

ALL SOULS AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Friends,

UUA first president, Rev. Dana McLean Greeley said, “In most other churches, theological quandary is personal. It is not institutional. With us, on the contrary, theological quandary is not personal, it is institutional. We have set at the heart of our church, not a creed or a statement of faith, but the principle that theological questions shall be kept open. We, therefore, have no creed and can have none.”

With Summer in full effect, with our governmental agencies questioning their roles, with our search for meaning, we are asked the questions of Environmental Justice... the theological quandary...the Venn diagram of Humanity within Nature and the Divine.

When I was a child in southern Ohio, impoverished and rural--I went to school, we couldn't drink the water for the lead in it. When I went in college for coursework and internship with the Dine, on the Navajo Nation, I went into the schools and we couldn't drink the water for the lead in it. As an adult when I was an assistant principal at an elementary school in Cleveland, Ohio, we couldn't drink the water for the lead in it.

Environmental justice affects us in so many ways--it affects our bodies, our blood, our minds, our spirits--like the cognitive functions affected from Lead exposure, the economics of a life—compounded by a system that separates us, and alienates us.

The intersectionality of race, economic scarcity oppressing folks for economic gain, and concurrently we know that those who exploit the ecological resources--those who see Nature as other, also find humans to other, to exploit, to dehumanize and commodify. These sins ooze into the culture, like toxic waste, like an oil slick on a river, like trying to breathe through smoke.

People in power are scared of expressed conflict and try to ignore it or run from it. I do this too. We blame the messenger. Instead of looking at the perfection we try to compose, we need presence--we need to be real.

I have seen changes in people. I have seen day and night changes in individuals, and I have seen the generational change that can move mountains. I see individuals making difficult choices to be vulnerable and present, to learn from one another... the vulnerability to know that you are enough. That is our Gospel, our Faith: “You are enough.”

We have to keep working, because we all suffer--some more than others--from White Supremacy Culture. We have to work, and to work hard to remedy this ill. Liberation is not easy, Even, hope is not easy. It isn't some pollyanna rose-colored-glasses viewpoint. It is hard and takes time. It is something we must cultivate, like the crops we plant and harvest for sustenance. Hope is sustenance for our souls.

It was said that

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; but I am grown, I put an end to them childish ways. It is foggy now, but that weather will clear. Now I know only in part; soon I will know fully...We have work to do to Keep the Faith steadily, to hope unswervingly, and to love extravagantly. And the greatest of these is Love.”

Faith, Hope, and Love.

Peace,

Rev. 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 Joanne Gillum - Treasurer

JUNE TREASURER'S REPORT

Average Attendance: 52

	JUNE	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	2,395.00	32,218.00
2018-2019 Pledges	250.00	(520.00)
Offerings	600.00	6,160.11
Kenya Coin Collection	104.00	1,247.19
Rummage Sale	0.00	0.00
Recycle	0.00	118.20
Maintenance Fund	0.00	(204.26)
Sanctuary Renovation Fund	0.00	(1,761.92)
Solar Panel Fund	0.00	707.56
Rental Income	0.00	150.00
Minister's Discretionary Fund	0.00	100.00
Convocation Account	(617.66)	0.00
Glenn Myers Memorial Fund	0.00	635.00
Other	0.09	444.22
TOTAL	2,731.43 *	39,294.10
EXPENSES	3,730.10 **	38,783.78
DIFFERENCE	(998.67)	510.32

* A monthly income of \$3,378.33 is required to meet the annual budget of \$40,540.00.

** Expenses other than "usual":

Gay Pride Event \$500.00; Altar flowers \$175.00; Pastor lodging at UUA \$298.00

JUNE PLEDGE REPORT

Total pledges	27	
Total units	34	
	June	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	2,361.00	32,006.00
Amount Received	2,395.00	32,218.00
VARIANCE	+34.00	+212.00

As the terms of officers are limited by our bylaws, I am seeking someone who will assume the office on July 1, 2019 so that training can occur during the interim. — *Joanne*

...from Brian Moore—Pulpit & Worship Trustee

GREETINGS FROM THE PULPIT CHAIR

"Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others." — John F. Kennedy

"The purpose of religion is to control yourself, not to criticize others." — H.H. The Dalai Lama

We believe in toleration of religious ideas. All religions, in every age and culture, possess not only intrinsic merit, but also potential value for those who have learned the art of listening.

PULPIT SCHEDULE

***August 2nd Thursday –

Tao Bridge @ The Old Bag of Nails 6-8p

Sunday, August 5

Speaker: Michael Anderson

Title: "Sacred Earth—Mother Earth"

Topic: The heritage preserved by the original peoples reveals to us our own primordial inheritance as spiritual beings, whatever our backgrounds. Each of us must come to terms with our place in this world as spiritual beings. To do so is to enter into the unutterable richness of a deeper understanding; to refuse is to close oneself off from our spiritual inheritance and from embracing our Mother Earth as sacred.

