

ALL SOULS MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Friends,

Spring is upon us, and the weather is calling for us to play, frolic and engage one another. Let us find hope and rebirth in the growing flowers and sustaining merriment from the rain.

Our Earth-Based Pagan Spirituality Group will be gathering on March 8 at 7:00 pm in our church. Our cluster of churches (Westfield Center, Wooster, and Canton) are extending an invitation to special events and services. On March 19 at 3:00 pm, Westfield Center is hosting Eostre.

With Racial Justice as our 2017 focus, we have several events in the works. We are piloting a dinner-discussion dialogue with hope of expanding this into a regular quarterly event - look for more details on this in April. Then in May, our Interfaith-Racial Justice Book Group in Mount Vernon will begin again, with the first class on Wednesday, May 3.

We have a number of great events coming, and it takes commitment to make these things happen. We need to work together, sharing and listening - making the community more reflective and more intentional.

Peace,

Pastor Will

PASTORAL CARE

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

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

As I sit down to write this month's article, I can't help but feel a little sad and a lot grateful, because this will be the last time I send it to Shelley. She has been an amazing Administrative Coordinator, and I think we all owe her a great deal of thanks, gratitude and credit for the success of All Souls over the last several years. She will be very much missed but, hopefully, not gone and certainly not forgotten. Thanks for the many things you have done for us.

Black History Month has been the focus for SA/SJ activities this month, climaxing with the Soul Food Dinner on February 23. There was fried chicken, ribs, collard greens, mac and cheese, sweet potatoes, corn bread and assorted pies and cakes on the menu. The entertainment included vocalists, musicians, a scene from a play and, of course, a speech reminiscent of MLK related to local issues. Racial tension was not invited and did not "crash" the party.

Two out of three discussions in the Inclusive Language series dealt with race and were well attended.

Our Racial Justice Committee has continued to meet and has big plans for the rest of the year. I emailed the #Black Lives Matter movement but have heard nothing back as yet.

Finally, does anyone know where the DVDs that the folks from FaCT left are? Ron Prosek emailed asking us to return them.

Have an active and just month, and see ya' in church.

Peace,

Art



...from Jay Gilbert - Vice President

In a few days, we will no longer have our original Administrative Coordinator. Shelley has resigned but, fortunately, the many developments and improvements of our communication system have been completed. I have heard so many positive statements as a result of Shelley's work. And I agree. We've really needed this upgrade in communications, and I want to continue. We have a committee that is resolving what we should do about our job of Administrative Coordinator.

JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Average Attendance: 40

	JANUARY	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	2,906.00	17,748.00
Offerings	351.00	2,389.90
Kenya Coin Collection	33.00	555.49
Rummage Sale	0.00	857.95
Recycle	.00	78.61
Rental Income	.00	100.00
Maintenance Fund	240.00	840.00
Sanctuary Renovation Fund	325.00	3,004.38
Minister's Discretionary Fund	.00	100.00
Other	25.19	3,019.99
TOTAL	3,880.19*	28,694.32
EXPENSES	3,502.84**	22,045.18
DIFFERENCE	377.35	6,649.14

*A monthly income of \$3,759.46 is required in order to meet annual expenses of \$45,113.50.

**Expenses Other than "Usual":

Insurance: \$535.75

CURRENT BALANCES

Sanctuary Renovation Fund - \$4,342.53

JANUARY PLEDGE REPORT

Total Units	31	
Total Pledges	25	
	JANUARY	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	3,388.00	18,760.00
Amount Received	2,906.00	18,148.00
VARIANCE	-482.00	-612.00

...from Chuck Rhodes - Building & Maintenance Trustee

Work on the sanctuary began last month and continues.

- All cracks in the ceiling and walls have been repaired, this includes the sanctuary, stage, vestibule and rear entrance/hallway.
- Ceiling in sanctuary and stage area has been painted.
- Walls in stage area are painted.
- Walls in sanctuary and rear entrance/hallway are painted to top of windows.
- Ceiling fans removed.
- Hanging lights rewired and converted to LED lights.
- Electrical wiring in the attic has been inspected and is in good condition.
- The frame holding the church bell and pulley was inspected and is in good condition.

I want to thank Jay Gilbert for his help in painting the walls in the sanctuary and stage area. Anyone wanting to help, just let me know.

