

ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER

My Wishes for All Souls

The "Visioning Task Force" has met twice and will be making recommendations to the Board in March. The Task Force has been In-Visioning wonderful possibilities for the future of All Souls.

With the invitation to pretend that we can afford anything, we had lots of fun.

If you can, try using **your** imagination. What would you want to do if our church had a sudden windfall of funds?

It's important to dream, because if you don't dream you don't know where you want to go.

We dreamt of having a stronger presence on social issues in our communities, of social events in different locations - so we can get better acquainted outside of Sunday morning. We enjoyed dreaming of a full time minister...who knows maybe someday.

We also talked about a maintenance free building (a nice dream to be sure). Maybe even adding a second worship time! Of the possibility of having lots of different groups using the building, a buzz of activity and acceptance.

And I know what I dream for All Souls. I dream of a minister who can do all the things I imagined possible if I had the time...

A minister who is involved in the community, surrounding churches, is a leader and a pastor. Someone who can comfort and challenge. Someone who connects with all the members and friends in good times and bad. Someone who can follow folks through the life cycle, from birth to death, and know each one's dreams and disappointments.

So along with lots of money, my wish for All Souls is a spiritual leader who is able to offer direction without dictating; who is open to listen and "put the pieces" together to offer the support needed by the members, friends and community.

May we all keep dreaming.....

Karen

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

...from Glenn Myers, President

THE DAY MY CHURCH WAS CLOSED

All Souls Church service was canceled today. The weather was bad - cold, snow, driving conditions poor, guest speaker from out of town called off. "The Perfect Storm." No church today - whoopee! I don't have to go early and conduct the monthly board meeting before church. I can sleep in - but, I'm not sleepy. Might as well go out into the cold and feed the horses as usual. When the chores were finished, it was still early. I could have made the board meeting on time. Oh well, those important church issues can wait. Hey, I can watch "Meet the Press" - haven't seen it in two years - been in church. But, 10:30 came and I didn't turn the TV on - I would have been coming up from the meeting at that time. The greeter would have been at the sanctuary door handing me a program and offering a big smile. People would have been shaking hands and working their way toward favorite pews. The prelude would begin - it was the Sunday for the wind trio to play - I'll miss their toe-tapping, upbeat renditions from Joplin, Rimbault, Anderson, et al. During the announcement portion of the program, I would have given a report on the board meeting - darn, I had a cute joke to insert, too. A sacred covenant of those present would have been created by the lighting of the Chalice. The guest speaker would have presented a topic appropriate for "Black History Month", "Living the Life of Personal Nonviolence - We Are All One", calling to mind the ministries of Gandhi and King. I'm sure the message would have refreshed my faith in this very troubled time. The service would have ended at 11:30 - well, it probably would have run over ten minutes or so, as usual. There would have been more hand shaking and some hugging, individual compliments to the speaker, and then everyone would have headed downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for "Coffee Hour" (our second Sunday service). The room would have been buzzing with conversation. I would have joked, teased, listened to concerns, complained, etc., with many of the folks there. I would have been among the last to leave. I would have been a stronger, happier person for the experience - the cold and the snow notwithstanding. Gosh, I hope my church never has to close again!

...from Ann Kilgore, Vice President

My team will try to help anyone with a concern. Remember, there will be new changes coming up with Karen leaving. Maybe you have a concern that we can talk about and help.

Team members are Ann Kilgore, Sandy Macpherson and Linda Wilson.

JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

	January		Y-T-D			
Income:						
Pledges	1,885.00		14,223.00			
Offerings	447.00		3,684.76			
Donations-Maintenance Fund	0.00		2,840.00			
Kenya Coin Collection	63.14		497.95			
Rummage Sale	0.00		2,203.40			
Recycle	57.51		226.72			
Other	35.00		221.00			
Total	2,487.65	*	23,896.83			
Expenses:	4,084.48	**	19,165.56			
Difference:	(1,596.83)		4,731.27			

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

** Expenses other than the "regular":

Build & install custom window \$900.00

Bonuses

\$380.00

JANUARY PLEDGE REPORT

Total members	27					
Total pledges	22					
Average attendance	59					
	January		Y-T-D			
Amount Pledged	1,659.00		13,602.00			
Amount Received	1,885.00		14,223.00			
Variance	+226.00		+621.00			

...from Mike Garber, Finance Trustee

There has been some interest for additional information about the Joint District Assembly, March 27 and 28 in Niagara Falls, New York. This is an opportunity for church leaders and ministers to meet, gather information on a variety of topics and programs through workshops, the keynote address, the Gold lecture and the Marketplace.