Leader: Reed Richmond **Music:** Shelley Mauk

Sunday, August 12

Speaker: Dr. Walter Kania

Title: "Your Psychology Is Your Biology—
THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE"

Topic: Rene Descartes said, "I think, therefore I am." He recognized the relationship between his ability to think and the reality of his existence. A profound insight. He also saw the body as only matter and the mind as the "Ghost in the Machine." What he didn't know is that your Psychology is what created your Biology. The old paradigm of human biology maintained that your genetic structures were responsible for your biology, your state of health, your proneness to illness or disease and ultimately for your behavior. You had a free pass and could blame everything on the genes that were given you through your parents. Sorry! That won't work anymore. The new biology tells us what the psychological paradigm of the power of our thoughts and beliefs has been telling us all along. The kind and quality of thoughts and beliefs determines the nature of the chemicals that flow in your body. Our choices to rehearse positive or negative thoughts and beliefs determine whether our organs and

bodies receive life nourishing chemical ingredients or poisonous contaminants that create illness and disease. Guess what? We are indeed creators, not victims. The new biology and the new science of Quantum Physics are showing us a world we have never understood.

Leader: Kristen Ellis **Music:** Trio

Sunday, August 19

Speaker: Cara Mia

Title: "Perfect Love & Perfect Truth: Misinformation
in Magickal Community"

Topic: People have always been misinformed about Paganism and Witchcraft, but today, in the times of "fake news" and wondering whether the information being given to us is even real, people are growing even more concerned about how we can expect to educate about minority religions, particularly such widely varied and personal paths as we find in modern Paganism and Witchcraft. There's no Holy Book of Rules to go from—it depends on who we're talking about, so... What's *True* and what's not? People are always wondering how we can answer questions and concerns from people outside Paganism. But we also have questions and concerns from inside our Pagan/Witchy realm, such as what to do when people within our communities are the ones spreading the misinformation. How do we maintain a cohesive "community" (and what does "community" mean, anyway?) when we don't always have Perfect Love and Perfect Trust for what people are doing or saying? Where lies the Truth, "Perfect" or otherwise?

Leader: Kristen Ellis **Music:** Shelley Mauk

***Tao Bridge @ Old Bag of Nails 6-8p

Sunday, August 26

Speaker: Jacqueline Moore—

Palm Park Pet Blessing Service

Please make sure your pet is up to date on immunizations, and please check with your vet regarding the flu vaccines.

Title: Pet Blessing Service and The Great Koan, Your Dog

Topic: A KOAN BRINGS ABOUT a change of heart—its value is to transform the mind.

We take time once a year with a formal ceremony to give thanks and bless our companions in life—cats and dogs, birds and chickens, turtles and fish and so much more! This ceremony also acknowledges that our lives are made fuller and richer by the creatures that inhabit the Earth with us, not just those that live with us. As we express gratitude and celebrate the joy our beloved pets and all animals bring to our lives, may we also contemplate the boundless Dharma gate of Mu.

Leader: Fonda Kendrick **Music:** Trio

*** POTLUCK & KENYA COIN COLLECTION

...from Art O'Leary – Finance Trustee

All Souls Family,

This month I have some good reports and some nagging. So nagging first. For those of you who pledge weekly (like myself) please remember that there are 52 weeks in the year, so some months have 5 weeks. For those of you who have not made a pledge for this year please reconsider. Even if you feel that you can't afford enough to mention, we would appreciate hearing from you. Maybe you aren't sure what your financial situation will be over the coming months, you can always let us know of your changes — no questions asked. By making a pledge we know you are thinking of what you can do to forward the work of the church. Of our 70 members we have received only 27 pledges representing 35 members; we can do better than that.

Now the good reports. We ended the last fiscal year with a surplus of about \$500. The pledge total so far is up almost 10% — thanks for your generosity! The solar panel project has been a tremendous success. We are saving powerplant emissions everyday.

Peace,
Art

...from Chuck Rhodes – Maintenance Trustee

The solar energy project has been in operation since mid March. The following data reflects the success of this energy system.

June electric bill reflected usage of -98 kwh, and the July was -69 kwh. So during this time period we were distributing electricity to our neighbors on the grid. Though we did not use any electricity from AEP, we have to pay for the use of their equipment and services, which still makes our bill much less than in past years.

Another benefit is to the environment. To date we have saved 4,366 pounds of Co2 emissions, which is equal to 110 trees planted.

As of July 24th we have generated 2.82Mwh of electricity. WELL DONE, ALL SOULS.

The installation of the acoustic panels in the Fellowship Hall is completed, and there appears to be noticeable reduction of noise echo in the Hall. We are still evaluating the effectiveness of these panels with the intent of adding more panels if needed.

Thanks to Joyce Fenton, the new table arrangements have reduced congestion during coffee hour when trying to get to a seat at one of tables. The "sea shore" decoration is delightful. WELL DONE, JOYCE.

