

**January
2013**

**Upcoming
Speakers**

January 6
Rev. Karen Bruno

January 13
speaker TBA

January 20
speaker TBA

**January 27*
speaker TBA

***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

Unitarian Universalism's two truths

What is our healing message? To what are we being beckoned when we gather? *By James Ishmael Ford*

This tradition we share, Unitarian Universalism, stands with one foot in the great western way, the liberal Protestant tradition enriched by the best of the wisdom of Judaism and Christianity and their child Humanism, summarized for us as reason and freedom and tolerance. And it stands with another foot leaning out, toward a world perspective—found most clearly in the advance of the universalist perspective—growing from a faith that God saves us all, a faith that all human beings have within themselves and their spiritual traditions what is necessary to the healing of human hearts.

So, to the casual eye we Unitarian Universalists are a Protestant church. But listen to the word preached, listen to the conversations in coffee hour, and something else becomes quickly, startlingly obvious. What is it? What is our healing message? To what are we pointing, to what are we being beckoned, within our gatherings?

Well, in a sermon at our General Assembly in Phoenix in June 2012, the Rev. John Crestwell proclaimed, "I am a First and Seventh Principle preacher." I am a First and Seventh Principle preacher. I heard those words and I heard my own heart, and my voice and my life. I heard our message, our good news. When people come to the church I serve as minister, they will hear the good news of the First and Seventh Principles preached, explored, preached again, delved into, sliced and divided and examined, and preached again. And, I hope, ever more deeply lived.

First is our proclamation of the preciousness of the human being, of each and every one of us, as we are. You are good enough. You contain within who you are all that is necessary to love and grow deep and to heal your own wounds and the wounds of the world. This is articulated as the First Principle of our contemporary Unitarian Universalism: "We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

And the Seventh Principle grounds it and radicalizes it by proclaiming that this is so because we are all of us, each and every precious one of us—and every blessed other thing in this cosmos—united in a web of intimacy that is more deeply true than the blood coursing through our veins. This is the Seventh Principle of our contemporary Unitarian Universalism: "We affirm and promote the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

There is one thing more. We are about the integration of these two truths as deeply known and explored, manifest as a way of life.

Ours is an electric, dancing middle way between the two poles of our precious individuality and our intimate connection. But—and this is most important—not by splitting some difference, not being half individual and half communal. Our way is more radical. It calls for two 100 percents. Or perhaps it is better to say we are called to discover fully the one in the other. We are all about the individual and the fullest expression of that individuality, creative, powerful, even dangerous. And, we are all about our radical interrelatedness, where no one exists in isolation. We are woven out of each other, we are created by each other, one thing. Just this.

Following the way of these two truths and fully embracing what each means, and how each is dependent upon the other, opens a life that is dynamic, creative, and full of potential. And this is our way.

This is what we find as we come into our meeting places—our old New England churches, our modern sanctuaries, our rented halls. This is what we find as we gather together in our religious education programming. This is what we find as we open our mouths and sing. This is what we find in our coffee hour, and our chalice circles, in our committee meetings, in our work to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to find justice in our communities, and to heal this world.

This is why we gather.

This essay is adapted from a sermon delivered at First Unitarian Church of Providence, Rhode Island, on September 9, 2012

January Calendar

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

January

- 6 Sunday** 9 am Adult Religious Education: "What We Choose: Ethics for UUs"
 10 - Noon All Souls Recycle Day
10:30 am **Speaker: Rev. Karen Bruno** *Topic: "New Year and Renewal"*
Let this be a happy, creative, and meaningful New Year for our church.

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.

- 12 Saturday 4 pm Family fUUn Night - at the church: making Samosas (bring a side dish or dessert to share).
- 13 Sunday** 9 am Board Meeting (All invited)
10:30 am **Speaker TBA**
- 14 Monday 6 pm Living Lotus Zen Sangha
- 20 Sunday** 9 am Adult Religious Education: "What We Choose: Ethics for UUs"
10:30 am **Speaker TBA**
- 27* Sunday** 9 am Adult Religious Education: "What We Choose: Ethics for UUs"
10:30 am **Speaker TBA**
- 28 Monday 6 pm Living Lotus Zen Sangha

Of interest: Sogbety Diomande's West African Drum and Dance Classes
 6 Week Session starting **Saturday January 12**, 2013 and continuing every Saturday through February 16, 2013
 4:30 pm -6:15 pm. Call 419-544-0977 to sign up or see Fate or Melanie (see story inside)