Converting incandescent/florescent lights to LED lights has begun by retrofitting 6 of the 4 ft. florescent fixtures to accept the LED tubes. (kitchen, storeroom and furnace room). The lights in the nursery accepted the LED tube without retrofitting. All screw base fixtures accepted standard LED bulb replacement (15). The conversion of the (5) - 8' fixtures and tube in the Fellowship Hall should be completed by early summer.

The presentation by Ryan Walling, representative of Third Sun Solar, regarding installing solar power at All Souls UU Church was extremely informative and is something many believe we should pursue. It is compatible with our 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part".

Until next month, BE GOOD TO YOURSELF.

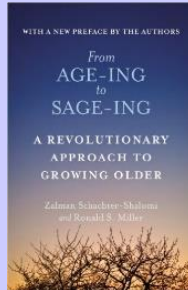


...from Liz Hansen - Religious Education Trustee

YOUTH RE

Upcoming classes will be announced.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



The Adult RE Class, “From Age-ing to Sage-ing” by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Ronald Miller, will continue on Sundays at 9:00 am: March 5, 12 and 26. There is no class on March 19. The class is facilitated by Joan Richmond. The authors introduce the concept of "eldering", or mentoring, each other. They contend that we are at the cutting edge of the next stage in our evolution, and that elders will bring us into this more compassionate, intuitive, and caring era.

If you are interested in facilitating an Adult RE program, please see Liz Hansen. I'm open to any and all ideas!

...from Bruce Kilgore – Fellowship Trustee

Sunday, March 26, will be our next covered dish carry in. A big thank you to all who provided some delectable coffee hour snacks.

As always, we could use a few more people to sign up for Social Hall and bathroom clean-up after church or during the week. It only takes 30-60 minutes.

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17!



...from Kristy Mandeville – Finance Trustee

At the board meeting on February 19, it was brought up that we should pay our dues to the UUA in full instead of a partial amount. As is, our share is \$60 per member. We have 50 members on file, which would be \$3,000. If you have a preference of paying the full amount or partial, please offer me your idea. This will be useful at budget making time. Thanks for your cooperation.

...from Brian Moore – Pulpit & Worship Trustee

TRANSITION

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” -Winston Churchill

Change can come in many forms in our lives. It might come forcefully like a tidal wave or creep along incrementally like a glacier. It might come in the form of devastating tragedy, difficult choices, broken relationships, or even new opportunities. But even though change is difficult, many times it's also for the best. Accomplishing anything great in life requires change that pushes us beyond our comfort zones.

Prayer in Time of Transition Meditation by Julianne Lepp

Dear Goddess, Mother, and Source
Your womb is all of creation
Your Love is mother's milk
Please grant us support during this transition
Please help us move through this next stage
Please carry us in arms of support, grace and love
So that we may bring new life to this ministry
So that we may grow as a community
So that we may give birth a whole new way of being together.
We ask this in your Holy, and Sacred name.
Amen.

MARCH PULPIT SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 5

Speaker: Christopher Reynolds, M.Ed.

Title: “Mni Wiconi - Water is Life: How to Pray with Water”

Topic: For the cultures here before colonization, water is called *the first medicine*. Right relationship with water is right relationship with all life. The Clear Fork Mohican River is as healing as any river mentioned in the sacred texts that praise waters from other parts of the world: Jordan River, Ganges, etc. Praying in Bellville can be strengthened by praying with our own water. This is a 'How to...' with stories, songs, and examples.



WATER CEREMONY OFFERED AFTER THE SERVICE

Leader: Glenn Myers

Music: Ayesha Manley

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

Sunday, March 12
Daylight Savings Time Begins



Speaker: Mandy Waltz

Title: "The Mothman and Me"

Topic: In West Virginia folklore, the Mothman is a legendary creature reportedly being seen in the Point Pleasant area from November 12, 1966, to December 15, 1967. The Mothman was introduced to a wider audience by Gray Barker in 1970, and later popularized by John Keel in his 1975 book "The Mothman Prophecies", claiming that there were supernatural events related to the sightings and a connection to the collapse of the Silver Bridge. The Mothman is the subject of regional folklore and popular culture. The 2002 film, "The Mothman Prophecies" starring Richard Gere, was based on Keel's book. An annual festival in Point Pleasant is devoted to the Mothman legend. With the aid of a picture slide show, Mandy will tell her own story of the Mothman and how it has affected her 21 years later.

