

ALL SOULS MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

Friends,

Spring is finally here, or it'll be here soon enough, with March 20 being the time to usher in official Spring. We can collect our feelings, our pensive winter-selves, and be reborn into a spring chick. Easter is coming at the end of March. The sun shines, and the plants bud. It is wonderful and hopeful.

We have a lot going on. On March 19, we will celebrate our Equinox with a Drum Circle at the Bellville Bandstand beginning at 4:00 pm. Please come out and support our service for Peace and Well-being.

As Easter arrives, and thoughts to resurrection and renewal arise, let us remember the changes for which we hope; let us be that change. Let us remember faith; let's find it amongst friends, within the stranger, and within the "Least of These".

As our cabin-fever subsides and we reach for the outdoors and adventures, let us reach for our companions, friends, and family. Let's share the wonderful bounty before us and spend time laughing and listening to one another.

Peace,

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

THE EASTER BUNNY HOP

The Easter Bunny (EB) is for real. I know it for a fact because I have letters to prove it. The letters are hand (paw) written in EB cursive. The style is like none other - each word is underlined backward by a continuous stroke of the pencil at the end of each word.

The first letter came when I was five. I couldn't write yet, but I dictated a return letter to my mother who also posted it for me. After that, the EB and I exchanged letters each year at Easter Time until I decided to go forth on my own, so as to allow the spirit of the great rabbit more time to communicate with younger children as they came along.

Being an only child, I spent many hours talking with the invisible rabbit, who always seemed to understand my curiosity and my yearning for the truth. But, EB was indeed invisible, and I so wanted to actually see my best friend. In those days, wild Cottontail Rabbits were abundant and could always be seen romping about in the dooryard and nearby fields. I always suspected EB was among them, but how would I know which one? So, I asked my mother how I could identify EB among the host of rabbits. She told me I would know because the Easter Bunny would have a different kind of hop. I strained my eyes watching all the rabbits, but finally realized the different kind of hop was a metaphor for a spiritual version of the rabbit.

It didn't really bother me that I never got to see the EB, because it was the spirit that had comforted and guided me through my childhood struggles and curiosities. I didn't learn until many years later that the Easter Bunny spirit had grown out of the German Lutheran Church in Europe in the 1600s. The physical form was actually a Hare, a relative of the North American Cottontail Rabbit. The Easter Bunny would evaluate children, good or bad; sort of like Santa Claus. The good would be rewarded with boiled (sometimes colored) eggs, candy, and sometimes toys.

Of course, I now understand that the Easter Bunny story is fantasy. Oh, if you will excuse me, the postman is here. Easter Time is coming, and I'm expecting a letter in the mail.



JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Average
Attendance: 52

	JANUARY	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	3,106.00	16,945.00
Offerings	611.00	3,598.50
Maintenance Fund	1,240.00	4,390.00
Kenya Coin Collection	109.57	598.71
Rummage Sale	.00	2,166.50
Recycle	.00	46.98
Minister's Discretionary Fund	.00	-400.00
Fundraising Expenses Account	500.00	791.62
Other	.09	221.95
TOTAL	5,566.66*	28,359.26
EXPENSES	4,888.18**	27,723.26
DIFFERENCE	678.48	636.00

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

**Expenses Other than "Usual":

Build & Install Window: \$1,600.00

Copier Drum & Toner: \$183.32

JANUARY PLEDGE REPORT

Total Units	31
Total Pledges	24

	JANUARY	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	3,160.00	17,984.00
Amount Received	<u>3,106.00</u>	<u>17,745.00</u>
VARIANCE	-54.00	-239.00

...from Chuck Rhodes, Building & Maintenance Trustee

The All Souls UU Rental Policy/Procedure is completed and has been submitted to the Board for their review and approval. The projected date of implementation is March 21, 2016, after the next board meeting. A copy will be placed on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for everyone's review. Please forward your comments and recommendations to the any of the committee members:

Ann Kilgore, Bruce Kilgore, Mike Garber and Chuck Rhodes

Thanks to Mike Garber's brother, we were able to replace two more windows and frames in the Fellowship Hall. This project began several years ago when water was coming in one of the windows in the Fellowship Hall. These were the original windows when the church was built in 1894. To say the least, they have held up nicely. We found that the sills and part of the frames were completely rotten, so a replacement plan was established and, to date, 5 windows and frames have been replaced, leaving 4 to go. Thanks to all of the contributors.