**Whole Church Worship/Kenya Coins Collection*

Birthdays for January

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Elizabeth Nagel | 14 Daniel LeMaster | 25 Grace Ehrmantraut |
| 3 Ben Johnston | 18 Dolores Lectka | 26 Kristy Mandeville |
| 14 Melanie Seaman | 22 Bruce Kilgore | 30 Tom Miller |



December 2012 Financial Report

Revenue

Collections		
Open Plate Offering	\$	663.35
Pledges		1,915.00
Adult Education Book Purchases		30.00
Church Rental		100.00
Huruma Foundation (Kenya Coins)		90.00
Total		2,798.35

Expenses*		2,662.35
	+	136.00

*No unusual expenses in December. Christmas bonuses were approved by the Board for musicians and service helpers (as has been the case for many years).

Average Attendance in December: 47

December Pledge Report

Pledged	Paid	Difference
\$1,787	\$1,915	+\$128 (+7.2%)

2012-2013 Fiscal Year

Pledged	Paid	Difference
\$10,221	\$9,597	-\$745 <-6.1%>

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.

OMD OVERVIEW - by Liz Hansen

On December 2, Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, the District Executive of the Ohio Meadville District ("OMD"), of which All Souls is a member, gave an overview of the OMD & what they offer to us as a congregation and our members. Believe it or not, we are not alone - the Ohio-Meadville District serves 44 congregations in Ohio, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and southwest New York. The overview included information about the physical boundaries that the OMD covers, but what I want to share are those things that can directly benefit you as a member!

1. Lending Library - we are all welcome to use! Although the UUA bookstore has great UU specific books & videos, you could save a few dollars by borrowing from the OMD instead of buying. Browse through 73 pages of titles & descriptions, I'm sure you'll find many books of interest. You only need to pay return shipping. Website: <http://ohiomeadville.org/resources/omdlibrary>

2. Learning, learning and more learning! From webinars to on-demand lectures to weekend workshops to District Assembly and Summer institute. The OMD offers ALL of us amazing opportunities for learning. Webinars & online classes are free, many of the weekend workshops have very minimal fees and district assembly & summer institute have scholarships available through the OMD (especially for newcomers). From the OMD homepage (<http://ohiomeadville.org>), select Programs or Events

3. Social action initiatives! The OMD is working on some pretty amazing social action initiatives. For those who are interested in doing more social action work it sounds like a great place to connect with local UUs. Website: <http://uujo.ohiomeadville.org/>

4. Summer Institute - I know, I already mentioned this in #2, but how amazing would it be to spend a week with your closest 600 UU friends at the beautiful and VERY LOCAL Kenyon College. Joan Van B. said in the past they haven't been so keen on 1-day registrations (as opposed to the entire week), but since it's practically in our backyard seems like we should really push to join in as we can during the week. I guarantee when the schedule comes out you will find a TON of programs that you'd love to go to, but most of us don't have an entire week to commit to Summer Institute. I will keep you updated on the possibility of 1 day registration as Summer Institute approaches. This year's theme: **Social Justice as a Spiritual Practice: A Central UU Path with Rev. Art McDonald July 14-20, 2013**

Religious Education Information

Upcoming Religious Education in 2013

Adult Religious Education (**Sundays at 9am**) will begin “What We Choose: Ethics for UUs” on January 6th. The class will meet for 10 sessions, every Sunday except the 2nd due to the board meeting. Unitarian Universalism is a faith of deeds, not creeds. We believe our choices and actions matter. We believe the measure of our religion is the way we live our faith in our day-to-day lives. But how do we decide what course of action to follow when a situation is complex and the moral course is unclear? Where do we turn for guidance that will help us fulfill our own wish to live a moral life? This program invites participants to focus attention on the moral and ethical questions that arise or have arisen in their lives, including challenges not yet perceived or acknowledged, and explore the ethical frameworks that can help in sorting through a dilemma. Reading is NOT required prior to the start of each session and there is no homework for most of this class. Joan Richmond, Brian Moore & Che Sahara will be the facilitators for this class.

Wednesday, February 6th at 7 PM - Please join us for a one (1) evening session to discuss the book “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel. You are encouraged to borrow the book from your local library or buy used. I have ordered a few more copies because the 4 copies that I originally purchased for church have already sold, hopefully by Sunday the extra copies have arrived at church. Please plan to have read the book by the meeting date, February 6th. From an Amazon.com review: Yann Martel’s imaginative and unforgettable Life of Pi is a magical reading experience, an endless blue expanse of storytelling about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith. The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting “religions the way a dog attracts fleas.” Karen Gotter will be facilitating this class.

