

ALL SOULS DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Friends,

We are awaiting. The advent season is a time of anticipation. We await Christmas. We await winter. We await the economic implications of both of those. We await. But, whilst waiting, there is so much to do!

There are many of us living in fear, in scarcity and in isolation. Regardless of religions and faith, our country has always pushed toward serving as the bible calls “the least of these.” Our communities are searching - some of our friends are searching for jobs and income, trying to make ends meet, especially when the cold makes heating bills rise. Holidays push us to buy more and to consume more.

In this season, it is easy to forget those who are isolated from others. Whilst some of us have large families to call for the holidays, some of us do not. We have families of one and families isolated geographically or otherwise from their extended families.

Let’s invite each other to be together, to celebrate together, to serve together. Regardless of age or class or whatever divisions stand in our way. There is so much egg nog, let’s share it with each other!

I’m asking each of you to ask someone new to be a part of your holidays. We can invite someone to light a candle at Bodhi Day on December 8, or the first night of Chanukah on December 24. We can invite someone to a holiday party. We can have cocoa by the Yule Log, or a drink on the Solstice. Christmas parties and New Years are other ways to share and include. As we wait, let’s be together. Let us “eat, drink, and be merry...”, because our divisions are meaningless vanities, preventing us from love.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas,

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 Jay Gilbert - Vice President

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

<u>1</u>	The inherent worth and dignity of every person
<u>2</u>	Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
<u>3</u>	Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
<u>4</u>	A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
<u>5</u>	The right of conscience & the use of the democratic process within our congregations & in society at large
<u>6</u>	The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
<u>7</u>	Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Our church has a Conflict Committee that deals with disputes between church members and other disputes about church operations. The first potential conflict that we faced this year involved a speaker and an audience member with a noisy child. One question about our seven principles that arose was, "are we violating the inherent worth and dignity of this person" by suggesting that she and her child leave? Was this "acceptance"? How much did we have to tolerate in order to be inclusive? Those are some of the questions. Sorry, I have no answers.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT Average Attendance: 44

	OCTOBER	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	2,711.00	10,932.00
Offerings	473.40	1,397.90
Kenya Coin Collection	98.65	295.39
Rummage Sale	140.00	166.03
Recycle	78.61	78.61
Rental Income	200.00	200.00
Fundraising Expenses Account	0.00	0.00
Sanctuary Renovation Fund	849.18	1,407.68
Minister's Discretionary Fund	100.00	100.00
Other	994.13	1,494.50
TOTAL	5,644.97*	16,072.11
EXPENSES	3,828.14**	12,839.96
DIFFERENCE	1,816.83	3,232.15

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

****Expenses Other than "Usual":**

Organ Tune-Up - \$240.00

Copier Supplies - \$100.54

Return Security Deposit - \$100.00

\$3,925.04 was transferred from Checking to

Savings. These funds were Sanctuary

Renovation Funds, gifts from Elizabeth

Richmond and Bazaar proceeds. The Sanctuary

Renovation Fund is now at \$5,697.52.

OCTOBER PLEDGE REPORT

Total Units	32
Total Pledges	26

	OCTOBER	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	3,408.00	11,374.00
Amount Received	2,711.00	11,332.00
VARIANCE	-697.00	-42.00

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

As I sit here writing this month's article on Thanksgiving morning, I can't help but think that one of the things I am most thankful for is you, all of you. All Souls and everyone associated with us has become so important to me and a source of meaning in my life. So thank you everyone!

The end of the year and the holiday season is upon us and, as usual, things are very busy, especially for SA/SJ.

The book study in Mt. Vernon wrapped up on November 16, but the inspiration to continue "the struggle" proceeds. We will have a meeting of our Black Lives Matter group on December 6 at 6:00pm at the church. We will have a lot to talk about, including a new book study, the NAACP election and our growing relationship with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. I'm sure the national election will come up.

Jay and I visited ISMA (the local Mosque), and there will be another visit December 16 at 1:00pm. The address is 110 N. Mulberry, and women are reminded that a head scarf is requested. Come and join us for a cross cultural experience.

The next meeting of the "Cafe Central" (formerly Cafe Q) group will be in January - date to be determined.

This year's holiday food drive will began November 27. Non-perishable food items, especially flour, sugar, oil, paper products, including toilet paper, paper towels and disposable diapers, will be collected. Also a cash collection will be taken. This money will be leveraged by BNOG on an 8 to 1 ratio through the Cleveland Area Food Pantry! The "official" close of the drive will be December 18, and Chuck Rhodes has volunteered to deliver the items to BNOG. If you have never visited them you should. It's an impressive local effort.

I wish everyone a happy and safe season.

