

The Forum

A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

June 1, 2025

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

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



June 1

The First Still Burns

Freedom is not always won through battles or written in laws - it is kept alive by resistance, stories, and hope. In this service, we will reflect on the spiritual meaning of freedom and what it means to live with dignity in the web of life.

-Led by Rev. Ian Anderson

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

Focus Collection: LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

June 8

When the Storm Comes, We Move Together

There is so much change happening right now that it may feel as if the whole world is in a storm. How do we find the way to move with and through the storm? Not running for cover, but finding who we must become to ride it out and emerge triumphant. When the storm settles, as it must, how do we help to keep the house from blowing away?

-Sermon via video from Rev. Summer Albayati, UUA Congregational Life Staff, Pacific Western Region

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

June 15

The Closer I'm Bound in Love to You, The Closer I Am to Free

The Indigo Girls sang this line in a romantic love song, but today we'll consider how being bound to each other in love can free us.

-Led by Deb Celinski, SWUU Worship Team

Worship Associate: anastasia birosh

June 22

Flower Ceremony

Each year, after the flowers have bloomed, Unitarian Universalists everywhere celebrate our annual flower ceremony where we honor the diverse gifts we all bring to our communities. For this multigenerational worship service, we invite you to bring a flower to share.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters!!!!!!

Worship Associate: Eli Butler

June 29

Pride Sunday

Come this Sunday as we honor Pride with a service of love for all LGBTQIA+ beloveds. Those who wish to will be invited to receive a glitter blessing -- a recognition of the sacred beauty inherent in every person.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: TBA

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Message from your Minister



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

The LGBT Community Center is a leading nonprofit advocacy, service and training center located in the Gordon Square neighborhood on the west side of Cleveland. Executive Director Phyllis Harris notes that its mission is to “enrich the lives of LGBTQ+ people through advocacy, support, education, and celebration.” SWUU has been proud to dedicate our June Focus Offering to the Center for many years.

Center outreach includes providing social/emotional support to community members, providing advocacy workshops connecting individuals with health care providers, legal advice concerning potential challenges ahead to inclusive education, to marriage and family rights, nutritional services, and more. They are dedicated to establishing a safe, accepting, and just environment for all people, which is in close alignment with several UU Principles.

On June 7, 2025, Pride in the CLE will have a march and festival as efforts continue to ensure that NEO has a Pride event that celebrates the LGBTQ+ Community, and advocates for the equitable and just treatment for all. As our own Adrienne Ellis explained from the pulpit on March 26, she has felt an overwhelming amount of joy, love....So Much Love!, trust, and authenticity. You can learn more about the Center and its many impressive programs by visiting www.lgbtcleveland.org. You can also participate in the BBH Pride celebration on June 14. SWUU will have a booth there, so check with Deb C. if interested. Your donation to support equity and inclusion can be put in the offering basket or sent by check to SWUU, 6320 Royalton Rd., North Royalton, OH 44233; please write LGBT Center on the memo line. Or use the Vanco mobile app and indicate Focus Offering. Much love and gratitude for your generosity!

Urban Hope Update by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Nancy & Denny Peltola, Mick Stenz and I joined our guests at the Storefront, on May 4th. Sunday was a cool, rainy day. As luck would have it, rain ponchos were donated and all passed out. They were much appreciated. Besides staying dry, there was a feast. Nancy made two huge Mexican Casseroles in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Needless to say, the casseroles were a treat and completely devoured. We also had a Southwestern salad, fruit, chips, nuts and homemade desserts. No one went hungry. We also had enough clothing items to pass out and people were very grateful. There were two puppies in attendance which caused a bit of concern when one was stepped on and caused some confusion and an outburst! It was quickly handled and the rest of the day was uneventful. Thank you for all donations. The financial ones help us to buy the food, and the take aways are very much appreciated. We have to change next month's visit as well. We will be going on Sunday, June 1 instead of the 8th. Thanks for all the support!

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Save the Date for a Special Celebration!

Join Bob and Hallie Davis for cake after church in the basement Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, June 22** to celebrate their 50th anniversary!

Men's Group by Ken Ellis

The Men's Group will meet at my home for a cookout Friday, June 6, 6:30 pm. If the weather is unfavorable, we will meet at Aladdin's in Middleburg Heights.

For the cookout, plan to bring what you would like to grill and something to share. For those who are unfamiliar with the Men's Group, we gather for dinner and conversations. There is no agenda or topic of discussion. It is always full of great conversations and we know how to laugh! Let me know if you are interested and let's hope for good weather. For more information, text Ken.

All daring and courage, all iron endurance of misfortune make for a finer, nobler type of manhood.

