

ALL SOULS JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! The holidays are finishing up, the left overs are nearly gone and resolutions are set. Looking at the calendar, we see the activity coming.

I also see a day to celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. A day sometimes called, “Make a Difference Day”.

I hope you accomplish your resolutions, and I pray that you pause this month to ask just how you can make a difference. There are so many options and niches.

I pray this month we all smile a little longer, share a story with someone new, and reach out to someone in need.

Some Quotes to Ponder from Dr. King

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too big a burden to bear.

Peace and Blessings to You All

Pastor Will

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact our pastor, Will Humphrey, for pastoral care needs.

740-263-1171 or email will.allsouls@gmail.com

“WE TAKE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY SERIOUSLY”

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

...from Glenn Myers, President

A SECULAR, BUT SPIRITUAL, CHRISTMAS STORY

Once upon a time, a young boy lived on a farm in a rural area where the houses were at least a mile apart. He was an only child but not a lonely child. His dog was a constant companion. He made pets of the farm animals, and there were some other farm kids in the neighborhood to play with occasionally. That child would be me.

Money was depression-tight in those years, but my parents always did their best to provide a happy Christmas for me. That would include a decorated tree and a special gift which Santa would deliver on Christmas Eve. The special gift was "ordered" via a letter my mother helped me write and send to the North Pole each year. My parents were not religious, so I didn't learn about the holiday's namesake until later on. Santa Claus was the guiding spirit of the season for me. He was mysterious, always dependable, inspiring but just out of reach, both caring and demanding, generous and forgiving, capable of magical things involving reindeer, a sleigh, and chimneys - I was a believer- not a bad role model really.

The particular Christmas I'm remembering is the one when I was 5 or 6. There had been a lot of snow that year, thus my gift request - a pair of four-buckled arctics (boots). Money had been especially scarce that year, and my parents could not afford a tree. I worried that Santa would not deliver my boots if we didn't have a Christmas tree. My mother assured me that we would work it out, and I always trusted her, but I was surprised by her solution.

Mom moved an old high-backed kitchen chair into the living room and suggested we decorate it. She had saved a few tree ornaments, which were tied onto the back of the chair, some cotton balls and silver streamers (ice sickles) were added; a white sheet was draped around the seat creating a perfect place for Santa to place my gift. We had a Christmas tree!

I stayed awake as long as I could on Christmas Eve but heard nothing. The next morning saw me up early, and I could feel the spirit of Santa and Christmas. I bounced down the stairs and sure enough, there was a package placed squarely on the seat of the chair. I called to my mom and she said to go ahead and open the package. I did and there they were, four-buckled arctics just like my dad's.

Grandpa and Grandma lived just a couple of miles away, if you walked across the fields. We always joined the rest of the family there on Christmas Day. That Christmas was no different, except I was proud to wear my four-buckles even though they were a little large for me - I don't think they made them in children's sizes in those days.

Despite all the commercialism and fuss over who is in charge, the spirit of Christmas and Santa still lingers in my heart.



Merry Christmas Everybody!

NOV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Average
Attendance: 56

	NOVEMBER	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	2,812.00	11,653.00
Offerings	544.50	2,625.50
Maintenance Fund	.00	3,150.00
Kenya Coin Collection	83.10	413.84
Rummage Sale	1,039.79	2,187.33
Recycle	.00	46.98
Minister's Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00
Fundraising Expenses Account	-190.97	658.09
Other	<u>40.10</u>	<u>221.75</u>
TOTAL	4,328.52*	20,956.49
EXPENSES	3,151.20**	19,017.99
DIFFERENCE	1,177.32	1,938.50

*A monthly income of \$3,645.50 is required in order to meet annual expenses of \$43,746.00

**Expenses Other than "Usual":
R.E. Supplies - \$80.00

NOVEMBER PLEDGE REPORT

Total Units	31	
Total Pledges	24	
	NOVEMBER	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	2,155.00	12,898.00
Amount Received	<u>2,812.00</u>	<u>12,453.00</u>
VARIANCE	657.00	-445.00

...Treasurer cont.

THANKS TO DONORS!

