

April/May 2014

**Upcoming
Speakers &
Events**

April 20

Flower Communion
Rev. Karen Bruno

+*April 27

Dr. Walter Kania

May 4

Rev. Karen Bruno

May 11

Dr. Walter Kania

May 18

Dean Williams

May 25

John Gardner

+WCW; Kenya Coins

*Potluck Lunch



All Souls UU Newsletter

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville

25 Church Street • Bellville, Ohio 44813 • 419-886-3497

www.allsoulsuuohio.org • Also on Facebook at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Opening Words & Meditations

FLOWER COMMUNION

The Flower Communion: A Service of Celebration for Religious Liberals by Reginald Zottoli

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. The format had to be one that would not alienate any who had forsaken other religious traditions. The traditional Christian communion service with bread and wine was unacceptable to the members of his congregation because of their strong reaction against the Catholic faith. So he turned to the native beauty of their countryside for elements of a communion that would be genuine to them. This simple service was the result. It was such a success that it was held yearly just before the summer recess of the church.

The flower communion was brought to the United States in 1940 and introduced to the members of our Cambridge, Massachusetts, church by Dr. Capek's wife, Maja V. Capek. The Czech-born Maja had met Norbert Capek in New York City while he was studying for his Ph.D., and it was at her urging that Norbert left the Baptist ministry and turned to Unitarianism. The Capeks returned to Czechoslovakia in 1921 and established the dynamic liberal church in Prague; Maja Capek was ordained in 1926. It was during her tour of the United States that Maja introduced the flower communion, which had been developed in the Prague church, at the Unitarian church in Cambridge. Unfortunately, Maja was unable to return to Prague due to the outbreak of World War II, and it was not until the war was over that Norbert Capek's death in a Nazi concentration camp was revealed. From this beginning the service has spread to many of our Unitarian Universalist congregations and has been adapted along the way.

People were asked to bring a flower of their choice, either from their own gardens or from the field or roadside. When they arrived at church a large vase stood waiting in the vestibule, attended by two young members of the Church School. Each person is asked to place his or her own flower in the vase. This signified that it was by their own free will they joined with the others. The vase that contained all the flowers was a symbol of the united church fellowship.

After the service, as people left the church, they went to the vase and each took a flower from the vase other than the one that they had brought. The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community, it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community.

By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our Search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us. Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else - thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community. This communion of sharing is essential to a free people of a free religion.

April & May Calendar

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL ACTIVITIES
ALL ACTIVITIES ARE AT THE CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

April

20 Sunday 10:30 am Flower Communion Service (see story on 1st page)

Speaker: Rev. Karen Bruno Topic: What Might Resurrection Mean to a Liberal Thinker?

Is there any hope of connecting with the ancient story in our modern world? How might we find meaning in the metaphor of resurrection? Can we find spiritual renewal during this time when so many Christians are celebrating their faith story?

Bio: Karen Bruno is part time pastoral care minister at Bellville All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. She attended Drew Theological School and was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 2002. She also works at Flying Horse Farms, a camp for children with serious illness, in Mount Gilead. She is thrilled to have found two amazing places with which to share her knowledge, experience and to build community. Karen lived in Ohio for her high school and college years and then after many years in Colorado returned in 2011 following her early retirement from Denver Human Services. In addition, Karen has worked as church pastor, hospice chaplain and religious educator. She and her partner live in Bellville.

24 Thursday 7:30 pm Highland of Ohio Concert: Occidental Gypsy. Occidental Gypsy is pioneering the sound of World Gypsy music. Their mélange of up-tempo, high-energy rhythms of gypsy swing, melded with the catchy melodic hooks of pop and complex structures of jazz, delivers a thrilling auditory experience to listeners.

Tickets: \$12 in Advance - \$15 Day of Show. To purchase tickets, call 419-884-5116.

26 Saturday 9 am Spring clean-up day at All Souls until Noon (lunch provided). The more workers we have the quicker this will go. Rain date is May 3.

27*# Sunday 9 am Special Board Session to discuss visioning and board organization ideas

10:30 am Speaker: Dr. Walter Kania Topic: An Other Dimension of Reality: What is reality? Is it matter? Is it spirit? Is it neither and how do we know?

