their dog Bauer out to walk in the woods.

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Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

This will be my last entry in this column as your board president since my term ends on June 30th. As such, I thought I'd take the opportunity to thank...well...everyone for all that you do to keep SWUU the vibrant, loving community that it is. As I'm sure I've shared before, one of the privileges of being on the board (and being president in particular) is that you really become aware of the efforts involved in making a community this special function as brilliantly as it does. When the year ends up as challenging as this one became, those efforts are even more apparent, and for me, appreciated. To witness it all is inspiring!

When we needed a ministerial search committee to do a difficult job on short notice, lo and behold, one appeared (and did a bang-up job to boot). When we needed the Worship Team to suddenly deal with a bunch of empty Sunday slots...done. When our Caring Team faced additional challenges around pastoral care over the summer...handled. When our Finance Committee had to deal with a suddenly altered 2018-2019 budget and create a 2019-2020 budget amid great unknowns...whatever. And when my fellow board members were faced with oh so much more than they bargained for this year, their resilience and level heads made all the difference.

And did this extra effort effect the myriad other essential activities that make us who we are? Not a bit. Our R.E. program continued it's outstanding work under DRE Jenni Papp's leadership. Our Membership Committee kept right on making new folks feel welcome and connected. Our Social Justice Committee continued to walk the walk of our 7 principles. Our Buildings and Grounds committee kept everything working as it should. And the list could go on.

And then there's our two new staff. Office Administrator Kristen Cimera, and Music Director Ryan Bergeron have both been with us for a very short time, but have already made huge contributions.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It has been an honor to serve as board president for such a wonderful group.

PRIDE in CLE 2019

Saturday, June 1, 11:00 am — ?

The Pride Parade is a go! Arrival time is around 11, and the parade begins at noon. All UU Congregations are registered as "Unitarian Universalists Congregations of NE Ohio." Jerry Knasel is in charge of the parade at Westshore and our contact person. We will step off at noon on St. Clair Avenue. The exact location will be announced. The clue is to look for the Westshore "Angels." Members of the congregation dress as Angels to symbolically offer peace and protection. They are usually at the beginning of the parade, and SWUU generally follows them. For more details, please check out "PRIDE in CLE 2019." T Shirts are also available from the Cleveland Clothing Company. They can be ordered online at cleclothingco.myspotify.com. A sign up sheet will be in the lobby for those who might want to carpool.

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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

forum@swuu.org

Join the SWUUList

If you would like to join a newsgroup focused on issues of importance to SWUU, e-mail connect@swuu.org and request to join the SWUUList.

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

Membership Committee Celebrates LGBT Pride Month by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

Our church has been a Welcoming Congregation For about 20 years, after participating in an intensive program developed by the UUA. Even so, we can always do more to be welcoming to LGBT individuals. To that end, we discussed an idea at our meeting and we would like to present it to the congregation before we put it into effect so people are aware of why we are making this change. We thought since June is the month when we celebrate LGBT Pride, it would be a perfect time to get started.

You may have noticed if you teach the Youth in RE, that at the beginning of each session, each member tells the group their name and also the pronouns they prefer. It might seem obvious which pronouns a person prefers, but, in reality, it might not be obvious at all. For example, a person might look like they identify as female, but they prefer be referred to as they and them instead of she and her when pronouns are used. So let's have this information on our nametags so people will know without having to ask the question!

This requires Kristen, our office administrator to do some extra work, so it might take some time. When you have a chance, please send the information to office@swuu.org for your nametag. In the subject line write NAMETAG INFO, so it will be obvious to her. Here is what we recommend: Name, City of residence, and Preferred Pronouns. (they/them, he/him, or she/her) If you are on a specific team such as Caring, Board, or Membership, and you want that info on there, let Kristen know what color your tag is and if you want the team mentioned. These last parts are entirely optional. Basically your new nametag will be the same as it has always been except the pronouns will be in the upper right corner. Please contact susan@paxson.us for more information.