Peace,

Art

...from Bruce Kilgore – Fellowship Trustee

Can you believe that 2016 is almost over? I think the end of the year is a good time for thank yous. So, here is my list. Thanks to all who signed up for coffee hour snacks. Many of you did so many times. Thank you to all who signed up for kitchen clean-up. Some people were frequent fliers in this category also. A big thank you to those who took care of social hall/bathroom clean-up. Chuck Rhodes and Glenn Myers took care of this job many times. Also, grateful appreciation to all who filled in and helped with kitchen and social hall cleaning.

Santa Claus will visit the children of All Souls following the service on Sunday, December 18.

Now, for 2017, maybe we could get more people to take a turn with snacks for coffee hour. If you don't bake or your schedule is too busy, perhaps pay someone for your turn. Fellowship Committee kitchen clean-up is a good way of getting to know other people better. Social hall and bathroom clean-up does not take much time and could be done at a later time or date.

Our next potluck will be the last Sunday of January 2017. I am planning a brunch for this occasion.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

...from Chuck Rhodes - Building & Maintenance Trustee

The yearly maintenance on the two furnaces was performed on November 15. No problems reported and all filters replaced.

The leftover items from the Holiday Bazaar were donated to C.H.O.I.C.E. (Creating Healthy Options in Children's Education). They are a non-profit business that assists youth and their families concerning their educational needs.

Fall cleanup is complete, and we are ready for winter. A special thanks to Reed Richmond who volunteered to handle snow removal again this year. I believe this is either the 4th or 5th year Reed has done this.

We will begin looking into two programs that focus on reducing our electrical usage:

1. Converting all lights to LED lighting.
2. Install solar energy.

We have proposed plans that address these issues. The LED project may be one which we can do ourselves. Except for the fluorescent fixtures, we should be able to replace existing bulbs with LED lamps. The solar energy project will require a contractor to develop a plan of implementation. The Third Sun Solar Co. has submitted a proposal, which will be presented to the board and congregation on a Sunday after coffee and conversation. The proposed date is January 15, 2017. This does not obligate us to this company, and we can look at other companies if we so choose. Third Sun Solar installed solar power at Smith Hardware in Bellville, and they highly recommended them. All decisions on these projects will be board approved.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these two projects, please let me know.



...from Liz Hansen - Religious Education Trustee

YOUTH RE



We have finished 6 of 10 sessions of an amazing UU curriculum on rainforests called ***Celebrating Rainforests***. The curriculum was developed for kids ages five through middle school, although kids outside this age range are also welcome. ***Celebrating Rainforests*** is a celebration of rainforests and a look at our 7th principle, which in language more suited to our youth reads, "We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things." This 10 session class has been very FUN! So far, we have made mini-rainforests in a 2 liter bottle, giant blue morpho butterflies, rainforest animal masks, rainforest plants and leaves, and we've had a rainforest tasting party. In future classes, we'll explore ways to help the rainforests, make rainforest t-shirts and even create a rainforest downstairs just in time for our Rainforest Celebration, which the entire congregation is invited to. The Rainforest Celebration will feature foods from the rainforest and other activities during Coffee & Conversation on January 15. We hope you'll be able to join us!

ADULT RE

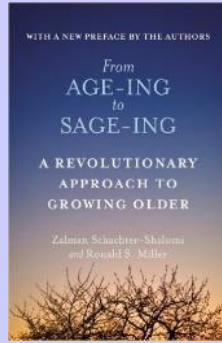


Just one session left of Sacred & Secular Meditation. On December 4 at 9:00 am, we welcome James Shrewsbury to discuss Vipassana Meditation, which is a 2,500 year old meditation technique that instructs one and guides one into her/his deepest insight (know thyself). Jim will share his ten day experience attending a Vipassana meditation retreat. We'll have a few weeks holiday break for Adult RE and start again January 8 (see below for details).



We've had two fun sessions of Beginner's Belly Dance. This class starts around noon and only lasts a half hour. This class is for true beginners and is much more about body awareness than dancing (at least for the next few months as we explore the different moves). So if you think "I'm not a dancer" or "I can't dance", I invite you to stop by a class. At this point, you can stop in at any class, we aren't building from previous classes. Our teacher for this class is a video, although if you ever meet a local belly dance instructor please let me know! We'll take a break on Sunday, December 18 and Christmas Day but, other than that, if two students are present we'll have class!

...Religious Education cont.



Looking forward to January 8 at 9:00 am. Joan Richmond will be facilitating "From Age-ing to Sage-ing" by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Ronald Miller. 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. There are a few copies left on the bookshelf at the bottom of the stairs. If we need more, please let Liz Hansen know. This class will run every Sunday through March, except the 3rd Sunday of each month due to the board meeting. Joan has asked that you read the first chapter before your first meeting.

