
The Chalice

Newsletter of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

July 2021

If you have announcements for The Chalice, send them to office@ouuf.org at least one week before the first of the month.

Thank You!

Upcoming Services

July 2021

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July 4

TED Talk

Brian Warren and Caitlin Chapman

July 11

“What Gives You Goosebumps? Wrapping Yourself in Wonder”

Lara Lillibridge, Marianna Carney, Emily Williams, and Bob Mulkins.

This service will explore and celebrate the feelings of wonder and awe that occur at unexpected times and places. In these moments, we may experience a connection to a mysterious power beyond ourselves. UU’s can be shy about talking about these feelings, but for some, they are the very foundation of religion.

July 18

Until Love Wins

Cindy Frantz and Ann Cook-Frantz

Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray, selected the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis to serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service. Music will be offered through collaboration with 2021 GA Choir Director Susan Mashiyama, the GA virtual choir, and musicians from First Universalist.

First Universalist has been a model of shared ministry and what it means to put the work of dismantling white supremacy and building anti-racist, anti-oppressive practices at the center of their ministry. They have been on the front lines in support of the Movement for Black Lives in Minneapolis, bringing spiritual care and moral leadership in the wake of George Floyd's murder by police and the important uprisings for justice that followed. Children and families are a vital part of their ministry, and they have been using creative approaches to engage all ages in worship during the pandemic. Their leadership exemplifies some of the best practices for the creativity, spiritual depth, and moral leadership that is possible when we embrace the work of shared ministry rooted in love and justice.

July 25

What do you believe about God? A Knee-Jerk Reaction

Lara Lillibridge, Caitlin Chapman

How often do we silence ourselves or others when talking about religion? Come join this discussion about what we mean when we say, “All are welcome.”

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Zoom Addresses

Sunday Service Zoom Login

Join via computer: [https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?](https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQT09)

[pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQT09](https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQT09)

Meeting ID: 926 2419 0519

Join via smartphone by dialing: 929-436-2866, then entering the

Meeting ID followed by the pound sign: 92624190519#, then entering the password: 134017#

OUUF Events Calendar

events are online and times are PM unless otherwise specified

For more information, and to see when rooms are reserved for private use,
[check our online calendar.](#)

1 Thu

10:00-11:30am Morning Meditation via Zoom

12:30-1:30 Worship Teams Meeting via Zoom

2:00-3:30 Dream Group **at Olmsted UU**

7:00-8:00 Evening Meditation via Zoom

2 Fri

3 Sat

4 Sun

10:15-10:45am Children's Church via Zoom

11:00am Sunday Service via Zoom

5 Mon

6 Tue

7:00-8:00 Poetry Group via Zoom

7 Wed

5:30-7:00 Worship Teams Meeting via Zoom

8 Thu

10:00-11:30am Morning Meditation via Zoom

7:00-8:00 Evening Meditation via Zoom

9 Fri

7:00-9:00 Game Night via Zoom

10 Sat

11 Sun

10:15-10:45am Children's Church via Zoom

11:00am Sunday Service via Zoom

12 Mon

13 Tue

14 Wed

3:00-4:30 Living With Change Covenant Group **in person**

15 Thu

10:00-11:30am Morning Meditation via Zoom

12:00-1:30 WISE Women **in person**

3:45-5:00 Adult Program Team Meeting via Zoom

7:00-8:00 Evening Meditation via Zoom

16 Fri

7:00-9:00 Current Events Discussion Meeting (**hybrid meeting**)

17 Sat

18 Sun

10:15-10:45am Children's Church via Zoom

11:00am Sunday Service via Zoom

19 Mon

20 Tue

21 Wed

22 Thu

10:00-11:30am Morning Meditation via Zoom

7:00-8:00 Evening Meditation via Zoom

23 Fri

24 Sat

25 Sun

10:15-10:45am Children's Church via Zoom

11:00am Sunday Service via Zoom

26 Mon

27 Tue

1:00 Listening to Writers of Color Book Group via Zoom

28 Wed

7:00-9:00 What Would Jesus Do? Covenant Group **(hybrid meeting)**

29 Thu

30 Fri

Mary's Musings



New Beginnings - The Power of Togetherness

Welcome to a new congregational year! As we get vaccinated, pandemic recedes and communities open up, it's great to see each other in person again: To see smiles and to hug (willing) vaccinated friends and family. We feel both excitement and trepidation: Familiar social habits take more energy and are more emotionally charged. We wonder: Are we really safe? Will we engage in the same ways?