Warning: Some images may be disturbing, but it will all end in love - and a few principles will be thrown in as well.

Leader: Brian Moore

Music: Trio Alla Breve

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day



Sunday, March 19

Speaker: Rev. James "Seamus" Dillard

Title: "Easter, Ostara, and Other Indo-European Rites of Spring"

Topic: Flowers are in bloom, and in every corner of our world nature comes alive. Spring is in the air, and we celebrate the growing strength of the sun and ritually welcome the earth mother back from her well-deserved winter slumber. In many cultures, there are rituals and rites to celebrate spring. Let's explore some together.

Leader: Reed Richmond

Music: Ayesha Manley

March 20 – Spring Begins



Sunday, March 26

Kenya Coin Collection & Potluck

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: "A Walk with the Principles:

Topic: A look through seven principles, how they relate to our own ways of experiencing the stranger and peace-building.

Leader: Karen Gotter

Music: Trio Alla Breve

Peace, Love and Namaste to All Souls

Living Lotus Zen Sangha March Schedule

BOOK STUDY DISCUSSION

Monday, March 13: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Please note the time change.

Relax, It's Just Coffee - 105 N. Main St., Mansfield, OH



All are invited for coffee and informal discussion over a case in this Zen book.
Look for others with books!

NEED NOT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS to jump IN!

BOOKS

"The Gateless Barrier"

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 Reading: Case #21

Yun-men's Dried Shitstick

"A monk asked Yun-men, "What is Buddha?" Yun-men said, "Dried shitstick".

"The Hidden Lamp"

"Miaodao's Falling into the Hole" – pg. 283

"A monk asked Miaodao, 'When words can neither describe reality nor reach the understanding of the hearer, what do you do then?' Miaodao said, 'Before you have defecated, you have already fallen into the hole.' She went on, 'Don't ask too many questions. Even if you are very fluent in debate, and even if you are clever enough to overturn mountains, these skills will do you no good at all in the realm of the Dharma. Originally, before the Buddha appeared, there was nothing whatever to be done.'"

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

LIVING LOTUS ZEN SANGHA SITTING AND SERVICE

Monday, March 27: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church



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 need to sit.

SCHEDULE

6:00pm-6:30pm - Church Opened - Fellowship & Intro to Meditation for Beginners
6:30pm-6:50pm - Zazen (sitting meditation)
6:50pm-7:00pm - Kinhin (walking meditation)
7:00pm-7:20pm - Zazen – (second period of Zazen)
7:20pm-7:30pm - Liturgy - Heart Sutra, Chanting and Prostrations
7:30pm-8:00pm - Sangha Discussion & Business

Upcoming practice opportunity hosted by Crooked River Zen Center located in Cleveland, led by Sensei Dean Williams. Soto Zen Priest Ben Connelly of the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center will visit Cleveland (location TBA) the final weekend in April. There will be a public talk Friday evening, an all-day zazenkai Saturday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm and a half day on Sunday from 8:30 am until Noon. Sensei Dean will keep us posted as more details fall into place.

Brief Beginner's Guide to Zazen & Kinhin:

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

In gassho,
Jacqueline Moore

All Souls Dinner Dialogue Event

Friday, March 24, 2017 6:30pm – 9:00 pm

Location: TBD, Bellville, OH

Please join us for an evening of breaking bread, personal growth and spiritual understanding within our community.

Although we use the term “dialogue” to describe the evening, the event is not a traditional dialogue. The evening’s dialogue follows a structured philosophy known as **Appreciative Inquiry**. **AI** refers to a specific kind of guided conversation in which people are asked and answer questions in a way that leads to listening and appreciating, rather than to agreeing or disagreeing, liking or not liking what someone says, or comparing or contrasting what’s being said to one’s own personal experience. The questions do not seek facts and opinions so much as examples, stories, and metaphors from people’s lives in a way that points to generative and joyful moments illustrating vitality, life and possibility.

The goals of the conversation are:

- to create a safe environment and encourage people to go deep in their sharing
- to teach neutrality in interpersonal encounters
- to provide the experience of being heard
- to create a learning environment

This is not a typical conversation or inquiry.