FRIDAY EVENING

The Gold Discourse and lecture. Concert by Orange Sun and a multigenerational coffee house.

SATURDAY UNTIL 5:00 PM

Opening Worship, Business Meeting with congregation delegates. Lunch included in registration fee. Eleven workshops are offered during the two afternoon sessions. Closing Worship includes youth and young adults Bridging Ceremony. Congregations share and celebrate the proud moments.

Onsite registration fee is \$95. Complete information and brochure available on the OMD website.

For those staying over Saturday night, the Niagara Church is offering Cocktails and buffet dinner and a night tour to the Falls.

Sunday brunch before morning worship \$75.

The Finance Committee welcomes new member Marjorie Smith.

...from Chuck Rhodes, Building & Maintenance Trustee

The weather in February has been brutal, but it did not stop the construction of the new water lines on Church Street. The sidewalks in front of the church have been removed and the new larger water lines installed. It is uncertain when new sidewalks will be installed; therefore, as a safety precaution, the side door (Bell Street) will be used as the main entrance to the church. The front entrance will be designated as an emergency exit only. Your cooperation during this time will be appreciated.

The Sign Committee will be reviewing the proposed sign designs and should have a recommendation for the board by April. We hope to be ready to begin construction when the sidewalk is installed.

I frequently receive comments from visitors about the appearance of the church sanctuary. They always say how clean and fresh smelling it is, which reflects the pride we have in our church. I want to acknowledge the efforts of Mike Garber, who cleans the upstairs **every week** and sets up the chairs for the next week's service. Thanks Mike! **Great Job!** The cleaning of the Fellowship Hall is by sign up, and I encourage anyone interested to get on the list or see me.

Until next month - stay warm.



...from Reed Richmond, Social Action Trustee

Social Justice/Social Action Meeting

We will have our regular meeting the first Tuesday of the month, March 3 at 7 p.m.

Social Justice and the Movies

Many of you may be aware of the movie "Selma" that was released in time for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The march on Selma will see its 50th anniversary this year. At All Souls, we have been engaged in a youth religious education series (teens) about social action and social justice subjects in the movies. As one of the teachers, I was struck by how mature the topics were and that this would make a great Adult Religious Education series. As an introduction to that, I am going to present a talk at All Souls on March 22 about how movies present social topics and how UUs can use those movies as launching pads for open discussions about social justice. I hope you'll join us on March 22 and for the classes when we get those organized.

Honoring Our War Dead and Seeking Peace

On May 24, the day before Memorial Day, I will be presenting a Peace Memorial Service at All Souls for the 10:30 a.m. service. This will be a preview of the service we will hold at the Bellville Bandstand at 7:00 p.m. that night. The purpose of the service is to honor those who have given their lives serving in our armed forces while we seek peaceful solutions to ending war and its devastating effects. Please join us for both candlelight memorial services and a call for peace.

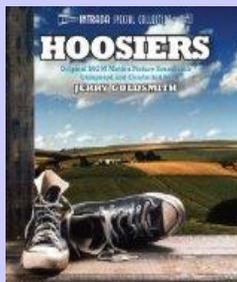
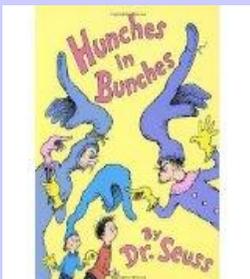
As always, thanks for what you do in the name of peace and justice

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Trustee

Our youngest class (5-10 year olds) will continue with the VERY fun Dr. Seuss curriculum. On March 1, Edward Fox will lead them through "Hunches in Bunches".

The older youth (11-18) will be viewing "Hoosiers" and discussing from a UU perspective as part of their Popcorn Theology class, with Ann & Bruce Kilgore leading.

Adult RE is starting up in March after a long winter break. Don't worry, you don't have to get up extra early on the first day of time change (March 8) - we'll have our first class on March 22 at 9:00 am. We'll be celebrating Earth Day early (March 22 & 29) by learning about some very "green" things some of our members do. One week we'll spend time exploring the Chevy Volt, along with our members who own one. The other week we'll explore ways to "green up while you clean up" using eco-friendly and homemade cleaners for your home and garden.