This is a powerful opportunity to pay attention to your inner life, asking yourself: What's becoming important to me now? Are my priorities shifting? Where do I feel connected to something larger than myself?

At this year's Berry Street Lecture at General Assembly (our global UU annual meetings), they

reminded us that our UU tradition has three expectations of each other:

- INNER AWARENESS / Spiritual Practice: to be grounded in our own direct experiences of Life/Love/the Holy - which holds us and loves Life.
- DEEPENING INTIMACY: to bring these direct experiences into relationships with one another, in small groups and in our congregation.
- ENGAGE THE WORLD: to draw on this grounding and mutual support for the resilience to work for justice to help heal the world together.

Sunday Services/Worship team chose, The Power of Togetherness as the theme for this new year. In July, they present a series of services that explore our direct experience and truths, in service to the world.

From July 4th through July 31st I shall be on study leave, preparing programs and services for this new year. I won't be at Sunday services, Board, committee or group meetings, and will be slow responding to emails that aren't emergencies.

May we open this month to the power of togetherness, to new beginnings, even in familiar places. May we reconnect, noticing changes and choices, deepening self-awareness and spiritual practice. May we dare to share what this is like for us, cultivating relationships of trust that build the resilience necessary to sustain us in our work for justice and care for the world.

I look forward to being together in August - in person and also on Zoom.

With love and excitement, Rev. Mary

Membership Matters

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It turns out, a lot! A congregation our size which doubled its membership in three years (earning it designation as a BREAKTHROUGH CONGREGATION) changed its name to something more inclusive, and understandable by the general public. What about OBERLIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION? We can let people know we are a church for worship, not a social club-without taking on the name church with its Christian connotations per dictionary definition. We could celebrate our name change in connection with our 60th anniversary this year.

Update on Dual Platform Services

I'm excited about the Intercongregational Worship and Dual Platform Teams commitment to transitioning our zoom worship services into Dual Platform, Hybrid (in person and on Zoom), commencing sometime after September 1. The hybrid platform enables those of us who have the opportunity to worship in person, while including those who are prevented from doing so by distance or circumstance. Inclusiveness of family and friends is a core value of Unitarian Universalism, as expressed in our Principles,-especially the first three.

The summer of preparation for hybrid services gives the opportunity for groups of up to 10 people to meet in each of the buildings and experiment with development of protocol, procedures and equipment, probably resulting in the purchase of special equipment to enhance the hybrid worship experience. If these meetings occur where worship services will be held, the experience will extrapolate most readily, and be most relevant.

My concern is the need to raise the hope of adventure, while lowering expectations. You will recall the zoom era learning curve which continues to the present time. Hybrid services involve another level of complexity: doing two things at once, which are considerably more challenging than walking and chewing gum. Despite our best preparation and planning, there will be another learning curve.

However, the bottom line is the process of adjustment which will be required is not only of worship teams, but also reciprocally of attendees. Hybrid services inevitably involve compromise for the greater good. Life is a series of trade-offs. Something is lost when something is gained. No matter how well conducted, they are not likely to be experienced initially as equally nourishing as either in person or zoom services, where everyone is on the same platform.

July 2021 Cause of the Month

As part of our covenant with one another, OUUF members have made a commitment to live our values in the world through Causes of the Month, which we support through our offering.

The cause for July 2021 is Oberlin Weekday Community Meals.

Oberlin Weekday Community Meals, hosted at Christ Episcopal Church, serves a free hot meal to anyone in need Monday through Friday from 5:00-5:30 pm. The program feeds an average 25-30 people daily, and in many cases the meal that diners receive is the only healthy and nutritious meal they will receive all day. During the pandemic period, carryout "Grab and Go" meals were offered. Our contribution will help Oberlin Weekday Community Meals continue to feed those in our community whose food needs may go unmet.

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021
CAUSES OF THE MONTH SCHEDULE

JULY Oberlin Weekday Community Meals
AUGUST League of Women Voters- Oberlin Area
Education Fund
SEPTEMBER El Centro
OCTOBER Genesis House
NOVEMBER OCS Helping Hands
DECEMBER UU Service Committee- Guest At Your Table
JANUARY Let's Get Real
FEBRUARY The Haven Center of Neighborhood Alliance
MARCH Lorain Co. Free Clinic
APRIL Lorain Co. Rape Crisis Center
MAY UUA Disaster Relief Fund
JUNE Family Planning Service of Lorain Co.