We are starting to look into the mold situation at All Souls. A company did a cursory inspection and found that we did not have any "black mold", which is good news. It is believed that there is some mold behind the panels on the west wall in the Fellowship Hall. Further tests will be conducted to determine the level of the mold, and a treatment plan will be prepared and submitted to the Board. We will keep everyone apprised of the situation.

The Policy/Procedure for Key Control is being drafted and is intended to be submitted to the Board at the March meeting. If anyone has suggestions on this topic, please contact any committee member:

L.D. Ball, Mike Garber, Ann Kilgore and Chuck Rhodes.

...from Mike Garber, Finance Trustee

The Sun Catcher Project to benefit the Sanctuary Preservation Fund continues to move forward. 75 sun catchers are completed, boxed and available as a gift. Nine sun catchers will be displayed at All Souls on February 28. Anyone completing a pledge form for \$50.00 or more before March 31, 2016, can select a specific stained glass quilt pattern and/or color. This will be held until the pledge is paid. Pledge forms will be available at the church.

The Annual Pledge Campaign is scheduled to begin on April 1. I would like to form a Stewardship Committee to help with this project. If this is something you would be interested in serving on, please see me or any member of the Finance Committee.

The 2016 District Assembly is April 2 at the Akron Church. The keynote speaker is Rev. Susan Ritchey, Minister of Columbus North Church, speaking on "Small Batch Unitarian Universalism: Midwest Recipes for the Future of the Movement". Many workshops are offered in the afternoon. Closing worship is a service lead by Rev. Lane Campbell that includes "Bridging the Youth of the OMD into Young Adulthood". All Souls will offer sun catchers for sale in the marketplace. Look for complete information on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

...from Bruce Kilgore, Fellowship Trustee

There will not be a Pot Luck in March, as it falls on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all snack-time helpers. Please consider Fellowship Hall clean-up after coffee hour. This is an area that has needed filling several times.

We will need help and more supplies for buckeyes and cookies for the Ohio Meadville District sales table in April. Expect sign-up lists in the near future.

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Committee Chair

The kids have had lessons 1 - 3 of the UUA developed curriculum "Love Surrounds Us", which introduces kids to the 7 Principles. Each Principle is assigned a color of the rainbow as we learn it. We've covered the 1st Principle (red) which in youth appropriate language is "We believe each & every person is important". If you look over in the kids' corner downstairs, you'll see a big rainbow and the 1st Principle written in the red arch. You'll also see a few other items of interest in this corner. There are lots and lots of ribbons over there! The ribbons on the rubber bands are used during our opening and check in and help us to review the Principles we've already learned from previous weeks. There are also felt heart magnets, which we add a ribbon to each time we learn a new Principle. You may start seeing youth created bookmarks in our hymnals, complete with ribbons, of course. We'll work on these as we have time and, hopefully, make enough for everyone by the end of our 16 week class. Each bookmark will feature the Principle we are working on. Just in case you were missing seeing the kids, in March they will stay upstairs for 2 services, which will have a lot of music and maybe some dancing too!

There are seven principles that Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**

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

February is a busy month for SA/SJ, with much of the activity occurring towards the end of the month. During the early part, however, initiatives that were under way were continued. As I pursued the idea of co-sponsoring a refugee family, I discovered a potential roadblock. The State Department has a limit for placement of 50 miles from the office of the sponsoring NGO. Bellville is just outside that radius from US Together on 161 in Columbus. I'm continuing to work with Rachel Zupan to see if there may be a "work around". No final answer yet.

Speaking of Rachel, we got a chance to hear from her about the process of refugee placement when she spoke at All Souls on February 21. I hope you were able to hear her, as she did a great job of bringing us all up to speed on the complexity of this project. US Together is our best prospect for bringing the project forward. A related initiative of building a relationship with the small Muslim community in Richland County was furthered by my third visit to the mosque on February 19. Chuck Rhodes accompanied me and commented on the friendly, welcoming people he met.