...from Judy Shaffer, Pastoral Care Trustee

PASTORAL CARE DUTIES

Teasha Sprague is assisting
with the Pastoral Care Duties.

If you cannot reach Judy, please contact Teasha at 440-622-1611.

Please contact Judy Shaffer for the following areas of Pastoral Care:

- coordination of welcome and follow up with visitors
- coordination of cards and visits to shut-ins
- gathering of concerns about members: health, family and individual issues
- organizing a list of members willing to do visits when needed
- coordination of general contact and check-ins with members and friends

Please contact Rev. Karen Bruno for the following areas of Pastoral Care:

- 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

All Souls next covered dish lunch will be Sunday, March 29, just one week before Easter, sooooo.....
let's have an Easter Lunch. The church will furnish the ham, and we will be passing around a sign-up sheet for the sides, desserts, etc. See you then!

History of All Souls

March 7 is the anniversary of Truman Strong's birth and death. Born in Poultney, Vermont, Truman came to North Central Ohio in 1811 or 1812 and fought in the War of 1812 under Gen. Harrison. Mr. Strong became the sixth Universalist minister in Ohio. He settled on a farm near Fredericktown and traveled extensively in North Central Ohio. He help found and served many early Universalist Societies in the area: Fredericktown Universaline Library, Lexington, Mansfield, Mt. Gilead, Mt. Vernon, Caledonia and, of course, Bellville. The Universalists in Bellville began meeting in private homes in 1822. Rev. Strong and his wife had many children and further generations. Truman and his family are buried in a small cemetery on Blair Rd. in Middlebury Township under a massive sycamore tree. Unfortunately, many of the family's stones are broken and in piles; but, Truman Strong's remains standing upright and intact, just as he served as founder of the Universalist movement in North Central Ohio. Pictures of the head stone are in the church's Archive Scrapbook.

Speaking of the Archive Scrapbook, we need any recent church activity pictures you may have taken. Just color print and give to me.

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

Hello March!!!

Personally, this month is full of emotion for me. For one, my birthday is on the 11th. I used to share my birthday with a cousin, Brian Howard. Brian tragically passed away 10 years ago. He was 30. He left behind a beautiful daughter, who grew into a talented young woman. My family and I miss him terribly, but it's hardest for me when March 11th comes around.

Now I have an added sorrow. My grandma, passed away one year ago this day. I will be speaking about this on Sunday, March 8th. She was an amazing woman. I hope to see you all at church when I share my memory of her and how she unknowingly lived her life by our seven principles. Although I do have heavy burdens this month, I am anxious for the coming of SPRING! I have the seed buying bug! Hello sunshine and bye bye snow! There are many ways to celebrate the spring equinox....

Spring Traditions around the World

From Pagans celebrating Ostara, to Christians observing Easter, it's important to remember spring has been observed for a long time in many other cultures as well. Traditions vary widely, here are some ways that people of different parts of the world observe the season.

Egypt

The Festival of Isis was held in ancient Egypt as a celebration of spring and rebirth. Isis features prominently in the story of the resurrection of her lover, Osiris. Although Isis' major festival was held in the fall, folklorist Sir James Frazer says in "The Golden Bough" that "We are told that the Egyptians held a festival of Isis at the time when the Nile began to rise... the goddess was then mourning for the lost Osiris, and the tears which dropped from her eyes swelled the impetuous tide of the river."

Iran

In Iran, the festival of No Ruz begins shortly before the vernal equinox. The phrase "No Ruz" actually means "new day", and this is a time of hope and rebirth. Typically, a lot of cleaning is done, old broken items are repaired, homes are repainted, and fresh flowers are gathered and displayed indoors. The Iranian new year begins on the day of the equinox and, typically, people celebrate by getting outside for a picnic or other activity with their loved ones. No Ruz is deeply rooted in the beliefs of Zoroastrianism, which was the predominant religion in ancient Persia before Islam came along.

Ireland

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17. St. Patrick is known as a symbol of Ireland, particularly around every March. One of the reasons he's so famous is because he drove the snakes out of Ireland and was even credited with a miracle for this. What many people don't realize is that the serpent was actually a metaphor for the early Pagan faiths of Ireland. St. Patrick brought Christianity to the Emerald Isle and did such a good job of it that he practically eliminated Paganism from the country.

