



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

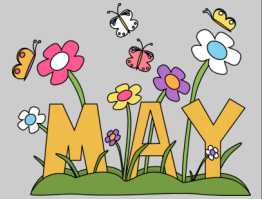
www.swuu.org

May 1, 2026

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

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



May 3

A Part of Me I Do Not Yet Know

How can curiosity help us to live into our interconnectedness?

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Kirk Jusko

Focus Collection: Greater Cleveland Food Bank

May 10

Flower Ceremony

Each year, when the flowers bloom, 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: Ken Ellis

May 17

Finding Hope Through Curiosity

Join us for a joyful intergenerational worship service led by our youth and children. Be ready to wonder deeply and be open to discovery to help us find light even in uncertain times. Come be inspired!

-Led by the SWUU Youth & Children

Worship Associates: Rev. Ali Peters & DRE Carolyn Stevens

May 24

Dangerous Curiosity

"Curiosity killed the cat," they say. But who or what might curiosity actually threaten?

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

May 31

Spiritual Courage

What does it mean to have spiritual courage? Any authentic spiritual path is going to be challenging. How do we face these challenges honestly? If we are not putting our beliefs into practice, both inwardly and outwardly, how do we change things around?

-Led by Ani Palmo Rybicki, Director & Resident Teacher of Songtsen Gampo Buddhist Center

Worship Associate: Mike Gold & Mackenzie Brunswick

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Message from your Minister

Awakening Curiosity

Dear ones,

We UUs love questions. Some of us even found Unitarian Universalism because we were looking for a faith where our questions felt welcome and even celebrated. And as I reflect on our May worship theme, “Awakening Curiosity,” I’m left thinking about the questions that take us deeper than intellectual curiosity can take us. I’m finding myself drawn to curiosity of the heart and of the soul. It’s a curiosity like that I hear in David Whyte’s poem, “Sometimes”:

“Sometimes”
by David Whyte

Sometimes
if you move carefully
through the forest

breathing
like the ones
in the old stories

who could cross
a shimmering bed of dry leaves
without a sound,

you come
to a place
where the only task

is to trouble you
with tiny
but frightening requests

conceived out of nowhere
but in this place
beginning to lead everywhere.

Requests to stop what
you are doing right now,
and

to stop what you
are becoming
while you do it,

questions
that can make
or unmake
a life,

questions
that have patiently
waited for you,

questions
that have no right
to go away.

What are the questions that have patiently waited for you? The ones that have no right to go away?

May we open ourselves up to those questions and wherever they take us.

With love and gratitude,
Rev. Ali

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

The Holiday Season is always a busy time for the Food Bank. The “Stock the Shelves for Harvest for Hunger” Campaign is going on now. The 2026 campaign teams up with 21 counties to stock the shelves for our neighbors throughout Northeast Ohio. I realize many of you donate to the Food Bank throughout the year. If so, you may have received the information from the Food Bank which included a:

“One BIG Match Campaign Voucher.”

If we give by May 18, 2026 all donations will be **DOUBLED!** This sounds difficult when we don’t begin collecting until May. I’m suggesting that you send a check marked **One BIG Match** on the memo line and send to:

Greater Cleveland Food Bank
PO Box 74413
Cleveland, OH 44194-0002

The other option is writing a check to the Food Bank and give to me, and I will mail them together to arrive by May 18. If you prefer using your Vanco Account or putting a check or cash in weekly collection, we will send a group check to the Food Bank at the end of the month. *Food Insecurity is more than missing a meal. It’s choosing between shelves full of food another necessities like medicine, or rent.*

Please consider doubling your donation to Stock the Shelves for Harvest For Hunger.

Urban Hope Update by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

I have not worked at Urban Hope since March, but did take food and supplies on April 12 using the leftover money I had from your generous donations. My husband and I went in early and got organized and made the coffee. As of now, we will not be participating in May, but hoping to be a presence in June. It is a wonderful opportunity to provide a welcoming space for neighbors in need if anyone wants to volunteer. Thank you.

Women’s Fellowship Gathering by Susan Paxson, membership

This month, on May 29th, we are going to have a BYO picnic dinner. Think brown bag or take-out. Bring your own plate and utensils and drink as well! Feel free to bring something to share, but this is not necessary at all. We will meet at the NON- RESERVABLE shelter in Brecksville Reservation on Chippewa Drive across from the nature center at 6:00pm. For those who are interested, we can take a little walk after we eat. The best part is- no clean up! In case of inclement weather, we can meet in the SWUU fellowship hall. I will send out a message at noon to all who sign up to confirm where we will be for sure. Call/text Susan for more information if you plan to attend!

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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 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

Involvement Survey Coming Your Way! by Sue Wraight & Katie Maslar, Board Members

Building on the SWUU Board's service about imagining our future, the board is launching a survey to help SWUU congregants connect, share skills, and meaningfully engage in the ministry of our congregation. Please complete this survey by May 15. You can find additional details in the survey description by visiting: <https://bit.ly/4snTcNP> or use the QR code below



New Member Joining by Susan Paxson, Membership

After finishing our Spring classes, we are pleased to announce our new member joining ceremony which will take place on Sunday, June 21st during the service. **Anna Bachman**, **MacKenzie Brunswick**, and **Braxton Stock** will be signing the book! We hope you will attend this special service when we welcome and honor these friends who have decided to officially join our community. If you have attended our classes in the past several years, and would like to join, please let me or Rev Ali know so you too may be recognized in this special service!

It's almost Sunday, May 3!

If you haven't already, hop on over to SWUU to turn in your pledge card this Sunday!

Our shared community brings refuge and encouragement as well as joy, laughter and hope.

Now is the time to invest in the community you cherish – every gift matters and helps keep our church thriving!



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Sharing and Caring

Nancy Peltola wants to thank everyone for the cards , texts, and good wishes for **Denny** as he recovers from his total knee replacement. He's progressing every day and can now walk with a cane.

Susan Paxson thanks the SWUU community for all of the rides you have provided during my first 6 weeks of recovery from shoulder surgery. Fingers crossed that I get the green light to drive after my appointment on May 7th, so I can be a provider of rides rather than a recipient!

Sarajane Willson shares "SWUU rocks, SWUU cares, SWUU acts! I am so appreciative of all the offers and caring that I have received from people of SWUU. I was hospitalized after a fall at home. If you saw me at church, you are probably aware that I was having difficulty walking I had been in a lot of pain for about eight weeks. I was waiting for a cortisone injection for my back. In the meantime, my leg had other issues, leading to my foot not working and the fall. Now I am at home, hopefully healing. Thank you for all your kind and healing thoughts. I still need them."

Deb Celinski would like to thank everyone for their support during her father's recent hospitalization and stay at rehab. He is doing much better mentally and physically, and will be home soon.

**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.