The **RE for children** will continue following the “Toolbox Of Faith” curriculum, this will take them through the rest of the school year. The kids will also continue to meet at **9 am on Sundays** (except the 2nd Sunday). If you have questions about the class, let me know.

Interested in helping plan, organize or lead future classes OR just have suggestions for future programs? Just let me know! -- Liz Hansen

January Family fUUn Night

Just want to remind everyone that ALL souls are welcome at “family” fUUn night, not just those with kids/grandkids. It’s meant for our All Souls FAMILY to share an evening of fellowship at family friendly times (ie. not starting when the kids are usually being put to bed at 7 pm). We intend for this to be an inter-generational gathering where our little ones can get to know their All Souls cousins, aunts, uncles & grandparents, as well as a time for the adults to enjoy each other’s company!

January 12th will be our 1st gathering of 2013, around 4ish at church. This month we’ll have Corby & Phil helping us make some Indian food. Most likely Samosas & some Indian Bread. Never had Samosas? They are delicious & most folks enjoy the spices (they are not spicy hot). From Wikipedia: A samosa is a fried or baked pastry with a savory filling, such as spiced potatoes, onions, peas, lentils, ground lamb or chicken. The size, shape and consistency may vary, but typically, they are distinctly triangular.

What should you bring? A side that you think would go well with Indian food or just a dessert or snack if you aren’t sure what to bring!

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.

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

or find us on facebook under Living Lotus Zen Sangha.

Thank you, Jackie Moore

Summary of the Adult RE offerings the last 6 months:

August - Book Club Session on Viktor Frankl’s “Man’s Search For Meaning”
September through November - 7 Session class using the book “A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to UUism”

October - “A Heart of Nonviolence” full day retreat with Sister Paulette Schroeder & Josie Setzler

November - Dr. Walter Kania presented “The Near Death Experience, Phase II: The Experience of The Light”

November through December - “Our American Roots: UUism in North America” DVD & Discussion

OMD News and Events

Stewardship: Not Just Once a Year!

Sat. Jan.26, 2013, 9:30 am - 3 pm at First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh
Sponsored by the Ohio-Meadville District Resource Development Team
Registration: \$20, includes lunch

Keynote: Rev. Vail Weller ~ **The Promise of Yesterday**

Vail will explore how Unitarian Universalism reaches around the globe and into our own lives, and we'll be invited into reflection about the notion of stewardship. The Rev. Weller serves as Special Assistant to the President for Major Gifts at the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Additional Workshops for the day include: *We Sing the Heart Courageous:* (Year Round Stewardship) Rev. Chris Neilson, CERG Stewardship Consultant. And *New Ideas in Stewardship and Pledging: Panel Discussion.* Panel of OMD congregational leaders

For more information and to register: <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/566-stewardship2013>

OMD Congregations Remember Newtown

The OMD staff has created a special web edition of "OMD Up-Close" which shares the many meaningful ways in which our Ohio-Meadville congregations have honoured the victims of Newtown and remembered the families and friends who grieve in this time of tragedy. In the "Up-Close", you will find descriptions of rituals, letters, homilies and more, which the authors have graciously shared with all of the members of our OMD family.

To view the special "Up-Close", see: <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdupclose/577-201212spupclose>

Conference: The New Administration and Immigration

February 18, 2013 at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH
Keynote: The Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment, and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and in the communities in which he has lived. This has resulted in his work with organizations such as the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, the Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded. While living in Ohio, he has been an active member of Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio and Partnership 2000 of the Shaker OH public schools.

More information: <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/548-immigration2013o> Members ~ 1/17/13



Sogbety Diomande's West African Drum and Dance Classes

6 Week Session Starting Saturday January 12, 2013
and continuing every Saturday through February 16, 2013
from 4:30 pm -6:15 pm

Music Moves Studio
310 Marion Avenue
Mansfield, OH 44903 (419) 610-4614

Drum class starts promptly at 4:30-5:15

Dance Class Starts promptly at 5:30-6:15

\$12 per class if taken separately
\$80 for full 6 weeks for both drum and dance class (12 classes)
\$60 for full 6 weeks if just taking one class per week (6 classes)

Please email highlands@nearr.com or call 419-544-0977 to sign up

Don't miss out on all the fun! All levels of experience welcome.
Recommended to take both classes to see how
African music goes with the dance.
African dance will help get and keep you in shape!

**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

Contact

Reed Richmond

Newsletter Editor, Internet Staff

(419) 886-4365

e-mail:

rrichmond@neo.rr.com



Santa's Visit to All Souls, December 23, 2012



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.*