

**December  
2012**

**Upcoming  
Speakers**

*December 2*

**Rev. Joan Van  
Becelaere**

*December 9*

**Rev. Karen Bruno**

*December 16*

**Dr. Walter Kania**

*\*December 23*

**Church Brunch, 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service 7 p.m.**

**December 24: Church open  
for Hymn Sing 7 p.m.**

*December 30*

**Rev. Karen Bruno**

***\*Whole Church Worship  
& Kenya Coin Collection***



# *The All Souls Reporter*

**All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville**

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

<http://allsoulsohio.org> • Also on Facebook at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

## *Opening Words & Meditations*

### **Christmas Meditation** by Christine C. Robinson

Let us join our hearts and minds together in the spirit of meditation and prayer.

May these moments of quiet lead us to the heart of the season, which is peace.

May we breathe deeply of peace in this quiet place, relax into its warmth, know we are safe here, and let us open our hearts to the evening's story.

Like the wandering couple, may we find that our greatest trials issue forth from our greatest joys.

Like the harried innkeeper, may we find ways to be of help to others.

Like the lumbering beasts, may we be silent witnesses to the unfathomable glory of life.

Like the shepherds on the hill, may we know that we need never be afraid.

Like the journeying wise, may we always have the courage to follow our stars.

Like the angels, may we cry peace to a troubled world.

Holy one, to these prayers for our own transformation we add our prayers for all of those who suffer and grieve this evening. May they find comfort. And we add our prayers for all those involved in war; may they be safe. And may this season of peace and goodwill nudge our world towards its ideals, for then will Christmas truly dawn.

Amen.

# December Calendar

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

## December

**2 Sunday** 9 am Adult RE: Our American Roots: UUism in North America

**10:30 am Speaker: Joan Van Becelaere Topic: "Spiritual But Not Religious"**

According to a number of recent surveys, it seems that the fastest growing religious group in the U.S. is the "spiritual but not religious." But what are the beliefs and characteristics of people who adopt this designation? What does this growth mean for American religion as a whole and specifically for Unitarian Universalism?

The Rev. Joan Van Becelaere is the District Executive of the Ohio-Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the staff Lead for the Central East Regional Group of UUA districts, which covers a territory from West Virginia to New York and from Ohio to Washington DC/Northern Virginia. She lives in Columbus, OH with her spouse, Jerald Wagenman, and three very friendly cats.

*Rev. Van Becelaere will be giving a brief talk about the OMD following coffee and conversation downstairs.*

**9 Sunday** 9 am Adult RE: Our American Roots: UUism in North America

**10:30 am Speaker: Rev. Karen Bruno Topic: Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights.**

Celebrated by people of the Jewish Faith since the 2nd Century. What is it all about and what can we learn from it for our daily lives?

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. Now retired from her full time career, she is thrilled to be working at Bellville All Souls. She lived in Ohio for her high school and college years and then returned to Ohio in 2011 following her early retirement from Denver Human Services, where she worked for 21 years. Many other jobs in various programs bring her total to about 30 years in Social Service agencies of all types. In addition, Karen has worked as church pastor, hospice chaplain and religious educator. She and her wife Chris are in the process of moving back to Mansfield.

**10 Monday** 6:30 p.m. Living Lotus Sangha

**16 Sunday** 9 am Adult RE: Our American Roots: UUism in North America

**10:30 am Speaker: Walt Kania Topic: Christmas is all about the Divine Within."**

The real message is that the Divine is borne within who we are. Christmas (the presence of the Christ Spirit) is a part of who we are. We take time each year to remind ourselves of our Divine birthright and to celebrate that essence in our lives and the lives of others. *Note: This is Dr. Kania's last talk before he leaves for Florida. He won't be back until April.*

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.

**23\* Sunday 10:30 am Church Brunch and potluck with visit from Santa**

**7 pm Evening Christmas Service (with Kenyan Coin Collection)**

**24 Monday 7 pm Christmas Eve Hymn sing (no formal service, church will be open)**

**25 Tuesday Merry Christmas**

**30 Sunday 10:30 am Speaker: Rev. Karen Bruno**

*\*Whole Church Worship/Kenya Coins Collection*

## Birthdays for December

1 Alex Brown	9 Cynthia Phipps	25 Cicely Willow
2 Laura Crabtree	15 Cheryl Church	Bartsch
8 Jamie Back	17 Mel Wagner	28 Sandy Macpherson



## November 2012 Financial Report

### Revenue

Collections		
*Open Plate Offering	\$	373.50
Pledges		1,213.00
Peace Retreat registration		35.00
Winter Harvest		524.00
Holiday Bazaar		912.50
Huruma Foundation (Kenya Coins)		93.00
Hurricane Sandy UUA Relief		138.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,289.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>2,514.26</b>
	+	254.74

\*Note: Open offerings were lower by \$511.00 from the monthly average. Part of that may be due to the sizeable donations for the Winter Harvest. We would have been short this month without the bazaar income.