The conversation occurs over dinner. The questions that prompt the sharing are found in a deck of “dialogue cards”. One by one, guests draw a card from the deck, read the question aloud, take 15-20 seconds to think about their answer, then answer the question in about 5 minutes. Other guests listen to the answer. No one interrupts the person speaking. No questions are to be asked of the person while they are sharing, or before or after their answer (except for “can you repeat that, I didn’t hear you”). There is no “back and forth” conversation or commenting at this point in the evening.

When one person is finished, the next person draws a card and the process is repeated until everyone has answered a question. No two people get the same question. The point of the exercise is to **keep people at the level of personal experience, feelings and sharing – NOT at the level of perceptions, opinions, beliefs, theories, assessments or policies**. The structure of “no interruptions” and “no commentary” minimizes the human tendency to listen *only in order to* respond with our own story, belief, experience, or whatever. Instead, **people share when it is their turn, and listen the rest of the time with a view toward simply appreciating and truly hearing what others are expressing**.

After the “cards period”, a break happens – usually to serve dessert, refill beverages, or to use the restroom. Then, the group returns to the table for a debriefing conversation. The “debrief conversation” occurs sequentially as well – just like the cards conversation. One at a time, each participant shares what they learned as they listened to people, their experience of listening, any “ah ha” moments, how this will affect them now, etc. Again, no asking questions of each other, interruptions or commentary. Sequential sharing only for 3-5 minutes each. If time permits, the moderator may open up another round with the cards in which those who wish may draw and answer another dialogue card. Often, however, the energy has changed and people are ready to engage each other more freely.

The moderator makes the transition to the “free period” in which people are free to visit, share and converse with each other in an unstructured, non-moderated way. During this time, people have the back and forth conversations that were prohibited during the exercise. Often, people will exchange information because they want to get together again at a future time.

After 15-20 minutes, the moderator brings people back together to conclude the evening by asking people to complete evaluations, giving them any information packets or other materials that have been provided by the sponsoring organizations, making any announcements, and thanking them for participating. *Script developed by Amazing Faiths, LLC

The All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church will be hosting dinner dialogues quarterly for the 2017 year. If you wish to be a part of one of our dinner dialogues, have questions regarding this program or would like to volunteer to host an event in your home/place of worship, please contact our dinner dialogue coordinator, Hayley Young, at hayleyscherer@blue.com. You may also sign-up at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Bellville, starting March 5, 2017.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Tom Tappan – March 7
Kirsten Pscholka Gartner – March 8
Che Sahara – March 9
Jay Gilbert – March 10
Mandy Waltz – March 11

Johnny Witschi – March 11
Brian Moore – March 12
Pam Ellis – March 20
Rebecca Sekavec – March 27

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SUNDAY SERVICE @ 10:30 AM

SPEAKERS FOR MARCH

March 5: Christopher Reynolds M. Ed.
March 12: Mandy Waltz

March 19: Rev. James "Seamus" Dillard
March 26: Pastor William Humphrey

MARCH EVENTS

Adult RE – "From Age-ing to Sage-ing" – Sunday, March 5 @ 9:00 am

Water Ceremony with Christopher Reynolds – Sunday, March 5 Following the Service

Pagan Group – Wednesday, March 8 @ 7:00 pm

Daylight Saving Time Begins – Sunday, March 12

Adult RE – "From Age-ing to Sage-ing" – Sunday, March 12 @ 9:00 am

Buddhist Book Discussion - Monday, March 13 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm at Relax, It's Just Coffee

St. Patrick's Day – Friday, March 17

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

First Day of Spring – Monday, March 20

All Souls Dinner Dialogue Event – Friday, March 24 – 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

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

Adult RE – "From Age-ing to Sage-ing" – Sunday, March 26 @ 9:00 am

Kenya Coin Collection – Sunday, March 26

Potluck – Sunday, March 26 Following the Service

Living Lotus Zen Sangha – Monday, March 27 @ 6:30 pm

William Humphrey, Pastor
will.allsouls@gmail.com
740-263-1171
website: allsoulsuohio.org

Ann Kilgore, Board President
419-961-6870
email: allsoulsohio@gmail.com

*"Carry on, love is coming, love is coming to us all."
Carry On – Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young*