Adult Programs

Mondays:

OUUF Men's Group, Mondays, 7-9 p.m., on hiatus until September 13

Tuesdays:

Poetry Group, Tuesday, July 6, 7-8 p.m. on Zoom

Bring poems that speak to your life, that spark your imagination in these winter days; come to listen and share. (Poems do not have to reference Groundhogs). All are welcome.

Zoom login for Poetry is:

<https://zoom.us/j/99928081815?pwd=To5FQk5sZ05TbEpLUGNmTk5NMldhdz09>

Meeting ID: 999 2808 1815

Passcode: 559893

Join by smartphone by dialing: 301-715-8592, then entering the Meeting ID plus pound: 99928081815#, then entering the passcode plus pound: 559893

Care-Givers Support Group, Tuesday, **no meeting in July**

Do you care for a spouse, partner, parent, friend or child? Join us. Led by Rev. Mary. All are welcome. (usually 4th Tuesdays, meeting monthly)

Zoom login for Care-Givers is:

<https://zoom.us/j/91083839716?pwd=SlFzZWRoT1pESnhQNo4yeU1PSXlKUT09>

Meeting ID: 910 8383 9716

Passcode: 510093

Join by smartphone by dialing: 929-436-2866, then entering the Meeting ID plus pound: 91083839716#, (then perhaps: 0#,) then entering the passcode plus pound: 510093#

Book Group: Listening to Writers of Color, Tuesday, July 27, 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84335138667?pwd=b1EyN3NZZHNDRGNNb3lMT292T2l3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 843 3513 8667

Passcode: 302751

Wednesdays

Democracy Deep Dive: Strengthening the Heart of Democracy, on hiatus until September 1

Inspired by American History professor Heather Cox Richardson, on **1st Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m.** we explore right-wing extremism in the United States.

This month's column reflects on Memorial Day and how we honor the lives of those who died to protect the vision of democracy, in the context of the far-right attack on truth with the Big Lie about the election and beyond. With the Senate's rejection of a bi-partisan commission investigating the January 6th insurrection, how do we move forward?

How may we support our representatives and communities in resisting the divisions and reactivity, and holding elected representatives accountable?

All are welcome. Please share this invitation.

Copy & paste this link into a web browser:

<https://zoom.us/my/keepingfaithwithlife>

What Would Jesus Do? Covenant Group, Wednesday, July 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m. hybrid meeting

You are warmly invited to explore with us all the ways in which the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism lie at the heart of Jesus' consciousness.

Zoom Login:

<https://zoom.us/j/99356254184?pwd=ZkoyVmdJSXAoaGk5dGozZW5adWVadz09>

Meeting ID: 993 562 54184

Passcode: 580 483

Thursdays

Thursday Morning Meditation, (weekly on Thursdays), 10-11:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Welcoming awareness as the wise body, beautiful heart, responsive mind, and boundless spirit. Drawing wisdom from many traditions. All are welcome. Led by Rev. Mary.

Zoom login for Meditation is:

<https://zoom.us/j/97515604579?pwd=bjJRcWdpMU1VcGxpVHNiZXlnS2piUT09>

Meeting ID: 975 1560 4579

Passcode: 679876

Join by smartphone by dialing: 929-436-2866, then entering the Meeting ID plus pound: 97515604579#, (then perhaps: 0#,) then entering the passcode plus pound: 679876#

Evening Meditation, weekly on Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom

"Meditation can give you what you cannot get from any other source, it introduces you to yourself. It allows you to see that the Spirit is within you. You are no longer alone." - Swami Rama

The meditation group that started as a Sangha in Michael Reitz's (Casper) apartment a year ago has continued to meet, using his excellent format as a guide. We would be delighted if others would like to join us.

Call or email Ann Cook-Frantz, convener, if you would like to join us, and she will send you the zoom link: anntcf78@gmail.com. or 5087-572-0563

Dream Group - Thursday, July 1, 2-3:30 p.m. at Olmsted UU.

Exploring spiritual growth through metaphors, stories, roles and relationships, wisdom and humor of dreams. Bring a dream (or dream cameo) to share. All are welcome.

