



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

July 1, 2026

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

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



July 5

Interdependence Day

Following our country's celebration of Independence Day, come as we lift up our Unitarian Universalist value of interdependence.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Janet LaBonne

Focus Collection: Three Sisters sponsored PowWow

July 12

Question Box

Come this Sunday for a celebration of questions and answers, during which our minister will do her best to respond to your submitted questions.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

July 19

What is Worship?

What the heck are we even doing on Sunday mornings? Come this Sunday as we explore the ritual of worship and what it means for us as Unitarian Universalists.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

July 26

Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere

This service features the sermon delivered during the 2026 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly, presented by Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu. Her sermon highlighted the 20th anniversary of her ordination and focused on the GA theme, "Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere"

-Led via video recording by Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu, UU Church of Eugene, Oregon

Worship Associates: Deb Celinski & Kirk Jusko

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Message from your Minister

Beloveds,

I recently came across a piece that moved me enough for me to read it over and over and over again, savoring each sentence. I'd like to share it in full with you here, in case it is something your heart needs to hear as well.

“Manifesto of Encouragement”

by Danielle LaPorte

Right now: There are Tibetan Buddhist monks in a temple in the Himalayas endlessly reciting mantras for the cessation of your suffering and for the flourishing of your happiness. Someone you haven't met yet is already dreaming of adoring you. Someone is writing a book that you will read in the next two years that will change how you look at life. — Nuns in the Alps are in endless vigil, praying for the Holy Spirit to alight the hearts of all of God's children. A farmer is looking at his organic crops and whispering, “nourish them.” — Someone wants to kiss you, to hold you, to make tea for you. Someone is willing to lend you money, wants to know what your favourite food is, and treat you to a movie. Someone in your orbit has something immensely valuable to give you — for free. Something is being invented this year that will change how your generation lives, communicates, heals and passes on. The next great song is being rehearsed.

Thousands of people are doing yoga right now intentionally sending light out from their heart chakras and wrapping it around the earth. Millions of children are assuming that everything is amazing and will always be that way. — Someone is in profound pain, and a few months from now, they'll be thriving like never before. They just can't see it from where they're at.

Someone who is craving to be partnered, to be acknowledged, to ARRIVE, will get precisely what they want — and even more. And because that gift will be so fantastical in its reach and sweetness, it will quite magically alter their memory of angsty longing and render it all “So worth the wait.”

Someone has recently cracked open their joyous, genuine nature because they did the hard work of hauling years of oppression off of their psyche — this luminosity is floating in the ether, and is accessible to everyone.

“Someone, just this second, wished for world peace, in earnest.”

Someone is fighting the fight so that you don't have to. Some civil servant is making sure that you get your mail, and your garbage is picked up, that the trains are running on time, and that you are generally safe. Someone is dedicating their days to protecting your civil liberties and clean drinking water.

Someone is regaining their sanity. Someone is coming back from the dead. Someone is genuinely forgiving the seemingly unforgivable. Someone is curing the incurable.

YOU. ME. SOME. ONE. NOW.

May we know this. May we live this. May it be so, beloveds.

With love and gratitude,
Rev. Ali

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Focus Offering for July: "PowWow"

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our church was lucky enough to feature guest speaker Kristy Cambell from the Three Sisters Tribal Organization. We learned how *The Three Sisters and their symbiotic relationship has shaped tribal views in the Ohio Region*. Our Focus Offering monies will go to support the PowWow sponsored by the Three Sisters which takes place October 3 & 4th at the Atwood Lake Fall Festival. This organization is a special passion for Mike Gold. He attended last year's event which featured Native American Drummers, singers, dancers, demonstrations, foods, arts and crafts. Supporting the Pow Wow ties in with our commitment to the Land Acknowledgment of Native peoples which we share on the first Sunday of the month. Please support this very important event. You can pay with cash, check or from your account the entire month of July. Thank you for your generosity.

Happy Birthday!

by Carol Jordan, Membership Committee

It's time again to celebrate our birthdays. The Nifty Nineties invites everyone to come to the fifth annual SWUU Birthday Party on Wednesday, July 22, 12:30 pm at Kumo Japanese Seafood Buffet, 1975 Snow Rd. Bring a signed birthday card to share and receive a card from a SWUU friend. If you are having a birthday this year, you want to be here to join the celebration of good food and good fellowship. Please call/text Sylvia Banks or Carol Jordan . The Nifty Nineties includes Jan Futhey, Jim Moore, Carolyn Baldwin, Sylvia Banks, and Carol Jordan.