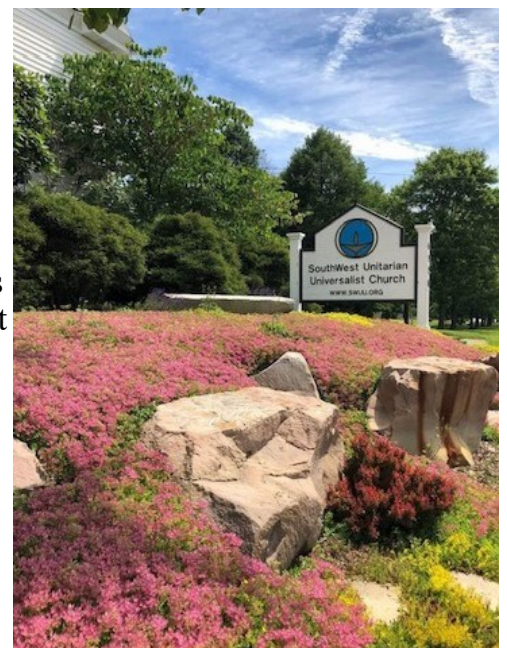
-Teddy Roosevelt

Stop and "Smell the Roses" by Sherry Spencer

Well truthfully, there's not a rose in sight but SWUU has got one heck of a garden! Any day now the garden will be showing off its true colors. The purple columbine are spectacular this year; sure hope you've been able to enjoy their rich, deep color and blooming! Mother Nature has been providing plenty of rain (!) and it makes weeding a lot easier.

Speaking of weeding, the springtime gardening crew has been taking care of business. Hats off and many thanks to Kent Williams and Don Bryant for the hours they have devoted to preparing the garden for its annual Springtime show. They also provide a comedy show of sorts with their jokes, puns and good humor. These guys could be on a stage!

If you think you might like to lend a hand at any time during the gardening season, we'd love to have you join our troupe. Text me or email.



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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 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!

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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

Annual Meeting by Rae Brewer. Board President

Beloveds,

The time approaches for another annual meeting! In addition to our usual board slate and budget vote, we will also be voting on some revised bylaws.

The meeting will be on June 15th after church. I hope to see you there! The agenda is as follows:

Welcome & Chalice Lighting (Rae)

Confirmation of a quorum

Collection of any proxy forms*

Presenting and Approving 2025-2026 Board (Dan)

a. Retiring Board Members: Rae Brewer and Dan Paxson

b. Nominations

i. President: Adrienne Ellis

ii. Vice President: Sue Wraight

iii. New Members: Eli Butler & Steve LaBonne

c. Vote on full Board Slate including continuing members.

Presentation of the 2025-2026 Budget (Treasurer)

Approval of the Budget

Revised Bylaws Vote

Board President Report

Closing Words & Introducing Next Board President (Rae/Adrienne)

Chalice Extinguishing (Rae)

The information for the revised bylaws will be provided prior to the meeting for review.

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting and wish to vote, you may designate a proxy to vote for you.

All proxy authorizations shall:

- be in writing
- name the substitute Voting Member
- identify the meeting for which the proxy is granted
- be signed and dated by the Voting Member
- be delivered to a board member at the beginning of the meeting.
- be recorded in the minutes of the meeting

Your proxy must be a voting member. A voting member cannot serve as a proxy for more than two other voting members at any one meeting, so make sure they can represent you before listing them as a proxy.

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Save the Date for the Blueberry Sundae Festival!

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall

Plan to join the Hospitality Committee for our summer fundraiser! Sundaes will feature vanilla ice cream with homemade blueberry topping and shortbread cookies. **More details to come!**



Pride Parade on Saturday, June 7th at 11:00 am!

by Susan Paxson, Membership

SWUU has a long history of marching in the pride parade every year usually on the first Saturday in June. Usually, Dan and I, along with our kids have always marched in the parade. This year, we are going to be in Boston but wanted to make sure that SWUU members and friends can march in the parade. I reached out to Valerie Hura, because I had not heard of anyone in our church who was heading this up. Also, apparently, it is too late to register on our own. I decided this seems like a perfect UU's Together activity. Val reached out to the other UU churches and they all think it sounds like a great idea for the UU groups to be together. West Shore and UUCC are already marching beside each other, along with Youth Academy of UUCC. I do not expect our group to be all that big, so it seems like it should work out really well. East Shore UU has been invited as well.

I am looking for one person to be the SWUU contact person who can get down there and corral people together and make sure people can find the UU group. This person could communicate with Valerie for any information about when and where the group will be meeting downtown. Is there anyone who plans on marching that could serve in this role? Please let me know.

Please let me know if you are interested, by text or email and I will let you know more specifics as Valerie gets them. Thank you so much!

Representing SouthWest UU Church at BBH Pride!

by Deb Celinski

The BBH Pride Fest will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 12pm - 7pm (set up to begin at 10am) at the Broadview Heights Community Center Campus (9543 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147).

SouthWest UU Church is sponsoring a booth at this festival. Our booth will feature rock painting for the kids (and young at heart), plus information about SWUU and Unitarian Universalism.

You can help represent SWUU at this booth! Click [this link](#) for the sign-up sheet.

And if you cannot commit to a full shift at the booth, please consider attending the festival, even for a little while! This is a family-friendly event featuring music, food trucks, vendor booths, speakers, artisans, activities for kids, and entertainment.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Deb Celinski.

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Sharing and Caring

Carol Baker shares, "My brother Paul Baker is in an active state of mania, out in California. This is very concerning." Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

**Please send your joys and sorrows to forum@swuuu.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.