Throughout 2015, donations have been received allowing for the purchase of a sign, two windows, cha and materials for sun catchers, without wrecking our budget. Those donors are Elizabeth Richmond, Marjorie & Morley Smith, L.D. Ball & Sandy Macpherson, Chuck Rhodes, Melanie Seaman & Fate Christian and Joanne Gillum. Thank you!

...from Chuck Rhodes, Building & Maintenance Trustee

The November and December weather has been so mild that the snow blower has remained in the shed. This certainly helps our heating bills.

Christmas is over, but Santa Claus delivered two new windows for the basement. One replaces the emergency exit glass window with an insulated metal unit that opens out instead of in. The other window is double thermal pane glass replacing the single pane glass window. The frame was also replaced because of the deteriorated condition of the old frame. Installation was completed December 30. This was made possible by a generous donation from a member of the congregation. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HAVE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON - PEACE AND JOY

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Committee Chair

Join us for a new Adult RE class starting the last Sunday in January (January 31). Joan and Reed Richmond will facilitate an interactive class titled "Yeah....but". The idea behind this class is to come up with a topic (sometimes a hot button topic like Planned Parenthood, Atheism, Evolution, Welfare, Bernie Sanders, etc.) and explain why you believe what you do based on facts. The rest of the class will play both devil's advocate, challenging your beliefs ("yeah, but what about this") and also help you clarify your reasoning with additional evidence. We've all been in a mixed crowd where someone makes a statement we know just isn't correct, so this will help us develop a process so you feel comfortable saying "I just don't believe that and here is why". The details of the process will be presented on the first day of class.

In January, the kids will start a new class developed by the UUA titled "Love Surrounds Us", which introduces the Seven Principles. The UUA developed classes schedule enough material for 75 minutes plus bonus material for another half hour or more. In the past, the teachers have had a hard time really getting into the lesson with only a half hour class, so we are going to start class at the beginning of service at least three weeks out of the month. We are still working out the details of what will happen the other one or two weeks of class, but the kids will be upstairs for at least the beginning of service and the entire service when the speaker is appropriate for young children. The nursery aged kids will continue to go down at the same time. If you'd like to help out with the classes, please talk with Liz Hansen.

Judy Shaffer has organized a monthly **All-Inclusive Casual Get-Together for All Women** on the third Wednesday of each month. Plan to join Judy for an evening of conversation on Wednesday, January 20 @ 7:00 p.m. Come as you are.

...from Art O'Leary, Social Action/Social Justice Trustee

Happy New Year to everyone. May this year bring continued spiritual growth to all and each. Our holiday giving was a big success - we collected \$110+ for Shop with a Cop and a carload of food and clothing for BNOC. Thanks everybody!

My own spiritual life had a growth spurt last month with a visit to Friday prayers at the Islamic Society of Mansfield, the local mosque. The Imam is very friendly, welcoming and scholarly (and young). The live singing in Arabic was hauntingly beautiful and took me back over 40 years to my visit to Palestine, where the singers are heard 5 times a day for the call to prayer. Much of the service I could not understand, since I don't speak Arabic, but the sermon was delivered in Arabic alternating with the English translation. The Imam discussed the importance of tolerance and the differences in the understanding of extremist and Islamist between Christians and Muslims. Just like at All Souls, there was much I could agree with and some I didn't (and a lot I learned). I was surprised at the end of the service by how friendly and approachable everyone was. Yes, the women were covered and segregated and somewhat retiring, but I felt welcome and I plan on going back. Anyone want to come with me?

I am exploring the possibility of All Souls helping with the resettlement of a Syrian refugee family - what a process! I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Connections with African-American Community were strengthened by Glenn (who is a member) and me attending the monthly NAACP meeting. The meeting is held on the second Monday of the month. Anyone interested is welcome to come along.

**Peace,
Art**

...from Courtney Lower, Media, Advertising & Growth

I was honored to be asked recently to fill out the unexpired term of the church's trustee position for Media, Advertising & Growth. I feel this is an excellent opportunity for me to become more involved with All Souls and for members to get to know me a little better.

Since there is no time like the present, allow me to share some information about myself.

My husband, Joe Connell, and I reside in Mount Vernon, where we share our relatively newly purchased and renovated home with an 11-year-old cat named Zoe. Joe works as a Field Engineer with Perry ProTech and I am the Human Resources Manager with the Knox County Department of Job & Family Services. Prior to my position with KCDJFS, I worked 10 years at the Mount Vernon News as proofreader and occasional reporter. I hope that work experience will lend itself to this new trustee position.

