



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

March 1, 2026

Daylight Savings Begins
March 8
Spring Forward!

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

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



March 1

Looking Inward

Come this Sunday as we turn our attention inward, toward our own bodies, hearts and minds. How might the practice of paying attention to ourselves be an important part of love and liberation?

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associates: Mackenzie Brunswick & Sarajane Willson

Focus Collection: After Hours R.E.

March 8

Portals to Everything

How might noticing the small things around us open us up to something greater?

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associates: Valerie Hura & Dan Paxson

March 15

Thinking about Thinking: When Paying Attention Isn't

Often, when I try to sit in meditation, I find myself thinking about my breath, not experiencing it. And so it often is with my life. This morning, we explore the various qualities of paying attention.

-Led by Deb Celinski, CLM-Candidate

Worship Associates: Kirk Jusko & Cynthia Mondia

March 22

Reclaiming our Attention

How do we thrive in a world where there is so much vying for our attention?

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Chip Castleton & Ken Ellis

March 29

Where is Your Attention?

What does it mean to pay attention? How might paying attention enrich our lives?

-Led by The Shared Ministry Team

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

The Forum

Message from your Minister

Paying Attention

Beloveds,

Our worship theme for March is “Paying Attention.” As I wrestle with this theme, I find myself longing for a quality of attention that goes deeper than the face-value world around me. This has led me back to a reading from the Methodist minister, Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes. It’s a piece inspired by Colossians 1:13 in the Christian Bible, which refers to being “transferred into the realm of the beloved...”

“Parallel Universe - On the belonging that can’t be besieged”

By Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Learn to see through this world,
this flimsy illusion of debt and deserving
with its tacky wallpaper, pretentious riches,
flickering distractions, emblems of power.
Grow eyes to see instead
the world gleaming inside this one,
whose only laws are love and grace,
whose beauty flares out like laughter.
Your authority, your authentic self lives
there, royal, belonging.
You bring that whole place with you.
You can't hide your divine accent.
It is here closer than the mirror, and yet
the emperors of this world
can't invade, can't besiege, can't plunder it.
They can't even see it.
Yes, the Beloved lives in a parallel universe,
and dwells here with you,
and every dance with you reminds you,
somehow, of home.

May we learn to see in this way, dear ones. May we learn to see beyond flimsy illusions and flickering distractions. May we know the world gleaming in this one – a world that cannot be invaded, besieged, or plundered. May we know this parallel universe whose only laws are love and grace and whose beauty flares out like laughter. May we pay attention to that world, which is closer than the mirror.

May it be so.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Ali

The Forum

Focus Offering for March: After Hours RE

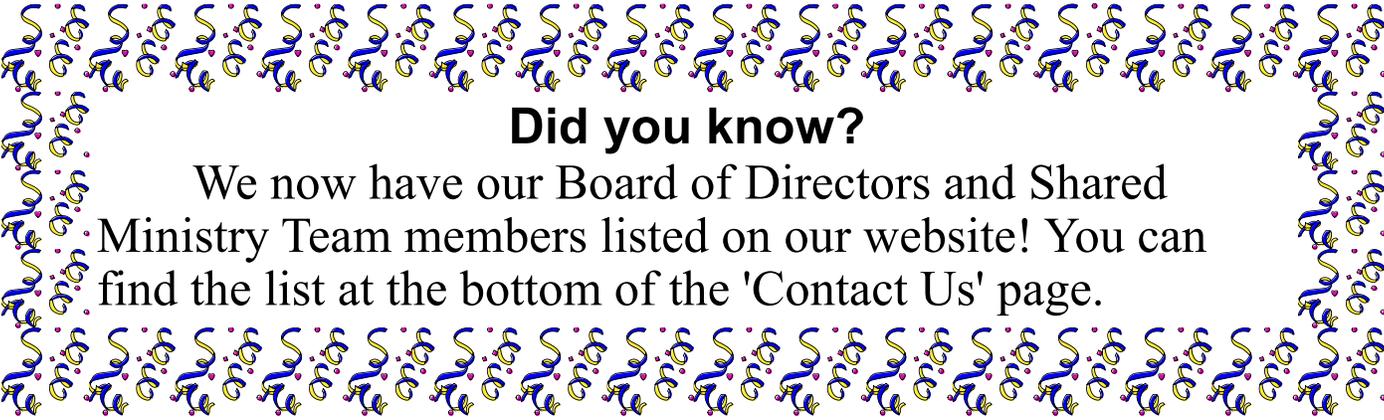
by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