Growing in Spirit and Number by Phyllis Hall, Membership Committee

There were smiles all around at our April 7 Sunday morning service and Joining ceremony. Eleven new friends signed the Membership Book and were welcomed with a hearty round of applause. They are:

- Laura Mills from Parma
- Michelle Rasey & Vlad Vancisin from Parma
- Brinda Woods from Strongsville
- Sandy Shuler from Strongsville
- Brian Woodside from Copley
- Poet Staley Miller & Rae Brewer from Broadview Heights
- Keath and Khristina Patterson from Brecksville
- MaryAnn McKeever from North Royalton.

In welcoming them, we are delighted, also, to welcome four children: Evie Vancisin, Lilliana and Zander Woods; and Sophia Patterson. Be sure to introduce yourself and get to know them. Our membership now totals 104!

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Adopt a Highway by Susan Paxson

New people are welcome to come and help out with picking up litter in the area around the I-71 interchange at Pearl Road in Middleburg Heights. We have been doing this for over 10 years, but some of our group members have had to step down. It is good exercise not to mention helping to beautify this grassy area. And it's even fun; you never know what you are going to find! Our first clean-up of the year is going to be Saturday, June 1st, at 9:00. We meet just before 9:00 am in the parking lot nearest Pearl Road for the Islander apartments. (turn off Pearl right beside the Sunoco Gas station across from the car dealer) It is a good way to start your Saturday and you will be finished by around 10:00 to get on with the other fun plans for your day. Twelve year-olds and older can attend if they have a signed permission form. Make it a family affair! Please contact Susan if you would like to participate. Our next clean-up if you are not available this time, will be August 3rd at the same time and location. If you are new, you will need to complete a brief safety training at 8:45. Hope you can join us!

SWUU is Switching Our Online Giving Platform! by Lydia Avery, Finance Committee

As the Finance Committee was reviewing the accounts for the budget this year, we decided to take a look at costs for other online giving platforms. We are pleased to announce that we have found a platform that is easy to use, interfaces with our church software, AND costs 1/3 the amount of our current provider! We will have an overlap month, June, where our current service, SecureGive will remain active while we launch our new service, Vanco. If you make a recurring contribution through SecureGive, please cancel it in June. We will contact anyone who does so that you can switch to Vanco. More information will be coming soon. Stayed tuned!



June 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Week day meetings are held at the church unless marked with an *.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us</div> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;">All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by **</div> </div>						
2 Elec Simon's Assembly of Life -Elec Simon 11:45 AM Annual Meeting	3 1:30 PM Meditation Team	4	5 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee 1:00—3:00 PM Wednesday Book Group 6:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner to meet Megan Mathieson	6	7	8 3:30 PM Women's History 9:00 AM - Adopt-a-Highway Noon -LGBT Pride Parade
9 Discovering Faith Together -Jenni Papp- DRE 12:00 Noon—Hogwarts Prep Party	10	11 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	12 1:00—3:00 PM Wednesday Book Group @ Mathews 7:00 PM Worship Team	13 4:00 PM Social Justice 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	14 2:00 PM Women's Group 7:00 PM Puzzle and Game Night	15
16 Toltec Wisdom and UU Rev. Andrew Frantz 3:00 PM Healthy Snacks for Urban Hope	17 1:30 PM Meditation	18 10:00 AM - Membership Team	19 1:00—3:00 PM Wednesday Book Group @ Mathews	20	21	22 7:00 PM Youth Group
23 Can the Imperfect Be Beautiful? -Rev. Joe Cherry	24 1:30 PM Meditation	25 FORUM DEADLINE	26 1:00—3:00 PM Wednesday Book Group @ Mathews	27 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 6:00 PM Men's Group-BBQ at Jacksons	29
30 Wake, Now, My Senses -Samuel Prince & Cir L'Bert jr						

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Sharing and Caring

Susan Paxson shares her joy that her dad's energy is much better than the last visit! Thank you for all of our good thoughts and well 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.