Joe and I officially became members of All Souls in May 2015, and were married in September 2015 by Rev. Karen Bruno.

I am looking forward to exploring new and innovative ways to communicate the activities of All Souls with the surrounding communities and perhaps growing our membership through those initiatives.

...from Irene Maginniss, Secretary

Happy New Year

January 1st is a great time in the calendar year to look back,
reminisce and bask in the glory of our many blessings at All Souls.

It is also a time to be challenged and set goals for 2016.

As I look back over all the minutes from 2015 and before, I see we have had many changes and numerous accomplishments as a church community.

Within, we have seen much growth - one of which is the consistent higher attendance each Sunday.

Each month through 2016, I would like to mention one or more of the many things
we might appreciate that contributes to this growth and success.

Looking forward each week to the variety of speakers, the work and preparations
(of the pulpit chair, leaders and pastor) and constant energy that flows towards the affirmation and promotion
of our UU Principles,

so that those may become practiced more consciously in our daily lives.

"... strong values and moral guides..... We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience."

(learn more at UUA.org)

Might you be challenged to become an active participant in the
growing community at All Souls as a leader, speaker, planner, teacher, and/or committee member?

Join us and find out how in 2016.

If you already are, ask others or show them how to be a part of our growing community.



...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

Goodbye 2015! What a great year at All Souls. Lots of changes, and all of them good.

Many people stepped up in 2015 to make our Church function successfully. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some people who make our Church the best place to practice the inherent worth and dignity of all. A place where we all can have a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Thank you Glenn Myers for being our President. Thank you Ann Kilgore as VP. Irene Maginniss as our Secretary and Joanne Gillum as Treasurer. Shelley Mauk our Administrative Coordinator - Communications. She is the drummer that holds the rhythm together for the rest of us players in the band. Also, Jackie Moore for joining on for RE and Chuck Rhodes for Building Maintenance. Bruce Kilgore for Fellowship, Karen Gotter for Pastoral Care and Mike Garber as Finance Chair. Also, a special thank you to Courtney Lower for stepping up and filling our need for Trustee of Media, Advertising and Growth. I will continue to do my best at the Pulpit Chair and wish to thank my committee for a great job leading the Sunday service each and every week. Thank You! to Bruce Kilgore, Cheryl Church, Reed Richmond, Joan Richmond, Teasha Sargent, and Eric Sargent. A deep bow of love and gratitude to all of the above for all that you do.

A couple of big changes as well for 2015. We installed a beautiful new sign. A sign that invites all passers-by to ponder on the meaning of Diversity and Inclusivity. And last but not least, a deep bow to our new Pastor William Humphrey. Will has become a perfect fit for our church family and shows a sincere purpose in representing our Diversity, Inclusivity, and our Seven Principles. Thank you everyone who attends All Souls!!!

And thank you for.....



And now for some really big news!!! December 18, the release of episode 7, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". I was there in 1977 when this all started. I was 14. The perfect age to be seduced by the power of the force and the majesty of the Jedi Knight. Straight from Joseph Campbell's story of "The Hero with a Thousand Faces", and "The Hero's Journey", George Lucas laid the blueprint for what would become known as "Star Wars". Important to UUs, as this movie represents many of our theologies and the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist. So much so that the Unitarian Universalist fellowship of Wilmington UUWF in North Carolina has produced a video series called "A Religion of our Time", based on the theology of "Star Wars". So for our Affirmation, we will read this in unison..."For my ally is the force. And a powerful ally it is. Life creates it, makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. Luminous beings are we...You must feel the force around you. Here, between you...me...the tree...the rock...everywhere!" - Yoda.



Happy New Year to All Souls.... and May the Force Be with You!

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

January Pulpit Schedule

January 3

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: "Starting with the Man in the Mirror, New Year's Resolutions and Choice"

Topic: Inspired by three books: "The Happiness Project", "A Complaint Free World" and "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin", we explore happiness, the virtuous life aesthetic and cognitive strategies to realistically be the change you seek in the world.

