

ALL SOULS JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Friends,

Happy New Year!!! We are so blessed by so many people and so many different things happening! We are working together to improve our world, build relationships, and advocate for Justice.

All Souls is looking to the other UU congregations within our region. We are looking to help and share resources. In the wake of the dissolving of the Ohio-Meadville District, we are looking to be in touch with our cluster--it used to be called WACKY. (People keep saying that it is an acronym for Wooster, Westfield Center, All Souls, Akron, Canton, but I still am not seeing it. I think we just wanted to call ourselves wacky.) But, we are approaching this as sister-parishes and begging the question: how can we help each other? The ministers will be meeting this month, with a few board members meeting next month. I am really excited to share and grow together.

On Monday, January 16, at 7:00 pm at First Congregational UCC, 200 N. Main St., Mount Vernon, we will take part in an inter-faith service, lifting up the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. We are doing this with the Mount Vernon area churches that our Racial Justice book group (First Congregational UCC, Gay St. UMC, St. Paul Episcopal), but also expanding to include more faiths and congregations (added are Apostolic Faith Church, Kenyon College, Harcourt Parish Episcopal and Mt. Vernon Zen Community). Join us for advocating for Justice, and acknowledging the prophetic voice of Dr. King's legacy.

The New Year brings many challenges. We have a dialect--hope and fear. In the new days of 2017 we are hopeful, yet we know situations are coming that challenge us to advocate for those without a voice--ending genocides around the world, bringing reconciliation to rivalries, extending rights to more and more people, and comforting those experiencing a loss. Let us ring in the New Year by sharing our church and community as a safe place - for those who are weary we are sanctuary, for those without a voice we are sanctuary, for those in need we are sanctuary.

May It Be So...and Amen,

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

Holiday greetings to all. The response to the request for information about volunteer activities was overwhelming! Lots of us are involved in a great variety of activities and projects. Everything from vital church functions to animal rescue to tutoring programs to veteran's service to social services to homeschooling to a variety of nature/conservation projects to the NAACP to church fund raisers to listening to Glenn! Many folks reported "lots" or "many" or all year; so I guess any kind of quantitative report isn't possible. Silly me! But having a number is overrated anyway, and all your efforts are valuable in ways that can't be counted.

I want to make racial justice a principal theme for 2017. The MLK Day service will be in Mt. Vernon at the First Congregational UCC at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 16.

The NAACP monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm, but the location is uncertain; I'll let you know. I'm planning to return to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church on Sunday, January 22, at 10:30 am. More on this as plans develop. The church is located on North Main St. in Mansfield.

The next meeting of our Racial Justice Team will be Wednesday, January 4, at 6:00 pm at All Souls.

I visited the Mosque on December 16, but I'm not sure I'll make it in January. The snow and ice make it very scary for those of us with mobility issues, since the sidewalk is quite steep.

I wish everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season!

Peace on Earth and Good Will to All,

Art

NOV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Average
Attendance: 51

| | NOVEMBER | Y-T-D |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Pledges | 2,068.00 | 13,000.00 |
| Offerings | 310.00 | 1,707.90 |
| Kenya Coin Collection | 82.25 | 377.64 |
| Rummage Sale | 731.86 | 897.89 |
| Recycle | .00 | 78.61 |
| Rental Income | .00 | 200.00 |
| Fundraising Expenses Account | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Sanctuary Renovation Fund | 469.00 | 1,876.68 |
| Minister's Discretionary Fund | .00 | 100.00 |
| Other | .14 | 1,494.64 |
| TOTAL | 3,661.25* | 19,733.36 |
| EXPENSES | 2,706.91** | 15,546.87 |
| DIFFERENCE | 954.34 | 4,186.49 |