As we repeat over and over when requesting donations for the Focus Collection, we choose local non-profits doing great things for our community. Well...what can be more local than our own church community doing great things for our young people. Anyone at the State of the Church meeting on February 1st, heard our RE Director Carolyn talking about the success of the monthly "After Hours RE" program. Her enthusiasm was contagious as she talked about the relationships the young people are developing and the fun they are having. The added benefit is giving parents some "alone time." Food is provided and materials for crafts need purchasing. Let's support our Kids to continue enjoying this program. Cash or check can be put in the collection box, mailed to church or can be taken out of your Vanco account clearly marked March Focus.

Urban Hope Update: February 8, 2026

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

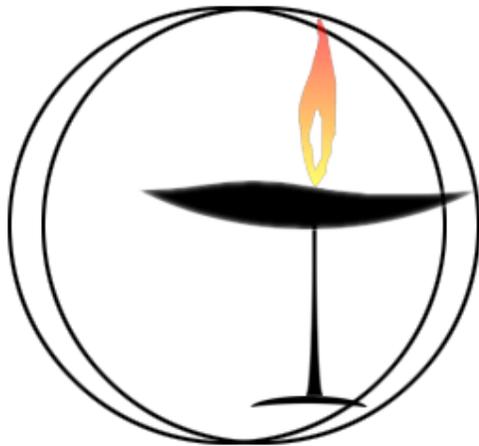
It was a sunny, COLD day on Sunday. Hence, many people arrived ready to eat and get warm. Nancy & Denny Peltola, Mick & Anne Stenz, CJ Warren and I were there happily serving. We had Corndogs, Macaroni Salad, Popcorn, Baked Beans, Corn Soufflé, Homemade cupcakes, fruit and takeaways. Everyone enjoyed the food and appreciating the day until 4:20 when a screaming fight broke out. It never came to blows, but the threats and yelling were intimidating. Our leader Jean made the decision to close, and people left quicker than I thought possible. It was very disconcerting and disappointing for the majority of guests who were relishing a warm, nurturing environment. **The next two months will be a little different. Watch for details in the swuulist and the swuu news.** As always, thank you for the many contributions!!!



Did you know?

We now have our Board of Directors and Shared Ministry Team members listed on our website! You can find the list at the bottom of the 'Contact Us' page.

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 23rd of the month unless otherwise noted.

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

UU 101 and SWUU 101

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

We at SWUU are so pleased to see lots of new faces coming through our doors and returning again and again! You are welcome here. Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this church? Does SWUU feel like a place where you belong? Are you curious about getting more involved? Are you wondering about what it means to become a member? Two times a year, we offer a series of classes for people who might be new to UU or even people who have been coming for quite a while. In UU 101, we will share a bit about our spiritual journeys, talk about the highlights of Unitarian Universalist history and theology, and look at how our faith continues to evolve today. In SWUU 101, the second class, we will talk more about our congregation, ways to get connected, and what it means to be a member of Southwest UU Church.

We are inviting everyone to attend both classes. UU 101 will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at noon and SWUU 101 will be the following Sunday, March 29th at the same time. The classes usually last around an hour, and it is not too late to sign up! We are holding the classes at church, and we hope that you might be interested in joining us. They are offered by our Membership Committee and will be facilitated by Rev. Ali. Attending them is one of the steps toward membership for those considering joining, but it is also just a way of finding out more about us. If you are unable to attend this spring, this series will be offered again in the fall. If you would like to attend UU 101 and/or SWUU 101, please email me or call. If you need childcare, please let us know! We hope to see you there!

Men's Group Gathering

by Ken Ellis

It is time for a Men's Group Gathering. We will meet at Aladdin's in Middleburg Heights, Friday, March 6. at 6:30 pm. We will enjoy a pleasant evening of camaraderie, interesting conversations, and laughter. It will be good to share a table and dinner. Aladdin's is at: 18334 Bagley Rd., Middleburg Heights. Across from the hospital. If you are new or haven't attended in awhile, we gather casually just to talk and dine together and have a pleasant evening with fellow men.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can give them a heads up for seating.

*"Having a male friend is like having a brother who doesn't share your DNA
but shares your heart."*

-Anonymous

The Forum

Sharing and Caring

Jan Wehn is home recuperating from her recent heart attack, and her family is there making sure she rests and recovers!

**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.