Earlier in the month, Sandy Macpherson, Glenn Myers, Ed Fox and I attended the NAACP, keeping our connection to the black community strong. The Spiritual Sing and Soul Food Dinner will be on February 25 at the OSU branch. The times are 12:30 and 6:00 pm respectively. On February 28, the "Listen for a Change" program continues at Grace Episcopal Church in Mansfield at 3:00 pm, with an open discussion on the issue of race. I don't know if you will be reading this before these events, as I'm writing on February 22. In any case, I hope to have seen you at these great events!

**Peace,
Art**

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

I read something recently, which stated “even when you don’t say anything, your church is marketing”. It made me wonder what our church is projecting, even when we’re not saying anything. How can the community get to know who we really are, if we’re not telling them? Marketing is communication – what message do you want All Souls conveying to the community?

I would like to have some feedback from the members and guests of All Souls, to see what message you think is important for All Souls to communicate. We are a very diverse group, whose opinions are as varied as our ages. I think it is important for me to understand what you value about All Souls, as we look to the future, and where our focus should be when marketing our church. I encourage anyone who is interested in sharing their insights to email me at courtney.lower@gmail.com.

We have a couple of opportunities coming up to make an impression on our community, outside of the church walls. The first is on Saturday, March 19, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., when members will have a Spring Equinox Drum Circle at the Bandstand in downtown Bellville. All are invited to join in celebrating the end of winter and the coming of spring. This is a celebration of rebirth, resurrection, peace and well-being. All are welcome to join the drum circle meditation as we drum for peace within ourselves and for peace amongst ourselves.

Also, I’ve received word that fundraising efforts are under way for the Second Annual Mansfield Gay Pride event, which I believe is slated for mid-July 2016. This year’s festivities will be a 2-day event with local vendors, informational booths, entertainers and more. We will be discussing participation once again at this event, so look for more information coming soon. If you are interested in contributing to the fundraising efforts, the Mansfield Pride Association is set up to take donations online at gofundme.com.

...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

Make America Great Again. A catch phrase we hear often now a days. What does this mean to you? Do you believe it is something that can be done by a political party? I believe that if every person lived by the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist, not only would America be great, but the whole world as well. But what do you think when you hear “Make America Great Again?” When were we great and why? I think of another catch phrase made by news castor Tom Brokaw, “The Greatest Generation.” When was this and why were they great? Every generation has its share of men who fully live the art of manliness. But there may never have been a generation when the ratio of honorable men to slackers was higher than the one born between 1914 and 1929. These were the men that grew up during the Great Depression. They’re the men who went off to fight in the Big One. And they’re the men who came home from that war and built the nations of the Western world into economic powerhouses. They knew the meaning of sacrifice, both in terms of material possessions and of real blood, sweat, and tears. They were humble men who never bragged about what they had done or been through. They were loyal, patriotic, and level-headed. They were our Greatest Generation.

Here are 7 lessons from the greatest generation on how to make America great again.

Lesson # 1: Take Personal Responsibility for Your Life

While today’s generation often shirks responsibility as too much of a burden, the Greatest Generation relished the chance to step up to the plate and test their mettle. One son of a WWII Medal of Honor winner remembers of his dad and his peers, “For them, responsibility was their juice. They loved responsibility. They took it head-on, and anytime they could get a task and be responsible, that was what really got ‘em going.”

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

Lesson #2: Be Frugal

If your grandparents are anything like mine, then their house is stuffed with doodads and boxes of stuff. They have a sort of pack rat mentality, because they grew up in the Great Depression where the next canister of oats or pair of pants was not guaranteed. They learned to live on less and be grateful for the things they had, no matter how humble. It didn't take a new Xbox to brighten their Christmas morning; an orange at the bottom of a stocking was enough to knock their socks off.

Lesson #3: Be Humble

Typical of the Greatest Generation is the story of a son or daughter who finds a war medal stashed in the attic after their father passes, he having never told them about it. Even if their exploits had been brave and heroic, the Greatest Generation rarely talked about the war, both because of the difficulty in remembering such carnage, but also from the sense that they had simply been fulfilling their duty, and thus had no reason to brag.