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

**Expenses Other than "Usual":

Install New Toilet - \$75.00

New Stove Burner - \$36.64

CURRENT BALANCES

Sanctuary Renovation Fund - \$6,345.22

November Bazaar Profit - \$871.86

NOV. PLEDGE REPORT

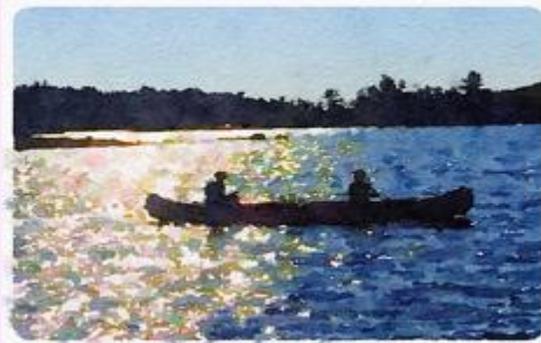
| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Total Units | 32 | |
| Total Pledges | 26 | |
| | NOVEMBER | Y-T-D |
| Amount Pledged | 2,059.00 | 13,433.00 |
| Amount Received | 2,068.00 | 13,400.00 |
| VARIANCE | 9.00 | -33.00 |

...from Renee Maginniss - Secretary

**REMEMBERING OUR CHOICES...
because as UUs, we have a great deal of them.**

Our responsibilities as a member of a greater society that is especially challenged right now - these can be daunting. As I finalize a newsletter subject, we are fully entrenched in the many holidays and celebrations of December. I have grown confused about what my beliefs are or what they should be now. Something has shifted, and I find myself looking on the side of fear too often.

On November 9, I read the blog of a friend, Claudia Cummins, who is a very wise and articulate person. It was about grieving, and I have referred back to it to read over often in these last six weeks. Another blog entry, "Choosing Love", came on November 11. Her heartfelt words overflow with hope and optimism, and she is open to sharing her words and website. The first two paragraphs of it couldn't be a better reminder for the New Year 2017.



"Here's a proposition to offer you on this beautiful new day: In any given moment, we have a choice about how we respond to the world around us. We can live out of love or we can act out of fear. We can anchor our response to the happenings around us in tenderness and optimism, or we can live in a more hollow and grasping place of negativity and anger."

"If our intention is to add a healing helping of love to the world, the answer is obvious: We need to ally ourselves with the forces that hold all of us up rather than smack us down. We need to keep close to kindness and tenderness and patience and care. We need to climb out of our small-mindedness and into a sense of greater community with the world around us. We need to stay rooted in our deepest loves, and we need to act in love on behalf of everyone around us."

See more of her words: <http://www.claudiacummins.com>

Happy New Year...and See You at Church on Sunday!

...from Jay Gilbert - Vice President

Following considerable dispute, our Church Board passed this resolution at our December meeting: All Souls Church of Bellville prohibits any reference to candidates, politicians or past-politicians in our sanctuary and in our monthly newsletter. This includes wearing any badge representing a candidate or any analysis (either positive or negative) of a candidate, politician or a political issue.

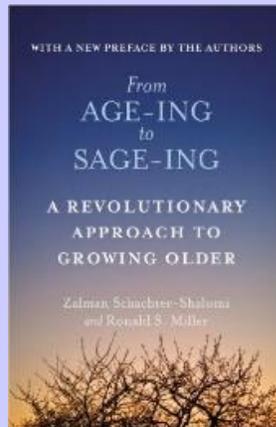
...from Liz Hansen - Religious Education Trustee

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



We are almost finished with the UU curriculum on rainforests called ***Celebrating Rainforests***. ***Celebrating Rainforests*** is an exploration 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! To wrap up this class, the entire congregation is invited to a Rainforest Party on Sunday, January 15. The Rainforest Celebration will start during service with a rainforest animal parade, song and some fact sharing by the kids and continue downstairs with foods from the rainforest! We hope you'll be able to join us!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



We've had a few very fun video belly dance classes, but attendance has been variable. So, from here on out, we'll decide week to week if we are interested in having a class after service. In case Liz Hansen isn't around, the TV & plenty of DVD dance classes are in the kid's corner of the Fellowship hall.

Starting Sunday, 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 third Sunday of each month due to the board meeting. Joan has asked that you read the first chapter before your first meeting.

...from Chuck Rhodes - Building & Maintenance Trustee

A list of maintenance projects was distributed to the Board for their review and prioritization. The results have been tabulated and grouped by like categories. The report was presented to the Board for their review. The following is a summary of the report.

