The Forum

A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication www.swuu.org November 1, 2026

Daylight Savings Ends

Nov. 1

Fall Back

Sunday Services
10:30 AM
6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton
In-Person and On Zoom



November 1

Remembrance Sunday

Between Halloween, Samhain, and All Souls Day, we remember those who came before us in life and have passed on to whatever happens after death. This Sunday, you are invited to bring a picture or a small token or reminder of a loved one who has passed on. You will be welcome to place these at our altar of remembrance during the service.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Mike Gold & Valerie Hura

Share the Plate: The Centers Glick Recovery Campus

November 8

Tending to the Wounds of Our Country

Come this Sunday to explore how we might heal from division and violence together as a country.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associates: Mackenzie Brunswick

November 15

Mountains Where There Are No Paths

We sometimes say "there are many paths up the mountain" when we want to express a sense of spiritual or theological diversity. But what do we do when the mountain doesn't seem to have any path at all?

-Led by Rev. Randy Partain, Minister UU Congregation of Cleveland

Worship Associates: Dan Paxson

November 22

Slow Down, Child, Slow Down

Come this Sunday as we explore the healing power of slowing down.

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associates: Ken Ellis

November 29

Healing from the Myth of Thanksgiving

What are the traditions among other cultures to recognize the Fall Harvest season? How do we reconcile our storybook myth of the First Thanksgiving with the historical facts of the suffering of the Indigenous people during the colonial period and in the following years? Can we find healing in our Thanksgiving traditions despite the historical facts? Together we will explore all of these questions.

-Led by members of the SWUU Stewardship Team

Worship Associates: Janet LaBonne

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Message from your Minister

Healing

Dear Ones,

You may have heard of the Japanese practice of kintsugi. It's the beautiful art of repairing broken pottery by joining the pieces back together and filling the cracks with a gold lacquer.

As we approach November's worship theme, "Healing," my heart is drawn to this poem by Jan Richardson that was inspired by the art of kintsugi:

Blessing for a Broken Vessel

Do not despair.
You hold the memory
of what it was
to be whole.

It lives deep
in your bones.
It abides
in your heart
that has been torn
and mended
a hundred times.
It persists
in your lungs
that know the mystery
of what it means
to be full,
to be empty,
to be full again.

I am not asking you
to give up your grip
on the shards you clasp
so close to you

but to wonder
what it would be like
for those jagged edges
to meet each other
in some new pattern
that you have never
imagined,
that you have never dared
to dream.

May our jagged edges meet each other in some new pattern that we have never imagined, that we have never dared to dream.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Ali

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Share the Plate Offering for November: Our Beloved SWUUC

by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

This month our Share the Plate offering will benefit this new Behavioral Crisis Center in Cleveland. The Campus opened on September 4 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and remarks from important leaders in Cuyahoga County. Denny and I were honored to attend the opening along with Ken, Ellen, and Adrienne Ellis. Despite the rainy day, people were delighted to see this essential program come to fruition. Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), including SWUU, was among the first organizations to work for its creation.

The Glick Recovery Campus, which is open and staffed 24/7, will be the place for immediate, compassionate, and specialized care for individuals in mental health or substance use crises. Three floors of care serve crisis level, residential/stabilization/withdrawal level, and outpatient. Care is designed to provide safe alternatives to ERs and jails. The goal is to help patients stabilize and return home within 23 hours if possible. The Glick Recovery Campus is the long-awaited county program we have needed, and SWUU promoted it right from the beginning. You may put a donation in the collection basket or donate through Vanco or Zelle. Thank you for your generosity.

SWUU Supports the Haitians in Springfield

by Carol Thombs

Thanks to the combined efforts of SWUU members and the Medina County Democrats, 565 pounds of donations were delivered to Springfield for the Haitians. They knew we were coming and welcomed us, overwhelming us with their "thank-yous". We spent 3 days with my niece and her husband. The word of the contributions had spread. Everywhere we went, people made a point to come up to let us know how much the donations were appreciated. While the Haitians were not seen because they were hiding and afraid to leave their homes, the St. Vincent de Paul has a large team of volunteers who will deliver them according to each family's needs. Your attention to providing items that were specified makes providing for their necessities easier. A big thank you to you for all your donations.

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

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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

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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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Editorial Team

Dan Paxson
Susan Paxson

Live at SWUU!!

by Ellen Hansen-Ellis & Susan Paxson

Several SWUU members and friends are presenting a fun concert on Saturday, November 7, at 3:00 in the afternoon at SWUU. Adrienne Ellis, Ellen Hansen-Ellis, Dan and Susan Paxson, Pat Gaughan, and special guest Fred Paxson (Dan's brother) will present a fun pot pourri of songs featuring great vocals/harmonies, guitar, keyboard, flute (and piccolo!) and drums. The program ranges from classic rock hits to folk to classical, and includes many familiar tunes. This is a service auction item, which some of you have already purchased, but we'd love to have many more people come and enjoy the music. A freewill offering will be taken for those that didn't originally sign up -please give whatever you can. As Sarajane always says, "It is all for the church!" Hope to see you there!

SWUU Member Anniversaries

by Carol Jordan, Membership Committee

Congratulations to Kathy O. Smith who is marking 25 years as a member of SWUU. Kathy joined Nov. 11, 2001.

Four members are also marking an anniversary of 10 years. Joining on Nov. 20, 2016 were Pamela Benedict, Russell Allbery, Betsy Clark and Pat Mellott. We thank them all for their loyal membership and send anniversary greetings and good wishes from all their friends at SWUU.

SWUU Fall Fest 2026!!
Good Times Great Company!



Sharing and Caring

Sue Davis had knee replacement therapy on Thursday. She will be recuperating at home with her son, Jonathan, checking in on her daily. Cards are welcome but she is not ready for calls or visits yet.

Please keep **Joan Rizzo** in your thoughts as she is recovering from hip replacement therapy. She appreciates the offers of rides and help but her brother is home to help her so she doesn't need anything at this time.

Nancy Matsko is excited that she left the rehab center on Friday. She would appreciate healing thoughts and love as she continues to heal at home. Cards, phone calls and texts welcome. Visits can also be arranged.

**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.