

ALL SOULS JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER

A few years back, the BBC Radio came to All Souls to interview me about 'Gay' Marriage. It was just before the last presidential election. They wanted to know if the odds of Equal Marriage passage depended on the outcome of the election.

I told them it's all about SCOTUS, SCOTUS, SCOTUS. Because when the issue arrived at the Supreme Court, they would have to approve Marriage Equality, since there is no getting around equal protection under the law.

Ever since then I think I have been holding my breath. Confident, but....holding my breath.

AAAHHH, exhale.

I didn't realize I would be so changed by this decision. I knew it was important, but that it would move me so deeply was unexpected.

Suddenly I was crying and dancing. Getting lots of hugs from coworkers.

And then it really sunk in. I am equal.

It doesn't matter how much you tell yourself you are a valuable human being, there is something about the law agreeing with you that makes it different.

I am a real person under the law. Others have to see me as equal, even if they don't want to.

I didn't even know how oppressed I felt until I was free.

Reality tells me to remain cautious, there are some angry people out there and many more battles to fight. But for now, I don't feel like a second class anymore. AAAHHH

Karen



MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

...from Glenn Myers, President

COPYCATS

Many new churches and old established denominational churches alike are attempting to draw people (especially youth) to their folds by advertising new approaches to the preconceived perception of what a church is. This movement is a response to the statistical decline in church attendance in recent years.

So, what's wrong with that? Times change, shouldn't institutions change as well?

The problem I see is that some of the promises are insincere. For example, when I read invitations like, "Come join us -- it doesn't matter if you believe in God; Come join us -- you can work out your own salvation; Come join us -- we will entertain you", I find between the lines or in the fine print, that you will be guided to the Gospel message according to that particular church's brand, creed, or dogma.

On the other hand, All Souls UU Church of Bellville, and other UU churches in the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), honestly are liberal churches that welcome people with different beliefs, or no belief, into a nonjudgmental organization that promotes and supports the individual's pursuit of his/her own spirituality. The glue of the congregation is shared values (the seven Principles), not creed or dogma.

All Souls UU Church lives its motto of, "We Take Inclusivity and Diversity Seriously." The church Bylaws, under Article 4.2 (nondiscrimination), states that membership is open to all persons without regard to race, sex, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

We are the real thing. The church as an institution and the individual members assimilate diversity into strength for all. This is accomplished first by acceptance and then by support

All Souls may not be the church for everybody, but it may be the church for everybody else.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

"WE TAKE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY SERIOUSLY"

MAY TREASURER'S REPORT

	MAY	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	2,558.00	22,912.00
Offerings	759.00	6,324.76
Donations - Maintenance Fund	0.00	3,080.00
Kenya Coin Collection	95.55	807.08
Chair Fund	238.00	1,223.00
Rummage Sale	0.00	2,203.40
Recycle	7.80	303.75
Minister's Discretionary Fund	-70.00	-70.00
Other	<u>869.15</u>	<u>1,229.40</u>
TOTAL	4457.50*	38,013.39
EXPENSES	3420.92**	36,252.37
DIFFERENCE	1,036.58	1,761.92

*A monthly income of \$3,039.33 is required in order to meet annual expenses of \$36,472.00

**Expenses Other than "Usual"

Tree Removal - \$75.00

Two Chairs w/Arms - \$248.96

MAY PLEDGE REPORT

Total Members	27
Total Pledges	22
Average Attendance	54

	MAY	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	2,227.00	21,334.00
Amount Received	<u>2,558.00</u>	<u>22,291.00</u>
VARIANCE	331.00	1,578.00

...from Mike Garber, Finance Trustee

SUMMER STREET MART & LUNCHEON

All Souls major fundraiser of the season is Saturday, July 11.

Chairpersons are Renee Gilbert - Rummage Sale and Bruce Kilgore- Luncheon.

Please support them by donating items, signing up to help set up, working during the event or cleaning up. The more people signing up, the lighter the load.

Come have fun. Meet some new people!

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY in Columbus June 2016

This might be a good opportunity to help fund the much needed renovation of the sanctuary. The cost could be approximately \$30,000 for the renovations.

The Board has approved the forming of a fundraising exploratory committee to investigate possible items to sell at GA in Columbus, with proceeds to be dedicated to the renovation fund.