Italy

For the ancient Romans, the Feast of Cybele was a big deal every spring. Cybele was a mother goddess who was at the center of a Phrygian fertility cult, and eunuch priests performed mysterious rites in her honor. Her lover was Attis (who also happened to be her grandson), and her jealousy caused him to castrate and kill himself. His blood was the source of the first violets, and divine intervention allowed Attis to be resurrected by Cybele, with some help from Zeus. In some areas, there is still an annual celebration of Attis' rebirth and Cybele's power, called the Hilaria, observed from March 15 to March 28.

...Media, Advertising & Growth continued

Judaism

One of Judaism's biggest festivals is Passover, which takes place in the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan. It was a pilgrimage festival, and commemorates the exodus of the Jews from Egypt after centuries of slavery. A special meal is held, called the Seder, and it is concluded with the story of the Jews leaving Egypt and readings from a special book of prayers. Part of the eight-day Passover traditions include a thorough spring cleaning, going through the house from top to bottom.

Russia

In Russia, the celebration of Maslenitsa is observed as a time of the return of light and warmth. This folk festival is celebrated about seven weeks before Easter. During the Lent season, meat, fish and dairy products are prohibited. Maslenitsa is the last chance anyone will get to enjoy those items for a while, so it's typically a big festival held before the somber, introspective time of Lent. A straw effigy of the Lady of Maslenitsa is burned in a bonfire. Leftover pancakes and blintzes are tossed in as well and, when the fire has burned away, the ashes are spread in the fields to fertilize the year's crops.

Scotland (Lanark)

In the area of Lanark, Scotland, the spring season is welcomed with Whuppity Scoorie, held on March 1. Children assemble in front of a local church at sunrise, and when the sun comes up, they race around the church waving paper balls around their heads. At the end of the third and final lap, the children gather up coins thrown by local assemblymen. According to the Capital Scot, there's a story that this event began ages ago when troublemakers were "scoored" in the Clyde River as punishment for bad behavior. It appears to be unique to Lanark, and does not seem to be observed anywhere else in Scotland.

As for myself, I will be celebrating the full moon in a lovely pagan way. I think it is also a wonderful time to build bird houses and buy bird feed for our feathered friends returning home! (Welcome home robins! We've missed you!) Take time to meditate in the sun. Breathe in deeply the smells of renewing earth. Close your eyes and listen to our back yards waking from winter's sleep. Winter is over. We made it through!

All of My Love!



...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

Well, here we are at the end of the magical month of February. February - the month that brings us Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day to celebrate romance and love. We also celebrate President's Day, Black History Month, Ash Wednesday (the only day the Pope likes you to get a little dirty) and Mardi Gras. February is also a great month for gray skies, lots of snow, extreme freezing temperatures, frostbite, weather related accidents, illness, and high utility bills.

So, if you are a little unsure that a rodent can predict the weather, not too romantic, not a fan of most Presidents, not a big history buff, not a Catholic and, last but not least, a fan of subzero freezing wind chills and slippery roads and cancellations...February can make you SAD. Or, give you Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Well, let's take a new perspective on February. It gives us a chance to do things we don't have time for when the weather breaks and to try new things. For me, it was a great time to get involved in the community with the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at the Old Mansfield Reformatory. It's a time to feed the birds and deer and admire nature's artwork in the patterns of blowing and drifting snow. It's also the time to embrace the duality of the bitter cold. Without the bitter cold and harshness of February, we would not have the magic and mystery of the birth of springtime. February 21st puts us just 30 days from the start of that magical transformation. So don't be SAD, embrace every month of the year for what it has to offer, and realize they all go by so fast that the present moment, regardless of the temperature, is a precious gift.

Looking Ahead to March...

Sunday March 1

Speaker – Rev. Karen Bruno Title – “Prayers That Have Moved Me”

Topic – Prayer has been an important part of my spiritual life. I will share several prayers that have brought me comfort, challenge, and peace. All from the book “Illuminata: A Return to Prayer”, by Marianne Williamson.

Leader – Brian Moore

Music – Trio Alle Breve

Sunday March 8

Speaker – Mandy Waltz Title – “Grandma and the Seven Principles”

Topic – Come join me in celebrating my Grandma's life on the one year anniversary of her death. I will be explaining how she lived her life unknowingly following our seven principles. Please bring a flower so that I may place it on her grave after the service.

