



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

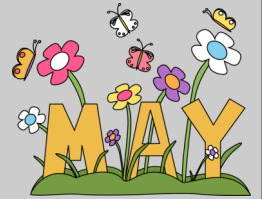
www.swuu.org

May 1, 2025

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

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



May 4

Imagine and Create Sustainable Lifestyles

Common sense and scientific studies tell us that our current lifestyles will not sustain human life on the earth forever. We need to be multicultural leaders and followers to work – together when possible – to imagine and create sustainable lifestyles. We want to live in ways that will help make planet earth a healthy place for humans and other life.

-Led by Rev. Richard “Dick” Beck, Pastor Emeritus, Grace UCC, Uniontown, OH

Worship Associate: anastasia birosh

Focus Collection: Greater Cleveland Food Bank

May 11

Heart of Love

Celebrating Mother’s Day with story, songs and reflections of Active Hope: saying YES to democracy, to eco-justice, and to Life — dreaming and evolving through us.

-Led by Barbara Walker & Rev Mary Grigolia

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

May 18

Exploring Empathy

How do our UU values intersect with empathy? How can exercising our empathy muscles help our hurting species? With personal stories and reflections from two of SWUU's long-time members, Adrienne Ellis and Dan Paxson, we'll explore how we grow individually and collectively by practicing empathy and looking at life through the lenses of others.

-Led by Adrienne Ellis & Dan Paxson, SWUU Worship Team

May 25

The Peace of Wild Things

How might deepening our connection to nature ground us in a time of disruption?

-Led by Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, Affiliated Community Minister, UU Church of Kent

Worship Associate: Deb Celinski

The Forum
Message from your Minister



And they ALL are super grateful for the meal train!

The Forum

Focus Collection for May: Greater Cleveland Food Bank by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Dear Friends, Yes, I just wrote an article for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for December's Focus, and here I am asking again. This time I do not need to reiterate what an asset the Food Bank is for 6 Counties in Ohio, and how much they do to feed hungry families, help those living in a "food desert," and provide a shopping store for those who can come and pick out their own items. By now we all know that the Federal Government is cutting funding. Gayle Doucette sent us a letter from Jessica Morgan detailing that the Local Food Purchase Agreement will end on June 30th. They are advocating for more money from the state, but we don't know when that could happen. I realize some of us have already sent checks to the Food Bank, but it is important that they receive as much support as possible. Please think about contributing to this important organization. Checks can be put in the church basket clearly marked May Focus or designated in your Vanco account.

"Few things have more impact than nutrition on a child's ability to survive, learn effectively, and escape a life of poverty."

-UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Ann M. Veneman

Urban Hope Update by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Wow...did we have a busy, great day at Urban Hope. Nancy and Denny Peltola, Ann and Mick Stenz and I were there along with 12 Creighton students participating in an Alternative Spring Break. They come twice a year, but we had not been notified. No matter, their energy was contagious, and they were busy with anything that was needed. We had a homemade chicken casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, corn souffle, fresh oranges, homemade cupcakes, crackers and granola bars. It was a feast. The sunshine put everyone in a joyous mood, and there was music and laughter. We all left feeling good. Our next visit is April 13. Thank you for all of your generous donations.

Choir Director Transition by Susan Paxson, Music Committee

Janet Williams has been volunteering as our choir director for three years now. We have appreciated her musical expertise, her fun-loving attitude, and her ability to challenge us and motivate us to be the best we can be as a choir. Her dedication and generous donation of time has been invaluable to us, and we are so grateful for her gifts. We knew that this could not last forever. At this time, she is stepping down for personal reasons. Don't worry- the choir will continue to perform. Ellen will be volunteering in May and we have a paid substitute in June. For the summer, we will be taking a break and offering small group special music selections. During this time, we will be searching for someone to lead us as a paid specialist. Please reach out to Ellen Hansen-Ellis, Betsy Clark, Katie Maslar, or me if you know of anyone who might enjoy a part time position in this capacity. Ideally, they would live close to church and have some experience leading choir or band. We feel confident that we will find someone by the fall.

The Forum



What Do You Value at SWUU?

by Danelle Baker-Miller, Chair, Stewardship Committee

As you consider your pledge for 2025-2026, remember all that you receive from SWUU. Whether a sense of belonging, opportunities to serve others, supportive friends or the talents of a great staff, we all benefit from being part of this wonderful community.

If you have not pledged in the past and have questions, please feel free to contact Danelle Baker-Miller, Stewardship Chair, or reach out to Steve Doucette, Treasurer.

To help us plan the budget for the upcoming year, please return your pledge card by **Sunday, May 4**. You can drop it in the box outside the sanctuary or send it back via US Mail in the return envelope provided in the information packet.

Though we are a small congregation, we are abundant in both spirit and community. Your support makes all that we enjoy possible. Please join us as we continue to make SWUU ***Stronger Together!***

Women's Fellowship Gathering

by Jan Terradotter

This is an informal gathering of women, usually for a meal, which occurs on the last Friday of each month. Let's meet at the church for a salad supper at 6:00 on Friday, May 30th. Any type of salad will do and we could use a dessert or two. Let me know what you plan to bring, so I can be sure we have a variety of salads. All women are welcome to attend, and this is a great way to get to know other church members and friends in a small group setting.

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 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 on our website calendar.

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

The Forum

Happenings at SWUU

by Hallie Davis

SWUU Breakfast

The SWUU Breakfast is held the first (1st) Wednesday of the month. Our next breakfast is May 7th at 9:30 am. We meet at Ruma's Restaurant in the Royalwood Shopping Center at the corner of State and Royalwood Roads in North Royalton.

The breakfast is another opportunity to connect with a smaller group of about a dozen. If you are new to SWUU come learn more about our beloved community and our many opportunities to connect and serve. I always learn something new and have fun! Come and join in!

Please contact Hallie if you want to attend or have questions.

Poetry on Zoom

Did you know that SWUU has a poetry group? We meet the first (1st) Monday of the month (May 5th) at 7 pm on the SWUU Zoom site. We each bring a favorite poem or two to share. The beauty of Spring is our topic for the month of May. All are welcome to join in and just come and listen and enjoy our time together!

Please contact Hallie if you would like to attend or have questions.

Evening BOOK Group

The evening book group meets the 2nd thru 5th Monday evenings at 7 pm on our SWUU Zoom link. Our format is check-in, discussion of our assigned chapters, read together as a group and a read several chapters on our own.

On May 12th, we will be starting our new book, James by Percival Everett. This novel retells The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the perspective of Jim, an enslaved man, showing his struggles and journey to freedom.

Please contact Hallie if you would like to attend or have questions.

The Forum

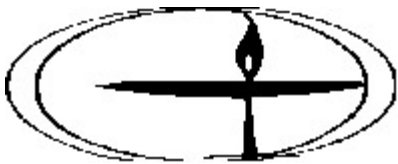
Sharing and Caring

The Membership Committee's Carol Jordan shares that:

Edna Haugland will mark 20 years of membership in SWUU on May 22!

**Please 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.