Lesson #4: Love Loyally

The men of the Greatest Generation took their marriage vows seriously. Brokaw wrote, "It was the last generation in which, broadly speaking, marriage was a commitment and divorce was not an option. I can't remember one of my parents' friends who was divorced. In the communities where we lived it was treated as a minor scandal." The numbers bear Brokaw's anecdotal evidence out: of all the new marriages in 1940, 1 in 6 ended in divorce. By the late 1990's, that number was 1 in 2.

Lesson #5: Work Hard

In war, these men had learned to focus on the objective at hand and not to give up until that objective and the mission as a whole was accomplished. When they got home, they carried that focus over to the world of work. They didn't fall into the fallacy that Mike Rowe has been busy denouncing, that you have to find "your passion" to be happy. They could find happiness in any job they did, because they weren't just working for personal, self-fulfillment; they labored for a bigger purpose: to give their families the financial security they hadn't enjoyed growing up.

Lesson #6: Embrace Challenge

The Greatest Generation wasn't the greatest *despite* the challenges they faced, but *because* of them. Today, many men shirk challenge and difficult pursuits, believing that the easier life is the happier they'll be. But our grandfathers knew better. They knew that one cannot have the bitter without the sweet, and that true happiness comes from overcoming the kind of challenges that build character and refine the soul. The challenges they experienced made their joy all the more sweet because it was tinged with the gratitude of knowing how easily it could all have been taken away.

Lesson #7: Don't Make Life So Damn Complicated

If there's a common thread in these lessons, it's having a common sense and a level-headed approach to life. In our day, when men are obsessing about finding themselves, their holy grail of a woman, and their "passion", the Greatest Generation's uncomplicated approach to life is refreshing. They didn't go on a diet, they simply ate whole food; they didn't exercise, they worked around the house; they didn't obsess about their relationships, they just found a gal they loved and married her. They always looked sharp, but never fussed with fashion trends. They didn't mull over which appliance better suited their personality and image, they just bought the machine that worked the best. They didn't think about how to get things done, they just got 'em done. When Joe Foss, a celebrated and daring WWII pilot and then governor of South Dakota, was asked if he missed his younger days, he said, "Oh no. I'm not a guy who missed anything from anywhere. I've always been a guy who just gets up and goes." Instead of spending your time navel gazing your life away, just get up and go!

...excerpts from 7 Lessons in Manliness from the Greatest Generation by Brett & Kate McKay

So who's ready to make America Great Again?

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

March Pulpit Schedule

March 6

Speaker: Tree of Life

Title: "Everybody Wants to Change the World, but Nobody Wants to Change"

Topic: Songs told, and stories sung about life, love, and personal evolution.

Leader: Reed Richmond

Music: Ayesha Manley

March 13



Speaker: Mandy Waltz

Title: "I Hope You Dance"

Topic: Two years ago my grandma, Juanita Kilgore Shepard, passed away on my birthday - March 11. Join me in remembering her teaching that life is a dance. I will be talking briefly on the importance of dancing. Then we are going to get this place hopping to the music of David Bowie, Peter Gabriel, The Bee Gees, and as many others as I can fit into 20 minutes. So bring those dancing shoes (or ones that are easy to kick off) and let that hair down! I hope to see you here and, most importantly, I hope you dance!

Leader: Joan Richmond

Music: Trio Alla Breve



March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 19 All Souls UU Spring Equinox Drum Circle Service from 4-7 pm at the Bandstand in Bellville

March 20

Speaker: Bill Baker

Title: "Our Thoughts Are Our Prayers"

Topic: How important are the private thoughts that we have? Since there are no 'thought police', is it ok to think in any vein we choose, since no one else needs know about them? Many people act one way in public, then lose their politeness and kind identity in angry, judgmental thinking. Spiritual thinking leads to spiritual feelings.

Leader: Teasha Sargent

Music: Trio Alla Breve

Spring Begins/Living Lotus Zen Sangha Spring Equinox Zazenkai (Half-Day Retreat) from 1:30 – 6:30 pm at All Souls (upstairs). Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of the afternoon.