1. Restoration/Renovate the Sanctuary

- a) patch all ceiling/wall cracks
- b) make needed repairs to walls
- c) paint interior of sanctuary
- d) refinish woodwork where needed in vestibule and sanctuary
- e) replace pew cushions

2. Repair and Maintenance Items: to prevent further deterioration of the church and equipment

- a) replace 3 basement windows
- b) replace dehumidifier/ HTC lines and tubing
- c) repair/replace bell pulley (if needed)
- d) rewire sanctuary light fixtures - LED lights

3. Items to Improve Appearance

- a) repair wall and ceiling in fellowship hall
- b) install acoustical tile in fellowship hall
- c) paint hall
- d) change florescent bulbs to LED
- e) new 8 ft. tables for fellowship hall

4. Install a Folding and Portable Partition in the Fellowship Hall

5. Green Projects

- a) convert all lights to LED
- b) install solar power

Thanks to Morley Smith, who took all the information and arranged it in a comprehensive format. Again, thanks to Marjorie and Morley Smith and the many volunteers who made the sun catchers, as well as Irene Gilbert and her fused glass jewelry. The sales of these items will allow us to complete the restoration projects of the sanctuary in time for the 125th anniversary of the church building.

Ryan Walling from Third Sun Solar will present the proposed solar energy plan for All Souls UU Church on Sunday, February 5 at 12:30 pm. Mark your calendars, and bring your questions.

The other projects will require sponsorship from individuals or families, grants or a "Capital Campaign". As always volunteers will be needed to complete several of these projects. It looks like 2017 is going to be a very busy year.

The church looked beautiful for the holidays. Thank you to the Kilgore.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

...from Bruce Kilgore – Fellowship Trustee

Happy New Year! Our first carry-in potluck will be Sunday, January 29 for a brunch. A sign up list will be circulated in church. Thank you to all who signed up for coffee hour in 2016!

...from Brian More – Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

Happy New Year!!!

I'm guessing, if you are reading this, it is nearly or already 2017. In which case, a Happy New Year is in order. I would like to wish everyone peace, health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year. And my wish is that everyone tries to make coming to All Souls a regular Sunday ritual in 2017. As you already know, we are a one of a kind special place to be. In a world full of dogma and fundamental religions, we tend to be the road less traveled. "And that has made all the difference."

As the Chairman of the Pulpit and Worship Committee, I spend many hours organizing the speakers that help make All Souls a special place to be. Organizing Titles, Topics, Bios, Leaders, Honorarium and Scheduling is a big job. Finding speakers that embrace our Seven Principles and the living tradition we all share, as well as embracing social and environmental justice.

Many others contribute much to making All Souls special and functional. Take the time at the start of the New Year to say hello and thank you to the following for all that they do. Our President- Ann Kilgore, Vice President - Jay Gilbert. Our Secretary -Irene Maginniss and Treasurer- Joanne Gillum. Also, our Trustees, Kristy Mandeville- Finance, Liz Hansen- Religious Education, Bruce Kilgore- Fellowship, Chuck Rhodes- Building & Maintenance, Art O'Leary -Social Action, Karen Gotter -Pastoral Care, and Melanie Seaman- Media, Advertising and Growth. All of the above people have dedicated much time and service to the church. Also, we are very grateful to have Will Humphrey as our Pastor and Shelley Mauk as our Administrative Coordinator. And the only thing that all of the above mentioned ask for in return is for you, the members, the guests and friends of All Souls is to show up and support the church. All the world is indeed a stage, and the audience is just as important as the performers and the people working behind the scenes to make the magic happen. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday!

JANUARY PULPIT SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: New Year's Day Resolutions and Revolutions

Topic: A dialogue on goal setting and helping to be the change sought in the world.

Leader: Joan Richmond

Music: Trio Alla Breve

Sunday, January 8

Speaker: Rev. Karen Bruno

Title: Finding God: Tales from a Hospice Chaplain

Topic: My spiritual journey has taken me in and out of the church, and in and out of belief in God. But being a Hospice Chaplain always brings me back to both. Can belief in God be held with modern thought? It can if you spend a lot of time sitting at death beds.

Leader: Teasha Sargent

Music: Ayesha Manley

...Pulpit & Worship cont.

Sunday, January 15

Speaker: Sensei Dean Williams

Title: Preparing for the Path that Lies Ahead

Topic: Sensei Dean Williams will be setting forth the Four Immeasurables of Buddhism (Loving-Kindness, Sympathetic Joy, Compassion, and Equanimity) and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s teachings on love as resources to guide us on January 20 and beyond.

