



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

December 1, 2021

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton
Limited In-Person and On Zoom!



December 5

Where Do We Go From Here

In 1967 Dr. Martin Luther King made a speech entitled, "Where Do We Go from Here?" He stated, "In order to answer the question, we must first honestly recognize where we are now." Martin reminds us in this same speech, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." These are times of despair, times of hope and standing up. My sermon will explore what we can do to answer the question, "Where Do We Go From Here?"

-Led by Rev. Dave Clements

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

Focus Collection: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest At Your Table

December 12

Our Lady

For Mexicans, today is Our Lady of Guadalupe Day. All are welcome to join us in a service celebrating the feminine divine in all of her forms.

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: anastasia birosh

December 19

Into the Dark

Today we prepare for the coming Winter Solstice. As we make our way through the longest night of the year, we look to the coming light. All aboard for a ride on the Solar Express!

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

December 24

Opening to Joy

Our traditional Christmas Eve service this year will focus on the theme of Courage and Hope in the face of uncertainty. Join us for inspirational readings and candlelit carols. Joy to the World!

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

December 26

My Sweet Lord

As the year comes to a close, we encourage one another to open to the joy of hope. Join us as we celebrate a "Joy Communion."

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Deb Celinski

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Message from your Minister

Opening to Joy

My dear SWUU family,

I have a confession to make: when I saw that the Soul Matters theme for the month was “Opening to Joy,” I felt a surge of cynicism in my gut.

Here it comes, I thought. Christmas is coming, demanding joy, and I am just too tired! Looking out at the grey weather, listening to the news of yet another terrifying COVID variant, I don’t feel ready to muster up some joy. I imagine that I might not be alone in this.

It has been a difficult year; a difficult couple of years! And although we all know that misery loves company, an ongoing global trauma is a very, very hard thing to love.

Thankfully, in this season we can still find love in one another. When we are feeling too exhausted to muster up our own joy, we can simply lie back and passively open to it. And so, I think that the theme this month is perfect. It is not asking you to find the joy within yourself that is likely frayed and exhausted, but rather simply asking you to open. Together, in many ways this month, we will come together in order to soften our hearts and open to the joy that exists outside of our bodies, the joy of our Beloved Community.

Please join us for a Sunday service either in person or online, and know that you are invited to any of our other events which are happening both online and in person. During this month, I look forward to worshipping with you in person and virtually. And as always, please do not hesitate to email me at minister@swuu.org, even just to say hello!

With so much love,
Rev. Meg

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Focus Collection for December: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest At Your Table by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

SWUU has been supporting UUSC and Guest At Your Table in December for as long as our church has been established. GAYT is an annual intergenerational program to raise support and awareness about key human rights issues. UUSC works in 20 countries with 50 grassroots partners. It is the longest established fundraising and educational program for Congregations. The Theme for 2022 is:

Now is the Time for Courageous Change

The Injustices and crises of the past year have underscored the importance of our shared goal -- a world free from oppression, where all can realize their full human rights.

The UU Congregation of Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY will match any contribution of \$150 or over. Because of this, it may be more efficient to send donations directly to UUSC. It can be done online sending to uusc.org/givetoguest. Please note that the donation comes from SWUU. A check can also be mailed to **UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark NJ 07101-0808**. Please make checks out to UUSC and put GAYT in the memo line. Checks can also be mailed to our church, **6320 Royalton Rd. North Royalton 44133** or using Vanco. Checks can be made out to SWUU or UUSC with GAYT on the memo line.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Urban Hope Outreach Update by Jan Wehn

Our last visit to Urban Hope was Sunday, November 14. It was a blustery day, but there were many guests waiting outside to grab lunches, pick up some warm clothes, hot coffee, shower, and use the bathroom. Everyone must wear a mask, and there are plenty available to hand out. Serving coffee has just started again. Paper cups are used, and coffee needs to be taken outside. Lunches included Turkey Sandwiches, Sunny Delight, chips, mandarin oranges, cheese sticks, granola bars, hard boiled egg, cookies and plenty of leftover Halloween candy! We buy all the paper products and condiments in bulk as well as other prepackaged items. Buying the turkey, buns and cheese for 30 bags cost \$47. I try to figure out how much per bag, and i think it's close to between \$3 and \$4 a bag. It's hard to tabulate with 3 of us shopping. We thank all of you for your generous contributions! Speaking for Nancy, Debby and myself, we always leave feeling good about the day. It is important to feed people and show them kindness and respect. Our next visit is Sunday, December 12.