March 27 – Easter Sunday Flower Communion Bring a Flower – Take a Flower

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: "Direct Experience, Earth Based Spiritual Practice and Compassion"

Topic: We will explore aspects of the living tradition of human wisdom and spirituality, drawn of science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

Leader: Eric Sargent

Music: Ayesha Manley

Kenya Coin Collection

Peace, Love and Namaste to All Souls!

Living Lotus Zen Sangha March Schedule

Monday, March 14: 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.

Books: "The Gateless Barrier" by Robert Aitken Transl. by Robert Aitken Roshi

ISBN# 0865474427 North Point Press (1991)

"The Hidden Lamp" Edited by Florence Caplow & Susan Moon

ISBN# 9780861716593 Wisdom Publications (2013)

Suggested Selections to Have Read before Discussion:

"THE GATELESS BARRIER" - Case #9 - "Ch'ing-jang's Nonattained Buddha"

"A monk asked Seijo, "Daitso Chisho Buddha did zazen (meditated) for ten kalpas in a Meditation Hall, could not realize the highest truth, and so could not become fully emancipated. Why was this?" Seijo said, "Your question is a very appropriate one!" The monk asked again, "Why did he not attain Buddhahood by doing zazen in the Meditation Hall?" Seijo replied, "Because he did not."

"THE HIDDEN LAMP": "Ohashi Awakens in a Brothel" Japan, Eighteenth Century

NEED NOT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS to jump in!

Bring your thoughts, notes, insights and confusions and a friend!



Sunday, March 20 @ 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm

at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Equinox Sazenkai (Half Day Retreat)

FREE and open to all!

Please RSVP via Facebook, or email livinglotuzen@gmail.com

Living Lotus will be offering a mini-retreat (Zazenkai) around the Equinox (celebrated in the Soto Zen tradition as Higan-e). This is an opportunity for intensive focus and deepening of practice, centered around alternating periods of Sitting Meditation (Zazen) and Walking Meditation (Kinhin), Services & Dharma talks. It is shorter in duration than a weekend extended retreat (Sesshin) but still a very powerful tool for practice.

All are welcome to arrive/leave as needed - being mindful of trying to minimize disruption to others.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1:00 pm - Church Open -- Please plan to arrive in time to be seated and settled by the first sitting.

1:30 Zazen (Sitting Meditation)	2:00 Kinhin (Walking Meditation)	2:10 Zazen
2:40 Service	2:50 Tea/Coffee (downstairs)	3:10 Sutra Discussion/Talk – TBA
4:00 Zazen	4:30 Kinhin	4:40 Zazen
5:10 Discussion	5:40 Zazen	5:55 Closing

Loaner meditation cushions (Zafus & Zabutons) are available. In addition, for those who prefer or need them, upright church pews are available to sit on during the sitting meditation (Zazen) periods.

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

Feel free to invite others and/or post any questions here or email livinglotuzen@gmail.com

Looking forward to sharing this rich practice opportunity. Namaste.



**In Gassho,
Jacqueline Moore
419-589-7707**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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
Rebecca Sekavec – March 27

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SPEAKERS FOR MARCH

March 6: Tree of Life
March 13: Mandy Waltz

March 20: Bill Baker
March 27: William Humphrey

MARCH EVENTS

Adult RE: "Yeah...but" – Sunday, March 6 @ 9:00 am

Daylight Saving Time Begins: Spring Forward! – Sunday, March 13

Buddhist Book Discussion "The Gateless Barrier" & "The Hidden Lamp" - Monday, March 14 @ 6:30 pm
at Relax, It's Just Coffee

All-Inclusive Casual Get-Together for All Women – Wednesday, March 16 @ 7:00 pm

St. Patrick's Day – Thursday, March 17

Pagan and Earth Based Spirituality Group– Sat. Mar. 19 @ 4:00 pm: Spring Equinox Drum Circle at the Bellville Bandstand

Board Meeting - Sunday, March 20 @ 9:00 am

Children's RE: "Love Surrounds Us" – Sunday, March 20 During the Service

Living Lotus Equinox Sazenkai Half Day Retreat – Sunday, March 20 from 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm at All Souls

Easter – Sunday, March 27

Kenya Coin Collection & Flower Communion: Sunday, March 27

Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast - Wednesday, Mar. 30 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans-Hanley Rd.

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