Look for a handout and volunteer sign-up sheet Sunday, July 12.

...from Chuck Rhodes, Building & Maintenance Trustee

The air conditioners were serviced this month and found to be in very good operating condition.

The church sign design and location were approved by the church sign committee. This recommendation was presented to the church board, and their approval was given. The permit for construction of the church sign was submitted to the village, and a hearing was held with the architectural commission. This was necessary, as we are located in a historic district. The meeting went well and approval was received to proceed with the project. Sign Graphix was notified, and the sign should arrive in mid-July. We will install the sign and give our old sign to the city for the opera house, as that sign is in poor condition.

So, by mid-month, we will have our new church sign thanks to the hard work of the sign committee: Mike Garber, Ann Kilgore, Bruce Kilgore, Sandy Macpherson, Reed Richmond and Judy Shaffer.



Liz Hansen shares the story "And Tango Makes Three" during the Children's Moment.

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Trustee

Exciting news for our children's Religious Education program...Teasha and Kayt are gearing up to lead the youth in Religious Education every week during service for the rest of this summer! We've found a really fun curriculum through the UUA called "World of Wonders", which focuses on our 7th principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence". The curriculum is aimed at kids in Kindergarten - 1st grade, but all school aged kids are invited to join in, with the older kids serving as helpers. I'm anticipating that we'll keep the youth classes going weekly through most of the school year too.

Will Humphrey will be leading four weeks of Adult Religious Education starting on July 12. The group will be viewing some TED talks and Will will lead a discussion following. TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world. On TED.com, we're building a clearinghouse of free knowledge from the world's most inspired thinkers — and a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other.

Just to clarify, my role isn't really changing in terms of organizing religious education. I'll still be doing the foot work of organizing classes and recruiting facilitators, I just won't be sitting on the board. Basically, Jackie Moore is the official trustee, and I'm the RE Committee Chair. If you are interested in organizing, planning or facilitating any sort of RE program, please let me know!

PASTORAL CARE DUTIES

**Until the Pastoral Care Trustee position is filled,
please contact Glenn Myers with any concerns about members' health or well-being.**

As always, Rev. Karen Bruno is available for more urgent Pastoral Care needs.

- significant life changes: divorce, serious illness, hospitalization, surgery, a close friend or family member dies or is hospitalized
- you are experiencing some kind of loss, stress or minor mental health concern
- you are spiritually or emotionally searching and want a listening ear

...from Bruce Kilgore, Fellowship Trustee

Saturday, July 11, is All Souls kitchen's busiest day! It is the Summer Street Mart. **PLEASE SIGN UP** to help in the kitchen (wash dishes, serve food, cut pies, deliver food to vendors in the park, help clean-up at close of day, bus tables, etc.) Our customers look forward to our selections of salads (2 quarts or large bowl make a nice donation) and, as always, we will take donations to cover cost of beef and noodles, buns and take-out containers. Thank you in advance!



...from Irene Maginniss, Secretary

All Souls will be a part of the community wide event on July 11, 2015.
We will have a Luncheon and Rummage Sale and need your help.
Can you volunteer and donate?
Have you filled a box yet?

We need Collectibles & Computers, Home Goods & Haberdashery,
Dolls, Dishes & Diamonds, Kids Things and Keepsakes too.
Don't forget Craft supplies and Clothing (nice), Jewelry and Gems,
Artwork and Artifacts, as well as Memorabilia & Musical stuff.
We can sell your Furniture, Fabric and Fishing Gear, Vases and Vintage Valentines,
Commemoratives & Curtains, plus Games and Garden stuff.
Add to your box: Books, Basketballs and Banks, Holiday Ornaments & Hardwares,
Posters and Prints, Archery (equipment) and Art Supplies too.
Don't forget Tools (indoor and outdoor), Tablets & (other) Treasures,
along with Sewing Stuff & (small) Appliances that work.
Oh, please bring Glassware, Gadgets and Gee, that's enough.

...from Mandy Waltz, Media, Advertising & Growth Trustee

Happy 4th of July!

Congratulations on the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same sex marriage!!!

On July 25, we will be sponsoring the first ever Mansfield Gay Pride. It will be held at South Park, 100 South Brinkerhoff Ave., Mansfield, and will feature a parade, booths, live music, drag performers and DJs, as well as a kids' zone. I will be passing around a signup sheet for volunteers for the booth and parade. The more the merrier!