2026 UUA General Assembly

by Kirk Jusko

Don Bryant and Kirk Jusko were this year's online delegates to the 2026 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, themed "Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere". As if to prove that point, the event was broadcast live (as well as available on-demand by tape) from the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as satellite gathering sites at UU churches in California, Alabama, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Even though the event ran from June 14 through June 21. Don and Kirk were just there for the "business" part of it, which ran from the 14th to the 17th (thus they were able to avoid a hefty entrance fee.) As delegates, Don and Kirk voted on candidates for the national Board of Trustees, and various proposals and social justice goals for the 2026/2027 year. There were videos to watch and spirited debate in the online chat room (often delegates trying to decipher the arcane language in some of those proposals.) Throughout this whole process, Don and Kirk kept in touch via text messaging. Don summed it up by saying, "It was interesting, I'll say that."

This won't tell you specifically how Don and Kirk voted, but the election results can be found here: <https://uua.simplyvoting.com/voting/guest/published-results>

The Forum

SAVE THE DATE!

Blueberry Sundae Fest



Sunday, July 19

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Following the service in fellowship hall

Join the Hospitality Committee for our annual fundraiser!

Cost is \$7 per person, \$20 per family, cash only. Sign-up sheets will be at church — please let us know you're coming!

Getting to Know You

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

We have a book in the lobby called the “Getting to Know You Book”. It started out when Sylvia Banks decided to start interviewing our members and writing them up for the monthly Newsletter. When she “retired” from writing, I decided to do a few, and I found a couple of other volunteers. Danelle Miller, Ellen Hansen-Ellis, Carol Jagers volunteered back then. I thought it would be fun to put all of the articles in a book for new people to read to get to know us. During covid, I took on adding to the book because I was able to conduct interviews on Zoom and I wanted to “get caught up”, not to mention get connected. When we started meeting again, Dodi Lettus volunteered and has done the last bios.

All of this is to say, that it has been a group effort and I am trying to find some new writers (or people who might have done it before and want to do it again!) I am willing to do some, but I think we have about 5 or 6 members or member families to get to know! And now we have four new people who joined in June! There are also some of our friends (non-members) in the book, and if we get all of our new members in, we can get more of our newer active friends, too.

Check out the book the next time you are at church. Read about some of our members and friends, and enjoy seeing some pictures, some of which are woefully out of date, but still fun! If you might be interested in doing this, please reach out to me by text or email. I appreciate the help with this.

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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.

Do you need to contact someone on the SWUU Staff?

Rev. Ali Peters (Minister) (440) 305-0631
Adrienne Ellis (President)
Carolyn Stevens (Church Administrator) (440) 877-1686
Carolyn Stevens (Director of Religious Exploration)

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

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Pride March 2026

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

Southwest UU Church was well represented at the Pride March this year on a beautifully cool breezy day in Cleveland. There were 17 of us marching together and we were right behind East Shore UU Church. West Shore UU was also there, but we did not march with them. The parade was huge, not only in number of participants, but also in the number of spectators cheering us on along the whole route. The energy was upbeat and joyful, even though it was considered a protest. There were several people who were spouting bible quotes, and hateful rhetoric, but luckily they were shielded from the marchers by people who were trained to deal with this. One of the highlights for me was connecting with Simi Jackson, who happened to be down there, and reached out to see if they could march with us! I encouraged them to come back some Sunday and possibly connect with our young adults at the monthly pizza lunch. Dan and I have been participating in the march (and sometimes parade) with our family for decades, but this year, it felt especially important, given the horrible attacks on LGBTQ+ individuals, especially trans people. I was really glad to be a part of it!



Thanks to Don Bryant for taking the photo

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Sharing and Caring

Please keep **Valerie Powers** in your thoughts and prayers. She will be in California for her mom's memorial service and dealing with the estate for most of the month.

Joyce Gilliland has finished her brain surgeries and now the device is going to be turned on and programmed. Because Valerie is going to be out of town all month, Joyce is looking for visitors to check on her. If you might have a little time, and can stop by for a visit or a meal, please text Joyce to set up the date and time. If you can't visit, but would like to call, please text first to make sure it is a good time.

Sharron Abbey-Gold's dad suffered a serious stroke last week. Please keep him and the entire Abbey and Gold families in your thoughts and prayers.

**Please send your joys and sorrows to forum@swuu.org for inclusion in the next issue.*

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
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North Royalton, Ohio 44133**



We are happy to mail The Forum to anyone who would like to receive it.