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OBERLIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

The Chalice Newsletter of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship February 2023

If you have announcements for The Chalice, send them to office@ouuf.org by the 25th of each month.

Thank You!

Upcoming Services

Love

February 2023

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February 5 The Year to Save the Earth

Join us for a special service, a multimedia, musical message from UU composer Jim Scott. This is the first performance, pre-premier, of Jim's "The Year to Save the Earth." Powerful and poignant songs of Earth and Ecology are illustrated with beautiful and striking images on our big screen. There's many opportunities to sing along. Come celebrate our Mother Earth, the challenges, and the hope for the future.

Composer, Poet, Performer and Activist Jim Scott has performed in more than 700 UU Churches over four decades. His much loved "Gather the Spirit" and others are included in the UU hymnbooks. Jim's lyrical poetry and music are calls to action, full of hope and gentle wit. Jim was one of the creators of the "Green Sanctuary" program, and compiled the "Earth and Spirit Songbook" 110 songs of ecology and peace.

Visiting faculty for six Winter Terms at Oberlin College, Jim has been an Artist in Residence in many schools and universities. Longtime member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim co-wrote their celebrated "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass." He has gone on to create award winning choral works, PBS soundtracks, and nine CDs of original music.

February 12 Compassion Begins At Home

All religions teach the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Yet we are harder on ourselves than on anyone else. A kind world begins with self-compassion, self-love that radiates out, in all directions. Service led by Rev. Mary. Donations benefit Haven Center, providing shelter in Lorain County.

**February 19
Revising the Seven Principles**

Periodically, the UUA reviews and changes its bylaws, redefining our purpose and our values. A revision has been drafted, to be voted on at the upcoming General Assembly, that replaces the seven principles that have defined UU values for a generation. Join us as we do the intellectual and spiritual work of wrestling with the new text, which may include grieving the loss of language many have found sacred. It certainly will include the difficult work of listening to others and centering marginalized voices in our movement. Service led by visiting minister Drew Frantz & Jeff Witmer.

**February 26
Love as Generosity**

UU minister and social justice sage Richard Gilbert wrestled with love in the tension he experienced between savoring the world and saving it; learning that to save the world, we must savor it, and in savoring the world we are compelled to save it. Generosity arises from savoring and saving the world. How does generosity arise for you? Service led by Zellida Zellej & Rev. Mary.

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Zoom Addresses
Sunday Service Zoom Login
Join via computer:

Mary's Musings



Make Channels for the Streams of Love
*The congregation's theme of the month for February is **LOVE**.*

Finding ourselves in midwinter - bleak or not - how are we called to love, as intentional response to the challenges and gifts of our lives?

I write looking out at Lake Erie, a morning after two days of snow and iron-gray skies. A sunny day? No. Yet morning light plays behind eastward-moving clouds, illuminating all with colors beyond words.

I started the day reading about the Russian army learning from western criticisms of their military disorganization, gearing up for more efficient destruction of Ukraine, democracy, world peace. Do we dare be open-hearted, to love?

Reading about mass shooting after mass shooting in the US, avoiding stories of attacks on the rule of law from within Congress. Do we dare be open-hearted, to love?

Buddhism challenges us to make a vow to accept the world as it is - even as mass shootings escalate and Russian military strategy mutates like Covid.

Accepting the world doesn't mean looking away. It means upping our capacity to love: To bear witness. To face hard truths. To allow Life to rage and weep through us. Being fully present to the heartbreak opens the channels in us, empowering us to Love life in all its evolving forms, so we may respond on its behalf, as individuals and together.

We set the intention, make the vow, knowing we will break it again and again. Forgiving ourselves and vowing again.

This is the hardest commitment of all: To love the world as it is, not the way we wish it were. Mourning the needless suffering and accepting the limits - our own and those of our time. To make this vow, I need to be lifted like I was this morning, re-energized by morning light after the storms, illuminating all, building my capacity - our capacity - to be present, and to make new channels for the streams of love, together.

The gift (and task) of UU spiritual community is to love the world as it is now, to love ourselves as we are now, and to hold us as we learn how to respond. Are we ready to make that vow together - for 5 minutes, an hour, a day, a lifetime?

In love, Rev. Mary

February 2023 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 February 2023 is **Neighborhood Alliance Haven Center Homeless Shelter**.

The Haven Center Homeless Shelter is Lorain County's only 24-hour, 365-day emergency shelter for men, women, and children. A full-service, 68-bed facility, it provides meals, toiletries, laundry, and clothing as well as connections necessary to transition into independent housing.

Please send donations by check to OUUF Treasurer. Pay Pal is also available. Whatever option of generosity you choose, it is crucial that you indicate who you want to receive your donation

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023 CAUSES OF THE MONTH SCHEDULE

JULY - Oberlin Weekday Community Meals

AUGUST - LGBTQ+ Lorain County

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 & Events

For a complete list of events taking place at OUUF, and to see when rooms are reserved for private use, [check our online calendar](#). Otherwise, events will be published in the "This Week @ OUUF" emails the week they occur.