...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

I'm going to start my article with a short story about a Cab Driver and the Preacher.

A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the cabby, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and proceed into Heaven. A preacher is next in line behind the cabby and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says, "Okay, we'll let you in, but take that cloth robe and wooden staff". The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a golden staff and a silk robe. Surely I rate higher than a cabby." St. Peter responded quite matter-of-factly: "Here we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabby drove his taxi, people prayed."

As your pulpit chair I kind of feel like the role of St. Peter when it comes to who speaks at All Souls. Will the speaker get results? Will we have something to take home with us? Did we fall asleep? Well, if you have ever had the experience of a cab ride in the big city, you may not have prayed, but chances are it was a memorable experience. Same with many of our speakers who are closer to ordinary than the ordained person of the cloth professional speaker. I am interested in results as well. I have four more dates to fill this year. Hmm...maybe I should send an email to the local Cab Company? I bet they have some great stories to tell.

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

Looking Ahead to July

Saturday July 4 – Independence Day

Sunday July 5

Speaker: William Humphrey

Title: American Way of Life: Love and the Other

Topic: Love and the Other

Leader: Reed Richmond

Music: Trio Alla Breve

Sunday July 12

Speaker: Dr. Walter Kania

Title: Two Masters, One Message

Topic: They lived separated by 500 Years as we measure time. They were separated by 3,000 miles as we measure distance. Yet, these two spiritual Avatars spoke with One Heart. They were both Sages and Teachers of the way less traveled. The earliest name that was assigned to both of them was "The Way". This was a new way of seeing, a new way of understanding, and a new way of being. Here you will find two of the most remarkable persons who ever lived.

Leader: Joan Richmond

Music: Ayesha Fry

Sunday July 19

Speaker: Jenn Wilson

Title: Shaking down on the AT

Topic: When a hiker prepares for a long distance hike, they make sure they have all needed supplies for that journey. If they are a less experienced hiker, this process may propose a greater challenge. Last year, when I was preparing for my hike, I cross trained by running, weight trained and lead boot camps. I mentally prepared by thinking of all types of situations and emergencies - and packed the needed supplies for each. So, I was physically and mentally prepared; but proper pack weight proved to be the demise of my hike. Over the two weeks of hiking, I learned what it means to "shake down" my pack, carrying only the bare necessities. This allowed me to thrive on the trail. Elevation proved no competition for an appropriate pack weight-trained hiker. I felt like I could hike forever and found the thrill in following my dreams and passions. I also related a hikers "shake down" to a character "shake down". I was able to reflect on my life while hiking and was able to pin point some extra "weight" I had been carrying around, holding me back from truly living, dreaming and experiencing life to its fullest. Pride, control and selfishness were among the heaviest limitations in my life, holding me captive to truly thriving in my daily life. Come along for this adventurous journey trekking from Springer Mountain, GA to Fontana Dam, NC- blisters, tears, thunder storms and all, and be challenged to "shake down" any area in your life that is holding you back from truly living.

Leader: Teasha Sprague

Music: Trio Alla Breve

Sunday JULY 19- TAO BRIDGE plays at The Old Bag of Nails 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Sunday July 26 – Pot Luck & Kenya Coin Collection

Speaker: Rev. Elena Langstaff

Title: The Way

Topic: My Spiritual Journey to Peace Pilgrimage

Leader: Eric Sargent

Music: Ayesha Fry

Peace, Love, and Namaste to All Souls



Buddhist Book Discussion Group

2nd Monday of each Month,
6:30pm – 8pm

Relax Coffee Shop, 105 N. Main
St., Mansfield

July 13 – Case 1 Chao-Chau's Dog:

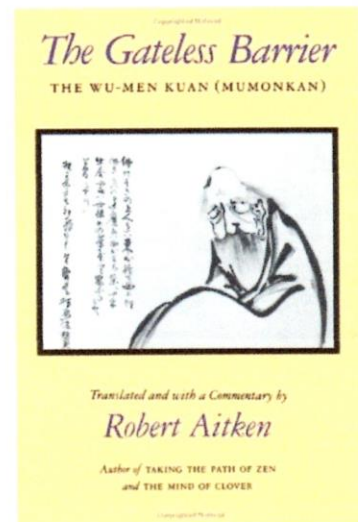
***"A monk asked Chao-chou, "Has the dog
Buddha nature or not?" Chao-chou said, "Mu."***

The Gateless Barrier

Transl. by Robert Aitken Roshi

[ISBN#0865474427]

(Look for others with the Book)



Free & open to everyone of all faiths

No previous experience with Buddhism needed

More Info: www.livinglotus.org/bookclub





FREE MOVIE

Monday, July 27,

6pm-8:30pm,

(U.U.)