Average Attendance in November: 40

Maintenance cost included \$511.00 for tune-ups of the organ and furnace.

### November Pledge Report

Pledged	Paid	Difference
\$1,620	\$1,220	-\$400 <24%>

### 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

Pledged	Paid	Difference
\$8,434	\$7,689	-\$745 <8%>

### 2012-2013 Pledges Received

19 Units	27 Members	\$20,104
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There is still time to turn in your pledge for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Please see Mike Garber for more information.

Monthly and Fiscal Year financial reports are from Treasurer Chuck Rhodes. Please see Chuck if you have any questions. The Pledge report is done by Pledge Chair Mike Garber.

## UU Justice Ohio Network – UUJO

UU Justice Ohio (UUJO) offers social justice activists an exciting new opportunity to unite in an effective network coordinating liberal religious advocacy in our local communities, the state, and beyond. UUJO will facilitate collaboration between our congregations as well as partnerships with other Ohio social justice organizations promoting social, economic, environmental and racial justice that fosters the dignity of all, through education and by organizing concrete action and public witness with and on behalf of marginalized groups and individuals.

An online form is provided for individuals to register as members at <https://ohiomeadville.wufoo.com/forms/m7m4m7/> to receive periodic UUJO news updates, to identify issues of interest, and to volunteer time. All 41 Ohio Congregations have also been asked to join UUJO by formally designating an individual liaison to register at <https://ohiomeadville.wufoo.com/forms/m7m4m7/>.

### Seeking “This I Know” Speakers

Based on the beloved “This I Believe” series, I am seeking members of our own congregation to do “This I Know” talks. This is an opportunity for UUs to share a key insight from their lives with us. What is an important life lesson for you? How did you come to learn this important knowing? Tell us the story. Your talk need only take 10 to 20 minutes. It may or may not involve audio-visual elements.

Please contact Joan if you think you’d like to schedule a “This I Know” talk. Maybe scheduling it will motivate you to go ahead and get it ready! :D You can reach Joan at: joan\_richmond(at)me.com, 419-631-7911

### Living Lotus Zen Sangha

We meet the **2nd & 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm** at the church, everyone is welcome to join us. **NOTE: No 4th Monday in December!**

Beginning in September and continuing through the next several months, Sensei Dean Williams will be focusing the Dharma talks on the new “Living by Vow: A Practical Introduction to Eight Essential Zen Chants and Texts,” text by Shohaku Okumura.

For more information please visit our website at:

[www.livinglotuszensangha.com](http://www.livinglotuszensangha.com)

or find us on facebook under Living Lotus Zen Sangha.

Thank you, Jackie Moore

# All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville

Adult & Children

RE at 9 a.m.

Sunday Services at  
10:30 a.m.

25 Church St.  
Bellville, Ohio  
44813

419-886-3497

Website is being redone:  
Look for us on Facebook

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## What's Up for Christmas?

If you are unfamiliar with our Christmas schedule, this is how we do things: (1) The Sunday before Christmas (Dec. 23 this year), we don't have a regular Sunday 10:30 a.m. service. Instead we have a potluck brunch with the church providing the main course. All members and friends of the church are invited to attend and there is usually a visit from Santa. (2) Then at 7 p.m. that same day, we gather again for a special Christmas celebration service. (3) On Christmas Eve (Monday this year) the church will be open at 7 p.m. for anyone who would like to come and join in hymn singing. We don't have a traditional Christmas Eve service because so many of our members are visiting family for services from their traditional religious background. *Peace.*

### Friends:

I have received the below email notifying me that the first consignment of books has been loaded into a crate and is headed for Kenya.

As you all know, this project started 4 years ago. Mansfield City School District, North Central State College, Galion and Ontario schools, Charis Fellowship- OSU, Bellville UU church, Berea Baptist Church, children, and many families responded with generosity to my appeal for books. My estimate is that over 25 thousand books are on their way to Kenya now.

Please, join me in prayers for the safe arrival of those books.

I still have over 20 thousand books in my family barn in Lucas. People responded to my appeal with great generosity. Saji and Lisa's family in Cleveland have paid for the shipment of this first consignment.

I pray that God will provide us with the means for shipping the remaining books.

The books will transform the lives of many children in Embu District, Kenya.

Till Huruma builds its own literacy center in the village, the Administration of the Japanese School where the majority of our sponsored children go has donated a facility for storing the books and making them accessible to all children.

I thank you all, May God bless you: **Aloys**

**Here is the letter:** *Dear Aloys,*

*We are very excited to give you the final confirmation that the Textbooks and T-Shirts for the Kenyan orphanage were loaded onto the container and picked up this afternoon. In total, there were 584 cases of Textbooks and 27 cases of T-Shirts!*

*Per your request, I have attached photos detailing the loading process. The expected date into the Mombasa, Kenyan port is January 15th, 2013. As the container continues to Kenya, I will send updates.*

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

## 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.*