Leader: Bruce Kilgore

Music: Trio Alla Breve

January 10

Speaker: Deborah Chaney

Title: "Life is Not a True-False Quiz"

Topic: Musing on the compatibility of political correctness and personal integrity.

Leader: Cheryl Church

Music: Ayesha Manley

January 17

Speaker: Michael Anderson

Title: "Born Again Pagan, A Spiritual Journey"

Leader: Reed Richmond

Music: Trio Alla Breve

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 24

Speaker: Brian Moore

Title: "The Concept of Paradoxical Unity"

Topic: The concept of something or someone being beautiful is grounded in a belief system that promotes duality and judgment. This way of thinking is prevalent and commonplace for just about everybody in our culture. I will encourage you to explore the concept of paradoxical unity. By changing your thoughts, you can change your life and truly live the bliss of oneness.

Leader: Joan Richmond

Music: Ayesha Manley

January 31

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: "Good Bread, Good Meat, Good God Let's Eat"

Topic: A look at food as a function of our Second Principle: justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Leader: Teasha Sargent

Music: Trio Alla Breve

Potluck & Kenya Coin Collection

Peace, Love and Namaste to All Souls!



Living Lotus Zen Sangha January Schedule

Monday, January 11: 6:30pm - 8:00 pm
at Relax, It's Just Coffee - 105 N. Main St., Mansfield, OH

Sangha members and friends are invited for coffee and informal discussion over a case in this Zen book.

Book Study Discussion: "The Gateless Barrier" by Robert Aitken



Suggested Selections to Have Read before Discussion:

"Case #7 - Chao-chou: Wash Your Bowl"

NEED NOT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS to jump in!
Bring your thoughts, notes, insights and confusions and a friend!

"A monk asked Zhaozhou to teach him.
Zhaozhou asked, "Have you eaten your meal?"
The monk replied, "Yes, I have."
"Then go wash your bowl", said Zhaozhou.
At that moment, the monk was enlightened. "



Monday, January 25: 6:30pm - 8:00pm
at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church – 25 Church St., Bellville, OH
Living Lotus Zen Sangha
Everyone is welcome to practice with us!
No previous meditation experience necessary.

The church is opened at 6:00 p.m. Please enter from the side door. We sit upstairs.
Loaner meditation cushions (Zafus & Zabutons) are available,
as well as pews for those who prefer/need to sit in a chair.

Schedule

6:00 pm-6:30 pm: Church Opened - Fellowship & Intro to Meditation for Beginners
6:30 pm-6:50 pm: Zazen (Sitting Meditation)
6:50 pm-7:00 pm: Kinhin (Walking Meditation)
7:00 pm-7:20 pm: Zazen (Second Period of Zazen)
7:20 pm-7:30 pm: Liturgy (Heart Sutra, Chanting and Prostrations)
7:30pm-8:00 pm: Sangha Discussion & Business

Brief Beginner's guide to Zazen & Kinhin: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/practice/zazen/howto/index.html>

For more information please contact Jacqueline Moore...or visit our website and Facebook page.

Website: <http://www.livinglotus.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Living-Lotus-Zen-Sangha-221565108160/?fref=nf>

In Gassho,
Jacqueline Moore

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Melanie Seaman – January 14
Bruce Kilgore – January 22
Marqua Myers – January 24

Kristy Mandeville – January 26
Courtney Lower – January 27

.....clip and save.....

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SPEAKERS FOR JANUARY

January 3: William Humphrey
January 10: Deborah Chaney
January 17: Michael Anderson

January 24: Brian Moore
January 31: William Humphrey

JANUARY EVENTS

New Member Welcome – Sunday, January 3 During the Service

Buddhist Book Discussion “The Gateless Barrier” - Monday, January 11 @ 6:30 pm at Relax, It’s Just Coffee

Pagan and Earth Based Spirituality Group– Wednesday, January 13 @ 7:00 pm

Board Meeting - Sunday, January 17 @ 9:00 am

All-Inclusive Casual Get-Together for All Women – Wednesday, January 20 @ 7:00 pm

Living Lotus Zen Sangha – Monday, January 25 @ 6:30 pm

Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast - Wednesday, Jan. 27 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans-Hanley Rd.

Adult RE: “Yeah...but” – Sunday, January 31 @ 9:00 am

Pot Luck & Kenya Coin Collection: Sunday, January 31

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