Mondays:

OUUF Men's Group, Mondays, 7-9 p.m., hybrid meeting

The mission of the OUUF Men's Group is to:

- Support each other as men for positive participation in living the Unitarian Universalist principles in our personal and community lives.
- Strengthen our bond and covenant together, expressing feelings at deepening levels, speaking from the heart and listening actively without judgment.
- Facilitate personal and congregational spiritual growth in beloved community.

Our relationships exist in the space between us, which is sacred (Martin Buber). We honor that space through the use of Essential Silence, I-Statements, and Active Deep Listening. Come once a week, once a month, or once a year. If you identify as male and generally agree with the principles of Unitarian Universalism we hope to see you here.

Tuesdays:

Poems to Live By, Poems to Wake Us Up: Monthly UU Poetry Group Zoom. NEW DATE/TIME - **February 14, 2-3 p.m.** Bring a poem (or two or three) to share. Or come to listen. All are welcome.

Poetry Zoom login:

Sources Covenant Groups, Feb 7 & 21, 1-3 p.m. in-person at Oberlin; **7-8:30 p.m.** on Zoom,

UU Kendal Monthly Gathering, Feb 28, 2-3 p.m., 4th Tuesdays, in Kendal's main building, in the Green Room. For February, our reflection questions include, "How is love getting your attention this month? How are you allowing love to flow through you this month? How are you intentionally listening for love?" Conversation and check-in facilitated by Rev. Mary; All are welcome.

Wednesdays:

Pastoral Counseling/Check-In - 2nd & 4th Wednesday's, Feb 8 & 22, 11-12 noon Phone-in: 216-402-3438 or email Rev. Mary for an appointment at a different time (mary@marygrigolia.com). All are welcome.

What Would Jesus Do? Covenant Group - 4th Wednesdays, February 22, 7pm-8:30pm - via Zoom

You are warmly invited to join us in exploring Christian Renewal Within Unitarian Universalism: Returning To The Heart Of Jesus Consciousness, the title of a workshop conducted by UU Minister Matthew Johnson. The core values which Jesus embodied are authentically expressed in the seven Principles and six Sources of Unitarian Universalism, and lived out in UU congregations. Spiritual seekers from traditional Christian churches

are also welcome in our group! (Our group was inspired by a book entitled *The Great Spiritual Migration*, by Brian McLaren, as well).

Zoom Login:

Thursdays:

Deepening Circles Meditation (DCM) - Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 on Zoom. Reading Pema Chodron's, *Taking the Leap*, chapter one, "Feeding the Right Wolf" (2/2 & 2/9), chapter two, "Learning to Stay," (2/16 & 2/23). All are welcome. Led by Rev. Mary.
DCM Zoom login:

Wisdom Dreams - Thursday, Feb 2, 1-2:30 p.m. on Zoom. Bring a dream (or dream image) to share. Explore together the messages, meanings, and metaphors, wisdom and humor. All are welcome. (Note: We've gone back to the dedicated Dream Group Zoom login.)

DREAM Group:

WISE Women - Thursday, Feb 16, 1-2:30 p.m. Women-in-Spirit Evolving - a monthly group to listen, support and celebrate what's emerging in our lives. In February we reflect on The Path of Love and share what we are learning as WISE Women. In-person at Olmsted UU and also online:

(Note: We've back to the dedicated WISE Women Zoom login.)

WISE Women:

Fridays:

Current Events Discussion Group, January 20, 7-9:00 p.m.

As a group we believe there is a difference between waiting and keeping vigil. "Anxious, impatient waiting is just waiting. But waiting with purpose, hope, and love is vigilant waiting." We warmly invite you to join us in our vigilant waiting to enhance our understanding of current events and provide emotional support to one another in community, responding to them with vigor. Ideas for social action initiatives are referred to the Social Justice Committee for consideration.

Zoom Login:

MORE ABOUT OUR COMMITTEE & TEAM EVENTS

Joys & Concerns, Oberlin Care Team, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. on Zoom:

OOUF Worship Team, Tuesday, Jan 10, 11:15-12:45 p.m. on Zoom to reflect on past services and plan upcoming services. All are welcome. Same login as Sunday morning services:

OOUF Worship Team, Tuesday, Feb 14, 11:15-12:45 p.m. on Zoom to reflect on past services and plan upcoming services. All are welcome. Same login as Sunday morning services:

OOUF & OUUC Adult Program Teams, Thursday, Feb 16, 4-5 p.m. Evaluate current programs, plan new ones. All are welcome. On Zoom:

“Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well.” – Vincent van Gogh

“You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.” – Buddha

“I have decided to stick to love; hate is too great a burden to bear.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being.” – Dalai Lama

Committees & Teams

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Services every Sunday on Zoom
at 11:00am

All Are Welcome!

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