All Souls Unitarian Church,
25 Church St, Bellville, Ohio

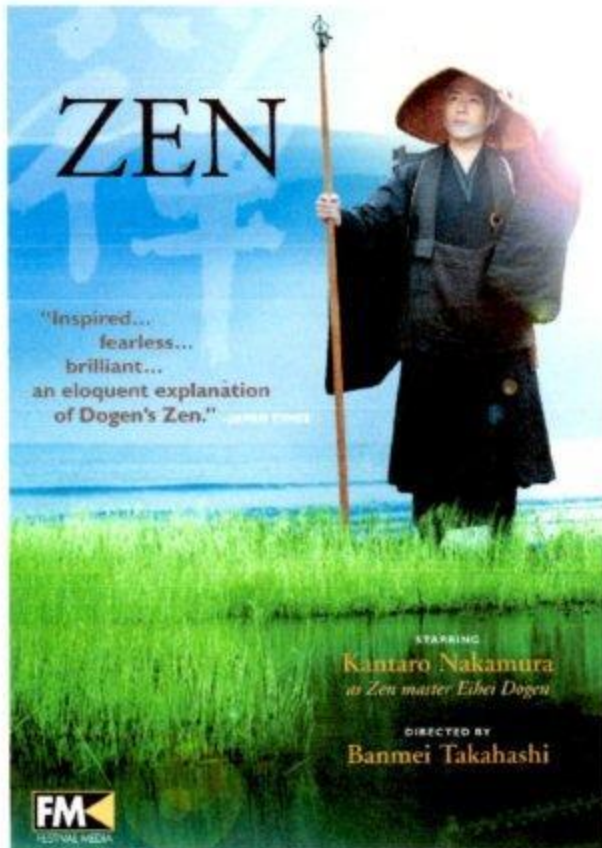
All are welcome!

Zen (2009)

Japanese with English Subtitles

*Dramatization of the true story of Eihei Dogen
and his journey in the 13th century from Japan
to China and how he brought a new school of
Zen Buddhism back to Japan to found the
Soto School of Zen Buddhism in the face of
opposition.*

*There
The will be a brief introduction
and a Facilitated discussion after the
film.*



More info:

www.livinglotus.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Chuck Rhodes – July 5
Judy Shaffer – July 5
Jacqueline Moore – July 6

Alyssa Nugent – July 10
Kaiden Waltz – July 17
Charity Johnson – July 18

Eric Hansen – July 19
Susan Mizer – July 21
Fonda Kendrick – July 22

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SPEAKERS FOR JULY

July 5: William Humphrey
July 12: Dr. Walter Kania

July 19: Jenn Wilson
July 26: Rev. Elena Langstaff

JULY EVENTS

Independence Day – Saturday, July 4

Summer Street Mart & Luncheon – Saturday, July 11

Adult RE: Viewing TED talks and discussion with facilitator, Will Humphrey – Sunday, July 12 @ 9:00 am

Children’s RE: “World of Wonders” – Sunday, July 12 During the Service

Buddhist Book Discussion “The Gateless Barrier” - Monday, July 13 @ 6:30 pm at Relax It’s Just Coffee

Board Meeting - Sunday, July 19 @ 9:00 am

Children’s RE: “World of Wonders” – Sunday, July 19 During the Service

Adult RE: Viewing TED talks and discussion with facilitator, Will Humphrey – Sunday, July 26 @ 9:00 am

Pot Luck & Kenya Coin Collection - Sunday, July 26

Children’s RE: “World of Wonders” – Sunday, July 26 During the Service

Free Movie Night: “Zen” - Monday, July 27 @ 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast - Wednesday, July 29 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans-Hanley Rd.

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