...from Karen Gotter – Pastoral Care Trustee

Teasha gave me the idea to take some time after coffee and conversation on **Sunday, December 4**, to get cards filled out for the holiday season. We have some that have been donated that we can use to send to members and friends of the congregation, and if you want to bring some of your own to work on, why not? Group pressure!

Last year, a really nice sized group of kids and adults went caroling at Country Meadows, an assisted living community outside of Bellville. This year, we are going to go to Primrose on Millsboro East Road in Mansfield. It's been home to Joan Rader, one of our long-term members, for some time now, and we thought it would be nice to bring All Souls to her! We'll head over on Saturday, December 17, to bring some Christmas cheer to the residents there. Plan to meet at the church at 11:30 am or meet us at Primrose at Noon. Wear something festive! Bring your talent! Have some fun! Also, Marqua shared some really fantastic treats last time...but that shouldn't be your *only* reason for coming. Reminders will be announced during services, in the weekly email update, and posted on Facebook.

Pastor Will brought up at our last board meeting that winterizing can be daunting, both physically and financially. There is a group of us willing to help you get ready for the cold - whether it's getting things cleaned up outside or helping connect with resources for energy assistance. Let a board member know if you want help or want to help!

A few of us went to visit Ruth Moody on November 15, and it was a really fantastic visit. She sends her love and thoughts to all of us. Our next trip will be December 11, so if you'd like to come say hi, please let Karen know! (I can take 3-4 people in my car, and I'm happy to drive. She only lives a few minutes outside of Bellville, so it's pretty easy to get there and back after coffee hour.)

Even though our first-Sunday bike rides have been put on hold for winter, Liz is helping us fellowship in what may be a first for a Bellville sanctuary: Beginner's Belly Dancing! It is more challenging than you might think, and it's fun, and it's happening after the service for the next several weeks. Join us! HOWEVER: If you're in the sanctuary during belly dance time, you're dancing! No audience, please!

...from Brian More – Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

The ensuing drip feed of Trumpian absurdities and offenses has had a desensitizing effect. We know that Trump is a racist, a misogynist, an authoritarian, a narcissist and a demagogue. A demagogue or rabble-rouser is a political leader in a democracy who appeals to emotions, fears, prejudices, and ignorance of the lower socioeconomic classes in order to gain power and promote political motives. Demagogues usually oppose deliberation and advocate immediate, violent action to address a national crisis; they accuse moderate and thoughtful opponents of weakness.

There are now, and have been over the last 18 months, many people living in fear. Mexicans, Muslims, and the LGBT community. Real horrifying fear that most of us will never have to experience. What a privilege it must be to be able to look past a presidential candidate's racism because it won't affect you. The UUA and our President, Peter Morales, has made it clear that we do not support Trump. So has the Pope and the Dalai Lama.

In the wake of the election results, many have turned to Unitarian Universalist congregations as a place of healing and reflection. Many have announced that the church would be a sanctuary for anyone who feels threatened by the Trump administration. I feel our church should be as well! Especially to the LGBT community, who are faced with a vice president who has passed discriminatory laws against these groups and has gone as far as trying to pass a law to have gays arrested if they apply for a marriage license. We need to stand together in a positive way. Much like wearing of safety pins to symbolize solidarity. I don't wear a safety pin, but my message is I will do my best to stop any bigot that messes with you! America will never be great as long as there are people living in fear. The way to make America great is by standing on the side of love. Not hate.

Our work as Unitarian Universalists has just been challenged. It is going to be much harder now that social justice and civil rights have been set back. Our first principle has always been a challenge, now "The inherent worth and dignity of every person" includes those that voted differently than you did. "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Now more than ever we need to heed the "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love."

December Pulpit Schedule

December 4

Advent Candle #2: "LOVE"

Speaker: Dr. Dar Turner

Title: "The Biped Buffalo"

Topic: The role of relinquishment in healing.

Leader: Brian Moore

Music: Trio Alla Breve

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

December 11

Advent Candle #3: "JOY"

Speaker: Dr. Walter Kania

Title: "Christmas is about YOU - The Light of the World"

Topic: What would Jesus say about Christmas? He wouldn't complain about 'Happy Holidays,' rejoicing, gift giving, Santa, holly, jingle bells, or mistletoe. He would simply want you to know that Christmas is not about him. He would want you to know what his message was. His message was simply for you to celebrate that you are the light that shines in the world. He would want you to understand all of the symbols of Christmas as honoring the awe and mystery of life and how important you are. He would want you to honor your life in this present time and place as a gift of love that you would extend everywhere. He would want you to make life on earth joyous by shining the light of who you are wherever you are. He would want you to light a candle and become a light in the darkness.