Bio: Dr. Walter Kania is a licensed Clinical and Consulting Psychologist. He holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He has maintained an active Clinical and Consulting practice. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Texas Christian University. He is ordained in the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He has served on the faculties of Texas Christian University, Bethany College, The Ohio State University, and The Renaissance Academy of Florida Gulf Coast University. He is the author of four books, "Healthy Religion," "A Believable Bible," and "A Credible Christianity." His newest book "Psychology and The New Paradigm for Religion, Spirituality Without Sin and Salvation" is scheduled to be available in 2013. He conducts seminars and is a frequent speaker in the fields of Psychology and Religion in Christian and Unitarian Churches.

VISIT FLYING HORSE FARMS! The chance you have been waiting for. Come and tour where Karen 'works.' We will have a church outing to Flying Horse Farms in Mount Gilead following the Pot Luck. This camp is part of the Serious Fun Network started by Paul Newman. Camps for children with serious illness.

28 Monday 6:30 p.m. Sangha Sit & Dharma Talk (contact Jackie Moore or just show up)

May

4 Sunday 10:30 am Rev. Karen Bruno

11 Sunday 10:30 am Dr. Walter Kania

18 Sunday 9 am All Souls Board Meeting (all are invited)

10:30 am Dean Williams

25*# Sundy 10:30 am John Gardner

**Whole Church Worship/Kenya Coins Collection #Potluck Luncheon*

Birthdays for late April and for May

April 20 Teasha Sprague May 2 Lowry Gilbert

21 Joan Rader 5 Sam Kilgore

28 LD Ball 17 Margaret Lin

22 Doug Wilson

23 Michael Garber

26 Leah Ehrmantraut



Rev. Karen's Pastoral Care Page!

VISIT FLYING HORSE FARMS!! The chance you have been waiting for!! Come and tour where Karen 'works'! We will have a church outing to Flying Horse Farms in Mount Gilead on **April 27th** following the Pot Luck. This camp is part of the Serious Fun Network started by Paul Newman. Camps for children with serious illness.. If you want a preview visit www.flyinghorsefarms.org.

Visioning Our Future

We had a successful day "Visioning" and generated pages of ideas for the future at All Souls. We also selected the 9 things we thought we can or NEED to accomplish in the next year. Here they are:

1. Pastoral Care Team – Create of team of Church Members who can do some of the care of other members, in coordination with Rev. Karen.
2. Speakers for R.E. – Invite some of our speakers to lead the Adult Education class the same day they are speaking and advertise it to the public to generate interest in our church. (plus enjoy the speakers for an extra hour)
3. Members for R.E. – Ask some of our members to lead Adult Education about things they are passionate about, i.e. Meditation or New Age, etc.
4. Something at Bellville Fair – Possibly expand the use our current table at the Bellville Fair to include information about our church.
5. Urgent Repairs (Board) – Find a way to raise money needed for window repairs (upstairs and downstairs)
6. Revisit Music – Discuss the cost of the music in church, to see if it continues to be the number one priority for spending.
7. Encourage Members to be Speakers – If more of our members speak on Sunday morning we get to know them better and it saves the church money!
8. Evaluate Effectiveness of Fundraisers – Discuss if the two annual fundraisers need to be changed in some way to refresh them and possibly generate more visitors and income.
9. Celebrate Accomplishments – We have achieved so much in the past several years and we don't talk about this often enough and celebrate how much we HAVE done!

Please feel free to volunteer to help with ANY of these!!

NEW MEMBER CLASS SOMETIME IN MAY: If you are interested in attending a new member class please RSVP to Karen. If there is interest Karen will hold a class after church either May 4th or 18th PLEASE RSVP which date works best for you!

NEW OFFICERS NEEDED! Whether you are brand new or 'part of the furniture', you are needed to serve on the Board! Most folks on the Board now are 'retiring' for a little while so some new folks can have a turn! Stepping down will be Reed- President, Chuck – Treasurer, Jenny-Secretary, Cheryl –Trustee and Joan- Pulpit supply. **THESE ARE ALL VERY IMPORTANT AND WE NEED YOU!** Please contact Reed or one of the folks on the nominating committee if you might be willing to serve. Board elections are June 1.

CAMP HAS ARRIVED!