The grounds are looking very neat and tidy thanks to Ed Fox's weekly mowing.

I am so happy that Rob Gibson has agreed to take over the operation of the P.A. System. Please give him your support in his new role.

Future projects are:

- clean and organize storeroom and shed
- trim hemlock tree
- paint/caulk exterior frames of stain glass windows
- paint the new window frames interior and exterior
- seal church exterior
- paint shed
- install demand hot water heater

If you have any suggestions or want to be a part of the maintenance team, please let me know.

— *Chuck*

...from Jim Abel – Fellowship Trustee

Greetings everyone. First, a big thank you to Margaret Lin for her service as Fellowship Trustee during a challenging time. Margaret went above and beyond to help me transition to the new role. I'd also like to thank L.D. for asking me to serve. As your new trustee I appreciate the friendships I've made so far and look forward to many new ones to come.

Secondly, I'd like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to the Mealtrain.com website if you're not already using it. It's an easy and extremely useful tool for organizing the church activities, tasks, and pot-lucks. If you have any questions about it, please text me at (614) 284-3972 or talk to me during fellowship, and I'll be happy to answer them.

Thanks and enjoy your summer!

Jim

...from Karen Gotter – Religious Education Trustee

It's likely been another quiet week in Lake Wobegon, but it sure hasn't been for the RE Trustee at All Souls! Fortunately, I've seen more people showing interest in assisting with class and curriculum ideas, which has got me excited about different things we can do with our Religious Education program over the next year.

Art O'Leary has been leading another excellent adult series based off Ta-Nehisi Coates' most recent publication, *Between the World and Me*. I wasn't able to attend the first few sessions, so on the recommendation of one of our members, I downloaded the audio version of the book to listen to while driving out to Colorado. It was very meaningful to hear the author reading this letter to his son, and the larger audience of readers. Last year, I began Desmond Tutu's audio version of *The Book of Forgiving*, and at the time, I thought it would be an excellent exercise to experience as a class. After hearing Mr. Coates' rendition of his text, I realized we should take more opportunities to enjoy audio and/or video resources during our adult RE classes.

I do not have anything specific planned as the follow up to *Between the World and Me* and would like to hear from the congregation about any subject matter that is calling to them at the moment. As usual, I tend to give more of a focus to our children's program, and I would like to share that I have

been experimenting with a system to help organize the subject matter, activities, and assistant leaders for our kids' experiences. My thought was to have a monthly theme, but break it down into a "Sunday of Service," a "Story-Telling Sunday," and an "Art-E Sunday" (with one Sunday leftover as a free-for-all!) Realizing that one of our strengths as a small congregation is our ability to be flexible, I am hoping that a little bit of structure will allow the kids to absorb concepts and ideas a little better, and to let the adults know what to expect so everyone feels more comfortable jumping in to help out.

As always, I want to give a BIG thanks to those helpers who stepped up to lead the classes during my adventures out West, to those who offer ideas and supplies, those who continue to tell me that I've been doing a great job (even when I don't feel it!) and most of all, those who continue to participate and encourage their children to take part in our classes. We couldn't do this without you!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ann Kilgore– 3, Hayley Young– 3, Camden Carson– 4, Ruth Moody– 4, Sylith Waltz– 4, Fate Christian– 9, Linda Wilson– 10, Sam Young– 13, Jonah So– 20, Mary Ann Weeks– 23, Lillian Sprague– 24, Joan Richmond– 25, Darius Darmody– 28

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 pm Vegan Potluck	2 6 pm New Member Class	3	4 11:00 am Mansfield Pride Parade
5 9 am Adult RE: <i>Between the World & Me</i> 10:30 am Michael Anderson: “Sacred Earth—Mother Earth”	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9 am Adult RE: <i>Between the World & Me</i> 10:30 am Dr. Walter Kania: “Your Psychology is Your Biology” Noon New Member Class	13 5:30 pm Buddhist Book Discussion@ Relax, It’s Just Coffee	14	15	16	17	18
19 9 am Board Meeting 10:30 am Cara Mia: “Perfect Love & Perfect Truth: Misinformation in Magickal Community” Noon New Member Class	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9 am Adult RE: <i>Between the World & Me</i> 10:30 Jacqueline Moore: “Palm Park Pet Blessing Service” & Kenya Coin Collection 11:30 am Potluck Noon Bike ride	27 7 pm Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Medi- tation @ Mind Body Align	28	29 10 am Questions for Your Answers @ Bob Evans on Hanley Rd.	30	31	

ALL SOULS BOARD OFFICERS

L.D. Ball – President Jay Gilbert – Vice-President
Joanne Gillum – Treasurer Tim Hicks – Secretary

TRUSTEES

Art O’Leary – Finance Chuck Rhodes – Building & Maintenance
Hayley Young – Social Action Brian Moore – Pulpit & Worship
Karen Gotter – Religious Education Jim Abel – Fellowship
Melanie Seaman – Media, Advancement & Growth