Leader – Bruce Kilgore

Music – Ayesha Fry

Sunday March 15

Speaker – Glenn Myers Title – “God and the History of the Kokosing Construction Company” (Part 2)

Topic – William Boyd Burgett (Bill), founder of the Kokosing Construction Company was conflicted because of a pledge he had made in his church as a teenager. He had promised to spend his life serving God. The pledge was generally interpreted to mean that he would become a minister. But Bill didn't want to be a minister. He wanted to build things. He wanted to be a welder. After graduating high school, Bill married, started a family, and went to work. After two years, he lost his job. He then started a small construction company. But as his life unfolded, his pledge to serve God became a source of serious frustration. Bill worked things out with God, but then the ultimate tragedy struck his family and Kokosing . . .

Leader – Sandy Macpherson

Music – Trio Alle Breve

...Pulpit & Worship continued

Friday, March 20 - SPRING BEGINS!

Sunday March 22

Speaker – Reed Richmond

Title – “Social Justice & the Cinema”

Topic – Many movies are made with a social justice theme. Others may have elements of social justice and others have hidden messages you may never have noticed. Reed will explore some of his favorite movies as an introduction to “Popcorn Theology”, an upcoming Adult Religious Education Class.

Leader – Reed Richmond

Music – Ayesha Fry

Sunday March 29

Speaker – Brian Moore

Title – “Living the Mystery”

Topic – We tend to view opposites as incompatible concepts. But if we change our way of thinking we can see how our lives change as a result.

Leader – Joan Richmond

Music – Trio Alle Breve

+ Pot Luck Sunday and Kenya Coin Collection

Peace, Love, and Namaste to All Souls



Teasha Sprague led the service for the first time on Sunday, February 22.



Lisa Kreischer delivered the message “Choice: Taking Responsibility for Our Actions” on Sunday, February 22.

Photos by Jay Gilbert

Living Lotus Zen Sangha March Schedule

Everyone is welcome to practice with us. No previous meditation experience necessary.

We will meet 6:30pm-8:30pm at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church 25 Church St., Bellville, OH.

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. For more information, find us on Facebook, our webpage, or contact Jackie Moore.

Schedule:

6:30pm-6:50pm - Zazen (sitting meditation)

6:50pm-7pm - Kinhin (Walking meditation)

7pm-7:20pm - Zazen - Second period of Zazen

7:20pm-7:30pm - Liturgy - Heart Sutra, chanting and prostrations

7:30pm-8:30pm - Dharma Talk delivered by Sensei Dean Williams

Current Book/Text/Discussion – “Inside the Grass Hut” - Connelly

Brief Beginner's Guide to Zazen & Kinhin:

<http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/practice/zazen/howto/index.html>

MAR [Informal Book Study Discussion - "Inside the Grass Hut" Connelly - Chap 18-22](#)

02 [Relax, It's Just Coffee](#) in [Mansfield, Ohio](#)

6:30pm

MAR [Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Dharma Talk](#)

09 [All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church](#) in [Bellville, Ohio](#)

6:30pm

MAR [Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Dharma Talk](#)

23 [All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church](#) in [Bellville, Ohio](#)