WISE Women - Thursday, July 15, 12:00-1:30 p.m. in person.

BYO picnic lunch at the church, outside if the weather's nice. We'll meet for the joy of being together, in person. At our September meeting, we'll explore Part 3 of Burnout, The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle by Emily and Amelia Nagoski, While reading the book is optional, we encourage each other to live into the insights and questions we shared from parts 1 and 2 of Burnout!

Fridays

Current Events Discussion Group, July 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m. hybrid meeting

We gather to enhance our awareness of current events and provide emotional support to one another in responding to them with vigor.

Zoom Login:

<https://zoom.us/j/94407037950?pwd=UW5EcC9kMnlzOGFDazNYyndNNldvUTo9>

Meeting ID: 937 7402 1775

Passcode: 294 216

MORE ABOUT OUR COMMITTEE & TEAM EVENTS

Sunday Services/Worship Teams and task groups meet on:

Thursday July 1, 12:30-1:30 to explore the results of the Survey

Wednesday, July 7, 5:30-7 for the next steps for Dual-Platform

Preparation

All are welcome. Same login as Sunday morning services:

[https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?](https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQTo9)

[pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQTo9](https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQTo9)

Care Team OUUF

Our mission is to make visible the "spirit of caring fellowship", facilitating care for members and friends in their times of need.

Adult Program Team

Our mission is to provide transformational adult programs for spiritual exploration and ethical living for members and friends of OUUF and the larger community.

Adult Program Team meets on Thursday, July 15 at 3:45 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/97055771526?pwd=Q1psWjJzcDZxeWxoWHRpMlBqYnBoZz09>

Meeting ID: 970 5577 1526

Passcode: 975903

Join by smartphone by dialing: 301-715-8592, then when prompted entering the Meeting

ID plus pound: 97055771526#, then when prompted entering the passcode plus pound:

975903#

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking for new members! If you are interested in joining, please send an email stating your interest to communications@ouuf.org.

UUA News

UUA Youth Opportunities

From involvement in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level.

With a deep passion for and commitment to international human rights, youth and adults from all over North America gather annually for our three day seminar to dig deeply into issues with global impact.

The intergenerational seminar is an opportunity to collaborate with others while learning how to be a global activist. Through workshops, peer and expert-led panel discussions, community building activities, and worship services, participants undergo a transformative process of learning, reflection, and growth as we explore some of the most challenging issues facing humanity today. Registration for the Virtual 2021 Intergenerational Spring Seminar will open in December 2020.

[Register here.](#)

Exploring Class and Classism

[UU Class Conversations](#) provides Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations with the tools and language to explore class and classism through a distinctly UU lens.

Building upon our faith community's ongoing diversity work - from race to gender to sexual orientation to gender identity - the project aims to produce more welcoming congregations while strengthening our shared commitment to social justice.

Multicultural Leadership & Inclusion

Effective justice ministry depends on partnership, since racial discrimination touches everyone. UU partners in racial justice work, beyond the Unitarian Universalist Association, include [UU State Action Networks](#), the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#), the [UU College of Social Justice](#), [Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries \(DRUUMM\)](#), and [Allies for Racial Equity](#). UUs also form interfaith partnerships, such as with the [Interfaith Organizing Initiative](#), [Congregation-Based Community Organizations](#), the [Forward Together movement](#), the [NAACP](#), and the [Living Legacy Project](#). Learn more [here](#).

Reproductive Justice

Decisions about children, families and sexuality are some of life's most profound. We advocate not only for the freedom of those choices in each person's life journey, but also for the ability of all families and communities to realize a sense of wholeness with regard to their sexual and reproductive lives. We create safe and healthy environments for children in our faith communities and campaign publicly for just and compassionate laws for family planning, reproductive health, and gender equality. Read about what we're doing [here](#).

Teams

Building & Grounds Committee
bandg@ouuf.org

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Committee on Ministry
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Communications Committee
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Religious Exploration Committee
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Nominating Committee
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Social Justice Committee
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Worship Team
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Membership Committee
membership@ouuf.org

Finance Committee
finance@ouuf.org

Fellowship

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Services every Sunday on Zoom
at 11:00am

All Are Welcome!

STAFF

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Board of Trustees '20-'21

President, Stephanie Gibson;
Vice-President, Jeff Witmer;
Secretary, Sarah King;
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