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OBERLIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

The Chalice Newsletter of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship May 2023

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

Thank You!

Upcoming Services

Creativity

May 2023

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May 7

TED Talk: Do schools kill creativity?

We will have a service surrounding creativity, culminating in a TED Talk where Sir Ken Robinson makes an entertaining and profoundly moving case for creating an education system that nurtures (rather than undermines) creativity. There will be a discussion table about the TED talk. Service led by Jeff Witmer, Meridith Sender, and Ryan Mincey

May 14

Mothering the Future

Beyond birthing and raising children, we are all called to mother the future: creating welcoming space for new life, cultivating imagination and energy for new possibilities. What are you mothering into existence? Who mothered you to be open creatively? How are we mothering the future together? Service led by Rev. Mary

Donations benefit OUUF's Cause of the Month for May: The UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) Disaster Relief Fund supporting peace efforts in Ukraine.

May 21

Let's hear it for the People and the Artists: Messages of Hope

When it comes to making changes in our society, often artists are at the front lines. It might be a book, a painting, a mural, a song, or a poem that captures the essence of the people and the culture to convey a message of hope, love, unity, and community for our turbulent times. Service led by Rev. Shirley A. Nelson.

Shirley is a Cleveland-area certified interspiritual compassionate counselor. For more than 30 years she has lived an engaged spiritual life as a speaker, facilitator, writer and a workshop and retreat leader. She is a 2021 graduate of One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York, NY where she was ordained as an interfaith interspiritual minister.

May 28 Celebrating Memorial Day, Creating Peace.

We honor those who died for democracy, for all to be free:

- By facing the reality of war spreading trauma, fracturing the human family;
- By engaging in conflict management, growing relationships of trust in families, friendships, congregation and community;
- By supporting individuals and organizations working for peace.

Service led by Rev. Mary.

Mary's Musings



Creating Community Together Moment by Moment

*The congregation's theme of the month for May is **Creativity.***

What is creativity?

The dictionary definition is: Giving form to something new.

Do you think of yourself as a creative person?

Children are creative geniuses, not hiding imaginary friends or memories unbounded by time; constantly creating new games, new stories, new creatures.

Our productivity-obsessed culture pressures us to confine creativity to neat categories (*I'm a songwriter or*

poet. A water-colorist or architect.)

Yet creativity is not so easily boxed up.

Everyday is a fresh canvas, with yesterday's brushes and paints at hand.

We create or confine ourselves into routines everyday, throughout the day. Every moment asks, What will we create now?

What attitudes, habits, intentions enable us to create - to give form to something new?

When we invite a friend to our home we create a welcoming environment for them and for ourselves.

When we make a phone (or Zoom) call, we create an environment for all of us to be heard (and seen).

When we leave school and launch ourselves into the adult world, we create ways to make a living and create an ever-evolving career.

When we move beyond cultural stricture, every moment of life becomes an opportunity to create. An open field. Brush in our hand. Kindness in our open heart.

Rumi wrote, Out beyond divisions of you and me, win and lose, there is an open field. I'll meet you there!

May we become again creative geniuses, moment by moment, creating an evolving spiritual community together!

May 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 of the Month for May is the **UUSC Emergency Response Fund for Ukraine**. In response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis, UUSC has sent emergency relief funding to groups who are working on the ground in Eastern Europe to protect the rights of Ukrainian refugees. UUSC has existing partners in the area, including the Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund, the Hungarian Unitarian Church, the International Women's Convocation's Faithify Campaign, and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee which is providing free legal assistance, counseling, and representation to support Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes and communities.

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. **May 9, 2-3 p.m.** Bring a poem (or two or three) to share. Or come to listen. All are welcome.

Sources Covenant Groups, May 2, 16, & 30, (1st and 3rd Tuesdays, extra meeting this month due to 5th Wednesday), **1-3 p.m.** in-person at Oberlin; **7-8:30 p.m.** on Zoom
Note: Pre-registration required.

UU Kendal Monthly Gathering, May 23, 2-3 p.m., 4th Tuesdays, in Kendal's main building, in the Green Room. For May, our theme is **Creativity**. Our reflection questions/conversation starters include,

- What is a surprising way you've used creativity?
- How are you intentionally creative?
- What has creativity shown you?
- How has creativity changed for you through your life?
- Where might you invite creative mind to unlock a persistent habit?

Conversation and check-in facilitated by Rev. Mary; All are welcome.

Wednesdays:

Pastoral Counseling/Check-In - 2nd & 4th Wednesday's, May 10 & 24, 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.

Living with Change Covenant Group – 2nd & 4th Wednesday's, May 10 & 24, 2:30-4:30, in-person @ OUUF

Refreshments and socializing begin at 2:30, the meeting runs from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. After a check-in, the leader of the day introduces a topic and a discussion follows, sometimes about that topic and sometimes about a topic raised during the check-in. All are welcome.

What Would Jesus Do? Covenant Group - 4th Wednesdays, May 24, 7pm-8:30pm - via Zoom

You are warmly invited to join us in exploring the book *Christ for Unitarian Universalists: A New Dialogue with Traditional Christianity* by Scotty McLennan, and a study provided by the UUA to go along with each chapter. 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).

Thursdays:

Deepening Circles Meditation (DCM) - Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; May 4, 11, 18, 25 on Zoom. Reading Pema Chodron's, *Taking the Leap*: chapter seven, (4/6), "Rejoicing in Things as They Are;" chapter eight (4/13, 4/20), "Uncovering Natural Openness;" chapter nine (4/27), "The Importance of Pain." All are welcome. Led by Rev. Mary.

Wisdom Dreams - Thursday, May 4, 1:30-2:30 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.

WISE Women - Thursday, May 18, 1-2:30 p.m. Women-in-Spirit Evolving - a monthly group to listen, support and celebrate what's emerging in our lives. In March we reflect on Creativity and share what we are learning as WISE Women. In-person at Olmsted UU and also online:

Fridays:

Current Events Discussion Group, May 19, 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.

MORE ABOUT OUR COMMITTEE & TEAM EVENTS

Joys & Concerns, Oberlin Care Team, Wednesday, May 24, 2 p.m. on Zoom:

OOUF Worship Team, Tuesday, May, 11:15-12:15 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, May 18, 4-5 p.m. Evaluate current programs, plan new ones. All are welcome. On Zoom:

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: Becoming a Member

Unitarian Universalist minister Jack Mendelson reminds us that:

Inscribing your name does not transform you into an instant or born again Unitarian Universalist. Our religious way of life is not so much an arriving as a becoming - an ongoing process of thought and life experience. Joining for you may mean fresh steps along a familiar path. It may mean venturing into uncharted territory. In either case, the initiative is yours. You do not sign on someone else's dotted line of spiritual development, and there is no fine print. Your signature is your affirming symbol of commitment to an open-minded, inclusive, reasoned, seasoned, compassionate and contemporary approach to live.

“Others have seen what is and asked why. I have seen what could be and asked why not.” – Pablo Picasso

“The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.” – Sylvia Plath

“You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” – Maya Angelou

“That's the great secret of creativity. You treat ideas like cats: you make them follow you.” – Ray Bradbury

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Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Services every Sunday on Zoom
at 11:00am

All Are Welcome!

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