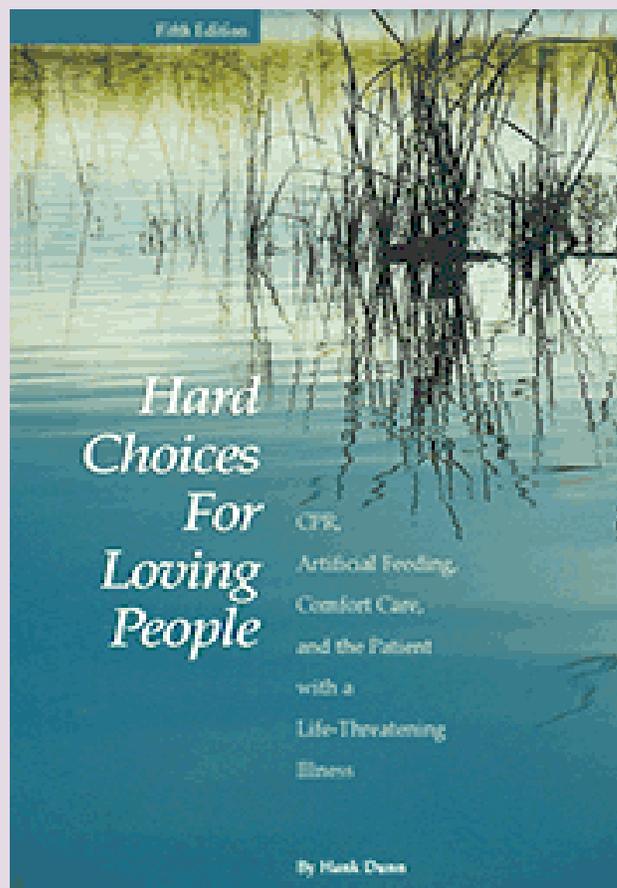
6:30pm



End of Life Choices Workshop

with Rev. Karen Bruno

Based on the book “Hard Choices for Loving People”
by Hank Dunn



**Saturday, March 28 at the Bellville Library
10:30 am – 3:30 pm (with a lunch break)**

This book is short and excellent.

Please read the book prior to attending the workshop.

Everyone should read it, even if you cannot attend the workshop.

Please see Rev. Karen to purchase a copy for \$5.

Joan and Reed Richmond have announced a new 2015 venture for Meadow Rise Farm. The farm has restarted its CSA program. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture and, according to the website Local Harvest, “for over 25 years, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer”.

In our CSA, the basics are that we offer a certain number of shares to people, which consist of 8-12 different vegetables (full share) per week of the 20-week season, running June-October. Interested partners purchase a “share”, paying for it early in the season when the farmers (that is, us) have most of our expenses. We will offer a full share, half share, and mini share (a half share every other week). Prices are, in order, \$500, \$375 and \$250 for the shares, and the agreement specifies ways partners can pay between Feb. 1 and the time delivery season begins.

This arrangement creates several rewards for both the farmer and the consumer. In brief, from Local Harvest’s description:

Advantages for Farmers

- Get to spend time marketing the food early in the year, before their 16 hour days in the field begin.
- Receive payment early in the season, which helps with the farm's cash flow.
- Have an opportunity to get to know the people who eat the food they grow.

Advantages for Consumers

- Eat ultra-fresh food, with all the flavor and vitamin benefits.
- Get exposed to new vegetables and new ways of cooking.
- Usually get to visit the farm at least once a season.
- Find that kids typically favor food from "their" farm — even veggies they've never been known to eat.
- Develop a relationship with the farmer who grows their food and learn more about how food is grown.

Deliveries from 4:30 – 6:30 pm on Wednesday afternoons at the Happy Grape, 300 E. Main St., Lexington, OH.

If you’d like more information about Meadow Rise Farm CSA, please go to Localharvest.org and just type our name or zip code (44813) in the search box. We have more details there on our listing, and then you can contact us for an application.

Thanks for your help in spreading the word!

Joan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Quinn Bartsch – March 2

Cole Bartsch – March 5

Kirsten Pscholka-Gartner – March 8

Che Sahara – March 9

Jay Gilbert – March 10

Mandy Waltz – March 11

Brian Moore – March 12

Pam Ellis – March 20

Gary Roth – March 21

Janet Chandler – March 22

Becca Sekavec – March 27

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SPEAKERS FOR MARCH

March 1: Rev. Karen Bruno

March 8: Mandy Waltz

March 15: Glenn Myers

March 22: Reed Richmond

March 29: Brian Moore

MARCH EVENTS

R.E. Dr. Seuss Curriculum – “Hunches in Bunches” (ages 5-10): Sunday, March 1 During the Service

Social Action/Social Justice Meeting – Tuesday, March 3 @ 7:00 pm

R.E. Popcorn Theology – “Hoosiers” (ages 11-18): Sunday, March 8 During the Service

Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Dharma Talk: Monday, March 9 @ 6:30 pm

Board Meeting: Sunday, March 15 @ 9:00 am

Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Dharma Talk: Monday, March 23

End of Life Choices Workshop: Saturday, March 28 (10:30 am – 3:30 pm) at the Bellville Library

Kenya Coin Collection: Sunday, March 29

Pot Luck: Sunday, March 29

Karen Bruno, Minister

revkarenbruno@gmail.com

419-612-9318

Glenn Myers, Board President

glenmarq@yahoo.com

740-501-5990

Judy Shaffer, Pastoral Care Trustee

419-886-3261

website: allsoulsuohio.org

email: allsoulsohio@gmail.com