My time at camp will soon be increasing. Therefore my attendance at church on Sunday's will be decreasing. In Spring there are 4 weekend camps, then 2 months of living at camp in the summer, followed by 4 weekend camps in the Autumn. PLEASE KNOW YOU CAN CALL ME if you need to talk or to schedule a time to meet.

NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Board meetings will be moved to the third Sunday in May to accommodate Rev. Karen Bruno's other work schedule.

The Board approved April 26 for Spring Clean-up (May 3 rain date). Please see the sign-up sheet that will be going around. Projects include scraping and painting downstairs windows and painting the vestibule as well as just general cleaning and sprucing up.

Liz Hansen, Shelley Mauk and Bruce Kilgore are working on a Wedding Information brochure to make sure people know our church is available for rent for weddings (especially non-traditional ones).

Judy Shaffer welcomes input on the Sign Committee that needs a drawing to submit to the City for approval. We are looking for some way to frame our 7 Principles (3x4' sign). We are also looking to install recycle bins for church attendees for drop-off between scheduled quarterly recycle days (next date is June 22).

Brain Moore has done a nice job reorganizing the Highway Clean-up (starting its 20th year at All Souls). Look for that in late May or early June.

Election of new officers is June 1. Rummage and Luncheon is July 12.

If you have not talked with Shelley (pastoral care secretary) please see her for updates and other information. Let me know if there's any way I or a Board Member can assist you. -- Reed Richmond, Board President, 419-631-7912 (cell).

LIVING LOTUS SANGHA

Next class: Mon. April 28 - 6:30pm, All Souls, Sangha Sit & Dharma Talk

Feedback Survey

As we move into a season of rebirth and renewal, we are interested to hear your feedback on how the Sangha can best help support you and your practice. We have discussed different ideas on sitting schedule locale etc. but this is our community so we wanted to take this moment to ask you to take a few minutes to complete our brief 5 question anonymous survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/sFGYQM3F>

We will close the survey April 30th, so please try to complete it before then. We will publish the results in May's newsletter and use those results to determine if we need to make any changes to our regular schedule.

Intro to Meditation Class

The free "Intro to Meditation" class to the Mansfield community has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th. The class offering will continue during Summer but the day, and time will likely be moved beginning in June. If you have interest in these sessions please contact fortunasandwiches@gmail.com with days/times you would prefer.

Find us via facebook: Living Lotus Zen Sangha <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Living-Lotus-Zen-Sangha/221565108160> or visit our website: www.livinglotus.org

Thank you, *Jackie Moore*

March 2014 Financial Report

Revenue	February
Open Plate Offering	\$272.00
Pledges	2,109.00
Mission Offering	66.50
Special Services Income	50.00
Total	2,497.50
Expenses*	3,189.42
	- 691.82

Expenses this month included \$780.74 for building repairs. All other expenses were normal monthly expenses. Overall for the year, the church is operating at a deficit of -\$377.07.

Average Attendance in March: 42; Average for the Year: 44.

March Pledge Report

Pledged	Paid	Difference
\$2,490	\$2,111	- \$379

2013-2014 Fiscal Year to Date

Pledged	Paid	Difference
\$16,852	\$16,791	- \$61

2013-2014 Pledges

Church pledges were collected in July for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, but there is never a deadline for renewing, starting or increasing your pledge for the work of the Church. Please see Mike Garber for more information.

Mike notes that at the halfway point in 2012/2013 there was \$9597 in pledges and this year that figure was \$11,525. Great job, everyone.

Religious Education Opportunities

This Summer, we'll have a multigenerational Religious Education program which will use the book “ *Muhammad: The Story of a Prophet and Reformer*” by Sarah Conover. Although the book was written for ages 12 and up, it is suitable as a read aloud for ages 10 and up. For this three session program, we will use the Discussion Guide created by the UUA. If you are willing to facilitate this session (the format looks pretty simple), please let Liz Hansen know. The starting date has not yet been determined, but will probably be in June. We'll have books available for purchase in the next month, if you need to borrow a book due to financial hardship, please talk with Liz. From the UUA website:

“Readers of the book, *Muhammad*, encounter a man very different from the figure often presented in Western popular culture. Conover, co-author of *Ayat Jamilah: Beautiful Signs: A Treasury of Islamic Wisdom for Children and Parents*, draws from biographies, the Quran, and hadith (Muslim tradition). She relates the story of a radical prophet who challenged the rich and powerful, guided his community of followers through a dangerous time of persecution and exile, formed alliances with people of different beliefs, and preached that one should ‘love for humanity what you love for yourself’.”

