



# The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

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

January 1, 2020

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



### **January 5**

*Paths Through Mystery*

All are welcome to worship with us in 2020 at SWUU! The theme of our first month of the decade is Beginnings. We will celebrate an exciting multigenerational service featuring fire communion and looking toward the future.

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

Focus Collection: Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity

### **January 12**

*What is a Wonderbox?*

Do you want to build a snowman? Neither do I! Let's huddle indoors away from the cold and begin a new tradition this Sunday. Introducing the Wonder Box! Wonder what it is? Come and see!

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

### **January 19**

*Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?*

Celebrate the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr at SWUU as we look at the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement in the United States and recognize non-white models of leadership in our community and elsewhere.

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

### **January 26**

*TBA*

Please visit our website later this month to find out more about this service and our guest speaker.

-Led by TBA

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

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## Message from your Minister

### Beginnings

Happy New Year and a Happy New Decade to You!

As we say goodbye to an old decade and greet the inevitable changes of the future, let us be filled with a sense of joyful anticipation. The newness of a new decade blesses us with possibility. And when those changes and possibilities are difficult, we rest in the sure knowledge that as a community, we hold one another in love.

The modern prophet Howard Thurman said, “In whatever sense this year is a New Year for you, may the moment find you eager and unafraid, ready to take it by the hand with joy and with gratitude.”

*A reminder on financial giving:* At SWUU, we have a fund called the “Minister’s Discretionary Fund”, which is used for both emergencies and non-emergencies, at the minister’s discretion. In this way, we relieve one another of the temptation to unplanned, impulse giving. In this way, we work together so that our giving can make more of an impact.

SouthWest UU is a deeply caring and financially generous group of people! If someone approaches you with their hand outstretched, kindly point them toward your minister, who can dig into the deeper pockets provided by the SWUU community.

If you feel led to contribute to this fund, feel free to contact me at [minister@swuu.org](mailto:minister@swuu.org). I am ever awed by your generosity and I take your hand as we walk boldly into this new decade together.

Blessings,  
Rev. Meg  
[minister@swuu.org](mailto:minister@swuu.org)

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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. From 2019-2023, much work will center on the Greater Buckeye and the Clark-Fulton/Stockyards neighborhoods. Ten new homes on Grandview Ave., begun in 2019, will be completed by summer 2020. Then Habitat will break ground on 10 more new homes on Hulda Ave. in the same general neighborhood.

### Fun Facts:

- The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree has been milled into lumber and donated to build Habitat homes every year since 2007;
- The average Habitat home in the US is 1200 sq.ft. with 3 bedrooms;
- Charity Navigator gives Greater Cleveland Habitat an overall 4 Star rating of 92.22/100, with a Platinum Seal of Transparency.

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](http://www.clevelandhabitat.org) for more information.

## **Urban Hope News** by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

### **SCRUMPTIOUS MEAL SERVED ON DECEMBER 8!**

Our generous SWUU congregation provided an amazing amount of food and volunteer hours to make the holidays brighter for our hungry, grateful neighbors at the Urban Hope Storefront on December 8. Servers included Betsy Clark & Bernie Smith, Glenda Harrison, and Denny & Nancy Peltola. We were able to serve meatball & mozzarella sandwiches, pickles, salads, nuts, cheese sticks, fresh fruit & veggies, Ritz crackers, breakfast bars, homemade cookies, cakes (including Suzy's red velvet Yule Log), and candies. The crowd was the biggest ever, but no one went away hungry. Thanks to all of you who helped in this effort to reach out to our neighbors in need. You truly make a difference in so many lives! The next opportunity to help out with Urban Hope by bringing foods and/or volunteering 2 hours will be Sunday, January 12. Please sign up on the poster in the lobby.

### **COFFEE MUGS NEEDED**

Do you have any old but usable coffee mugs for which you would like to find a loving new home? Look no further! Urban Hope could make excellent use of your mugs. If you bring them in to the lobby, someone will be happy to deliver them to the storefront. Many thanks!

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**It's Coming Soon...**  
**The Annual Service Auction!**  
by Steve Doucette

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, February 15, 2020**  
**Starts at 5 pm.**

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

-Mahatma Gandhi

The Service Auction is our biggest Fundraiser Party of the year. This year's theme is going to be **Valentine Hearts**, and you can expect dinner at nominal cost, and fun activities for the whole family! We do know that we will be looking for volunteers for our 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 opportunities:

- Members decides on an event they would like to organize, or a service they can provide. Things like hikes, dinners, concerts or sing-alongs at your home or at church, computer service, movie nights, airport deliveries, cleaning or repairs, haircuts, teaching a skill, framed photos or other artwork, and massages are just a few examples. Be creative! Share your talents!
- Send the details to Susan Paxson. 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 Susan 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.
- And here's the best part... 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 Susan your information by January 31st.

Questions? Contact Susan Paxson, or Steve Doucette.

**SAVE THE DATE: Congregational Meeting**  
**January 12, 2020, after the service**

# 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:

[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 issues of importance to SWUU, e-mail [connect@swuu.org](mailto: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](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

# The Forum

## **Board Happenings**

by Hallie Davis, SWUU Board President

The board did not meet in December due to illness and holiday commitments. Please stay for a congregational meeting on **January 12th**, after the service. Items to be discussed include:

- Budget update
- Safety exit plan
- Becoming a Green Sanctuary
- Service Animal policy
- Changes to the Board

Coffee and snacks will be provided in the lobby area after church.

### **—SECOND POSTING: PLEASE CONSIDER—**

#### **A Hospitable (but urgent) Message From The Hospitality Committee** by Gail Doucette, Hospitality Committee

##### **The Hospitality Committee Needs Volunteers!**

As most of you know there's a monthly sign-up sheet that sits on a table outside of the sanctuary. The month is divided into weeks of Sundays and each Sunday is divided into categories:

- Snacks (cookies, fruit, e.g)
- Coffee Set-up
- Flowers (for the altar)
- Clean-up (washing coffee pots, wiping tables)

Ideally, members of our congregation periodically volunteer for one of these tasks.

Recently, however, our volunteer list has shrunk to the same few people signing up over and over again. There have also been Sundays when the Hospitality Committee has had to scramble at the last minute to make coffee and/or (using committee money that really should be saved for larger events) to run out to buy snacks.

So, please take a look at the monthly sign-up sheet and consider if you can assist with one of the activities that keeps our Sunday operations running smoothly. (In fairness to all, on weeks when there is no volunteer for snacks, we will enjoy our coffee without sweet morsels, and you'll see a sign on the snack table announcing: "No Snacks Today".)

Thank you, everyone! We certainly appreciate your help!

#### **A Reminder From Your Central East Region**

**Winter Institute** is a relaxing weekend gathering for UUs of all ages. There are frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing. For those who choose to stay in their slippers all weekend, there is a beautiful lodge with its many cozy corners and fireplaces. Join us at Salt Fork State Park in Cambridge, OH February 14-17, 2020 (President's Day Weekend).

[Registration is now open.](#)

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## Sharing and Caring

Please keep sending your good wishes to **Ted Macosko**, and his family as he continues to recover from his stroke in the fall. He and Sarah made an appearance at the New Year's Eve gathering and made our whole night! There were many hugs and tears of joy all around.

**Pat Woodside** is home recovering from her recent surgery to remove a brain tumor. She was able to sit in the back for our Christmas eve service, much to our joy. She is now going through speech therapy, and preparing to start intensive chemo and radiation in a couple of weeks. Both she and Brian appreciate the cards, calls, and good wishes they have received. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

*\* 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.