Leader: Glenn Myers **Music:** Trio Alla Breve

Youth RE Rainforest Celebration

Monday January 16 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Sunday, January 22

Speaker: Ron Boyd

Title: The Challenge of Being Green

Topic: An interactive sermon where we reflect upon the impact our lives have on the planet, what we have lost, and what we need to do to regain it.

Leader: Brian Moore **Music:** Ayesha Manley

Sunday, January 29 Kenya Coin Collection Potluck Brunch

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: Standing on the Side of Love via Racial Justice

Topic: Inspired by the Prophet Micah "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God", how can we walk humbly toward peace, understanding and equality?

Leader: Reed Richmond **Music:** Trio Alla Breve



Peace, Love and Namaste to All Souls

How Does Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy

Offer Hope Today?



Join us for this inspirational multi-faith community service at 200 N Main Street on Monday January 16 at 7pm as we lift up and honor Dr. King and the promise his legacy offers for our future and the future of our children.



First Congregational
United Church of Christ

200 North Main Street, Mount Vernon

MONDAY,
JANUARY 16
7:00PM

Participating Faith Communities



- First Congregational
United Church of Christ
- Gay Street United Methodist Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Apostolic Faith Church
- All Souls UU
- Kenyon College Spiritual &
Religious Life
- Harcourt Parish Episcopal Church

Living Lotus Zen Sangha January Schedule

BOOK STUDY DISCUSSION

Monday, January 9: 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!

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 #19

NANSEN'S ORDINARY MIND

"Joshu asked Nansen, "What is the Way?" Nansen answered, "Your ordinary mind--that is the Way." Joshu said, "Can it be grasped (for study)?" Nansen replied, "The more you pursue, the more does it slip away." Joshu asked once more, "How can you know it is the Way?" Nansen responded, "The Way does not belong to knowledge, nor does it belong to non-knowledge. Knowledge is illusion. Non-knowledge is beyond discrimination. When you get to this Way without doubt, you are free like the vastness of space, an unfathomable void, so how can you explain it by yes or no?" Upon hearing this, Joshu was awakened."

"The Hidden Lamp"

Manseong's No Cultivation (page 30)

"One day a nun asked Manseong Sunim, 'How do I cultivate the Way of the Buddha?'

'No cultivation,' answered Manseong.

The nun persevered: 'How, then, can I obtain release from birth and death?'

'Who chains you to birth and death?' Manseong asked in return.'"

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

LIVING LOTUS ZEN SANGHA SITTING AND SERVICE

Monday, January 23: 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

Brief Beginner's guide to Zazen & Kinhin:

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

In gassho,
Jacqueline Moore



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Melanie Seaman – January 14
Bruce Kilgore – January 22

Marqua Myers – January 24
Kristy Mandeville – January 26

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SUNDAY SERVICE @ 10:30 AM

SPEAKERS FOR JANUARY

January 1: Pastor William Humphrey
January 8: Rev. Karen Bruno
January 15: Sensei Dean Williams

January 22: Ron Boyd
January 29: Pastor William Humphrey

JANUARY EVENTS

New Year’s Day – Sunday, January 1

Racial Justice Team Meeting – Wednesday, January 4 @ 6:00 pm

Adult RE – “From Age-ing to Sage-ing” – Sunday, January 8 @ 9:00 am

Buddhist Book Discussion - Monday, January 9 @ 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Relax, It’s Just Coffee

Board Meeting - Sunday, January 15 @ 9:00 am

Youth RE Rainforest Celebration – Sunday, January 15

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – Monday, January 16 @ 7:00 pm at First Congregational UCC in Mt. Vernon

Adult RE – “From Age-ing to Sage-ing” – Sunday, January 22 @ 9:00 am

Living Lotus Zen Sangha – Monday, January 23 @ 6:30 pm

Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast - Wednesday, January 25 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans on Hanley Rd.

Adult RE – “From Age-ing to Sage-ing” – Sunday, January 29 @ 9:00 am

Kenya Coin Collection – Sunday, January 29

Potluck Brunch – Sunday, January 29 Following the Service

William Humphrey, Pastor
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