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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 on our website 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

Get Connected!

If you would like to receive The Forum via email, or if you would like to join a newsgroup focused on issues of importance to SWUU, or if you would like to receive our weekly newsblast, e-mail connect@swuu.org and tell us which you want.

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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CALLING ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH!

Come join us for a fun-filled evening on December 4th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. We will be building and painting props and doing some filming for our Christmas Solstice program. Pajamas are encouraged! This is for all ages and you don't need to be creative. Masks are required and we will be social distancing. Let's start building some holiday cheer! Please rsvp.

SWUU 1st Wednesday Breakfast

by Hallie Davis

SWUU 1st Wednesday breakfast will be held at Kosta and Vic's Family Restaurant, 10300 W. Sprague Rd., from 9:30-11:00 am. Please let Hallie know if you plan to attend.

A Good Time Was Had by All Who Attended Louis Hayek's Floral Design Service Auction Offering



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“Getting to Know You”

Interview by Susan Paxson

Bill and Lee Beuther have lived in the Cleveland area for most of their lives. Lee was baptized in the Methodist Church in Cleveland and when their family moved to Parma, they attended Brooklyn Reformed Church where her dad was a deacon and Mom taught Sunday School. Even at this early age, she was not comfortable with the dogma in the church. Her siblings were quite a bit older and not as involved in her life. When Lee was 11, her dad died suddenly, and for the next few years, she and her mom moved around quite a bit until she got married at the age of 19 and started her family and had three children. Bill lived in Lakewood, Fairview Park and Rocky River. He had one sister and their family also attended a Methodist Church. Bill remembers growing up in a very homogeneous community. He went off to college at Ohio University to study psychology but switched to Science teaching and later got a Master’s Degree in Instructional Technology and Academic Administration.



Bill was working at Tri-C when Lee began taking classes there as an adult, but this is not where they met. They met at a singles’ group called Southwest Rap. It took a year before Bill finally asked Lee out, but they have been together now for 38 years and married for 27 ½. Bill was a proud member of the stage party when Lee received her degree in 1989, after 14 years of study, mostly as a single mother of three and working full time. She later accepted a full-time position at the college from where they both retired in 2002.

Soon after retiring, they both spent a lot of time taking care of Bill’s parents and they were so glad that they were able to do this, and they learned a lot. Bill has also spent these years doing photography, something he had been interested in when he was younger. He likes to be creative and apply different techniques and, in his words, “to photograph something that moves him in a way that shares that emotion with the viewer”. You can check out his work on his website. Although he had not planned to be a wedding photographer, after doing it once for a friend, he has done over 100 weddings!

Lee’s passion is painting, something she had always wanted to do. She founded two groups in Medina County which still meet together to do their art and to critique each other’s work. What she likes most is connecting artists with each other and the community and helping them find ways to exhibit their work. She is one of the original members of one group called PerSisters Painters. This group of 8 liberal democratic women use their painting as a form of activism. Each year, they have a themed exhibit and their most recent one was called “The Hill We Climb”. Lee also has a website with her paintings and where she shares her goal to “express herself in a way that somehow connects with you, the viewer, perhaps raises questions, touches your heart, brings back a memory or makes you smile.”

In addition to their artistic endeavors, Bill and Lee enjoy traveling, reading, and music. Bill, a physically active person has done a number of cycling trips in Europe. They also spend time with their children, Bill’s son, and Lee’s three daughters and four grandchildren who are in the area. Her daughter, Therese, actually went to grade school with Deb Celinski! They have learned so much from Lee’s grandson, who is autistic, yet has finished his accounting degree. Bill and Lee were actually charter members of our church. Health issues took them away and after that, they attended a number of other churches from Episcopal to Disciples of Christ. Although the people seemed nice, the dogma just didn’t work for them. We welcome them back to SWUU and look forward to reconnecting with them, especially when we gather again in person.

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Sharing and Caring

David and Judy Newell, both charter members of SWUU, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on Wednesday, November 24th. They were high school sweethearts!

From **Pat Mellott**, “My radiation treatment is complete... I'm in the healing process now trying to get my energy levels back up. It takes about 2 weeks after the last treatment. The muscle soreness takes about a month. Still waiting for oncologist office to call me back for the next course of treatment..” She sends love to all.

** 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.