Leader: Reed Richmond **Music:** Ayesha Manley

December 18

Advent Candle #4: "PEACE"

Speaker: Scopas S. Poggo, Ph.D.

Title: "My Life as a Young Boy in Africa - Learning in the Light and Teaching in the Dark"

Topic: Despite my poor eyesight, I was determined to be at the top of my class. My parents were farmers, and they advised us, "You must choose either the pen or the hoe" we all chose the 'pen'! My choice of the pen ultimately brought me to America, where I was able to publish my book, "The First Sudanese Civil War: Africans, Arabs, and Israelis in the Southern Sudan, 1955-1972" (2009). The book catapulted me to the next rung of the ladder in academia. I am honored to be an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University, Mansfield campus.

Leader: Karen Gotter **Music:** Trio Alla Breve

Kenya Coin Collection

December 21 – Winter Begins

Saturday, December 24

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: "Saturday Night Christmas Eve"

Topic: Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Leader: Bruce Kilgore **Music:** Ayesha Manley

Sunday, December 25

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Merry Christmas / Happy New Year!

Peace, Love and Namaste to All Souls

Living Lotus Zen Sangha December Schedule

Living Lotus Special Extended Rohatsu "Bodhi Day" Silent Sitting

Thursday, December 8 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church



To commemorate the traditional Buddhist holiday of the Buddha's enlightenment, celebrated December 8, we will have a special traditional holiday celebration of an extended silent sitting. There will be no service or dharma talk, but silent alternating sitting & walking for the entire length of the time.

The church is opened at 6:00 p.m. Please enter from the side door. We sit upstairs. Loaner meditation cushions (Zafus & Zabuton) are available, as well as pews for those that prefer/need to sit.

Special Rohatsu Schedule

6:30pm-6:50pm - Zazen (Sitting Meditation)
6:50pm-7:00pm - Kinhin (Walking Meditation)
7:00pm-7:20pm - Zazen
7:20pm-7:30pm - Kinhin
7:30pm-7:50pm – Zazen
7:50pm-8:00pm – Kinhin
8:00pm-8:30pm - Zazen

Brief Beginner's guide to Zazen & Kinhin:

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

BOOK STUDY DISCUSSION

Monday, December 12: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
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!

Suggested Selections to Have Read before Discussion

"THE GATELESS BARRIER"

Translation by Robert Aitken Roshi - ISBN# 0865474427 North Point Press (1991)

"Case #18 – "Tozan's Three Pounds of Flax"

"A monk asked Tozan, "What is the Buddha?" Tozan answered, "Three pounds of flax!""

"THE HIDDEN LAMP" – Caplow & Moon

NEED NOT TO HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS TO jump iN!

In gassho,
Jacqueline Moore

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Cynthia Phipps – December 9
Cheryl Church – December 15
Art O’Leary – December 17
Mel Wagner – December 17

Sandy Macpherson – December 28
Hilary Patterson – December 29
Krista Gerhart – December 31

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SUNDAY SERVICE @ 10:30 AM

SPEAKERS FOR DECEMBER

December 4: Dr. Dar Turner December 18: Poggo Scopas
December 11: Dr. Walter Kania December 24: William Humphrey

DECEMBER EVENTS

Adult RE: “Vipassana Meditation” – Sunday, December 4 @ 9:00 am
Youth RE – “Celebrating Rainforests” - Sunday, December 4 During the Service
Beginner’s Belly Dance Class – Sunday, December 4 Following Coffee & Conversation
Holiday Card Writing – Sunday, December 4 Following the Belly Dance Class

Conversation on Racial Justice – Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:00 pm

Living Lotus Special Extended Rohatsu “Bodhi Day” Silent Sitting – Thursday, December 8 @ 6:30 pm

Beginner’s Belly Dance Class – Sunday, December 11 Following Coffee & Conversation

Buddhist Book Discussion - Monday, December 12 @ 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Relax, It’s Just Coffee

Caroling at Primrose – Saturday, December 17 – Meet at the church at 11:30 or at Primrose at Noon

Board Meeting - Sunday, December 18 @ 9:00 am
Kenya Coin Collection – Sunday, December 18

Youth RE – “Celebrating Rainforests” – Sunday, December 18 During the Service
Santa Claus Visits All Souls – Sunday, December 18 Following the Service

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Saturday, December 24 @ 7:00 pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS! NO CHURCH – Sunday, December 25

Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast - Wednesday, December 28 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans - Hanley Rd.

New Year’s Eve – Saturday, December 31

William Humphrey, Pastor **Ann Kilgore, Board President**
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740-263-1171
website: allsoulsuohio.org email: allsoulsohio@gmail.com

.....*And to all a good night*