Highlands of Ohio Concert at All Souls: Occidental Gypsy, Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Occidental Gypsy is pioneering the sound of World Gypsy music. Their mélange of up-tempo, high-energy rhythms of gypsy swing, melded with the catchy melodic hooks of pop and complex structures of jazz, delivers a thrilling auditory experience to listeners.

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C.O.M.E. (Committee On Ministry Explained)

We listen. That's the main task of our COM. It was created during a time of difficulty that has receded. That is its origin. Our COM is a group of four members that can be contacted with any concern from a member of our church family. It is not just a committee on /for the minister, but a committee that is approachable and listens to concerns and ideas that effect the church family as a whole. Got an idea for a new program? Bring it. Got a concern about services? Bring it. Got a concern about a new idea or issue you would like the church to address? Bring it. We are here to listen. We care about the welfare of the church family and we can be a first step for you to voice your care and concerns as well. Please feel free to contact us before/ after services or by phone (reasonable hours please). We are your COM. We listen. We care. Grow in Peace.

Cheryl Church 740 501-0626

Ann Kilgore 419 961-6870

Brian Moore 419 589-7707

Doug Wilson 419 756-3529

WEDNESDAY EVENING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- “Being Liberal in a Conservative Place” – May 7 (last meeting until fall)
- “Women’s Spirituality” - May 21 (last meeting until fall)

Pulpit Schedule for 2014

Our speakers for the rest of 2014 are filled in save for a few open spots late in the year. Having most of the dates filled will be helpful for the person who takes over Pulpit Chair in July. I will share all my sources and files and tips with this wonderful person. **Might it be you?** -- *Joan Richmond*

Just a note: Our guest speaker for April 13 was on own Karen Gotter who did a wonderful job. Attendance was great at 60 and we had many children and guests. A special guest at Children’s Moment was a live lamb (thanks to Deb and Clarence) and Cheryl read the real story of “Mary Had A Little Lamb.” A great service by everyone involved!

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville

Adult & Children
RE at 9 a.m.
Sunday Service
at 10:30 a.m.

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44813

419-886-3497

www.allsoulsuohio.org
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All Proceeds to
All Souls Unitarian
Universalist Church

Next All Souls Recycle Day: Sunday, June 22

Please save and then bring your items for recycling to church. A truck will be there for collection from 10 a.m. - Noon. Below is the list of items Milliron accepts. Please keep them separated by categories:

- ALUMINUM BEVERAGE CANS: Please rinse thoroughly.
- STEEL CANS: Please rinse thoroughly, and remove labels.
- PLASTIC: Please rinse thoroughly, and throw away lids. Only plastic bottles and jugs with the recycle emblem stamped on their bottom: #1 PETE - such as pop bottles (colored and clear) #2 HDPE - such as laundry products, milk, juice, and water jugs.
- NEWSPAPER: But NO books, magazines, phone books, or mail.
- CORRUGATED CARDBOARD: But NO boxboard or chipboard. WE DO NOT TAKE GLASS!



Sunday Music

All Souls is fortunate to have many talented musicians playing for Sunday services. Ayesha Fry plays the historic Felgemaker organ on alternate Sundays. The Carol Bernhardt trio plays the other Sundays.

Whatever Sunday you visit, music is always a listening pleasure.

Contacting Rev. Karen Bruno

email: revkarenbruno@gmail.com • phone: 419-612-9318

Spirit First Pastoral Care: Non-Traditional Weddings and Funerals

Requests for Pastoral Care or Church Concerns, please consider contacting first a member of the Committee on Ministry: Cheryl Church (740-501-0626); Ann Kilgore (419-961-6870); Brian Moore (419-589-7707); or Doug Wilson (419) 756-3529.

ALL SOULS BOARD: *President:* Reed Richmond; *Vice-President:* Brian Moore; *Treasurer:* Chuck Rhodes; *Secretary:* Jenny Bartsch; *Religious Education Chair:* Liz Hansen; *Pulpit Chair:* Joan Richmond; *Trustees:* Cheryl Church, Judy Shaffer, Karen Gotter, Bruce Kilgore

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to 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.