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OBERLIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

This Week @ OUUF November 12 - November 19

Join us for an upcoming event!

Browse this weeks event calendar to keep up to date on our various events. We offer something for everyone. Unless otherwise specified, events are on Zoom and times are P.M.

Sunday 11/12	Monday 11/13	Tuesday 11/14	Wednesday 11/15
<p>11:00am Sunday Service (hybrid)</p>	<p>7:00-9:00 OUUF Men's Group (via Zoom)</p>	<p>2:00-3:00 Poetry Group (via Zoom)</p>	
Thursday 11/16	Friday 11/17	Saturday 11/18	Sunday 11/19
<p>10:30am-11:30am Deeping Circles Meditation (via Zoom) 1:00-2:30 WISE Women (via Zoom) 4:00-5:00 Adult Program Team (via Zoom) 7:00-8:00 Evening Meditation (via Zoom)</p>	<p>7:00-9:00 Current Events Discussion Group (via Zoom)</p>		<p>11:00am Sunday Service (hybrid)</p>

This Week's Services

November 12

Upgrade Your Spiritual Operating System: The Good Samaritan vs. Constantine
Service led by Rev. Mary Grigolia & Jeff Witmer

The Good Samaritan vs. Constantine - the rise of Christianity's doctrines of the Holy Trinity, original sin and hierarchy, catalyzing the extension of the Roman Empire and the religious subjugation of its peoples, acting as a break on the evolution of consciousness and culture. Service presented by Rev. Mary & Jeff.

3rd of 4 services - The Non-Dual Jesus: Jesus wasn't a Christian; why the teachings of Jesus were downplayed by Christianity; with insights from integral (non-dual) spirituality. 2nd Sundays through December

Each service followed by an evening Zoom deep dive, 4th Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. on Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/my/keepingfaithwithlife> (November 28).

>>[Download the Order of Service](#)<<

Join by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/92624190519?pwd=SWdHL3Z6QkxGY1lTWXdqdVluYUVXQTo9>

Meeting ID: 926 2419 0519

Password: 134017

Join by smartphone by dialing: 929 436 2866, then entering the Meeting ID followed by the pound sign: 926 2419 0519#, (perhaps another pound sign: #), then when prompted the password followed by a pound sign, 134017#

You are invited to remain online after services for 10 minutes to talk with friends. When the discussion table begins, you may choose to participate, or log off.

Our hope is that you will become increasingly engaged with the congregation, as well as continuing to be an online observer of it.

Next Week's Service

November 19

Pre-Thanksgiving Bread Service
Service led by Ryan Mincey, adapted from the Living With Change Covenant Group

For the last 30 or 40 years, the Fellowship has celebrated Thanksgiving by exploring the many meanings of bread in our lives. We share bread as a symbol of Earth's many gifts, and express joyful thanks for this amazing interconnected world. A table down the middle of the Sanctuary becomes loaded with bread and goodies, each carrying its own meaning bestowed by the giver. The service is built with music, readings, and a story.

All are invited to bring a bread from their own family culture. That could mean an old family recipe or the Wonder bread you ate as a child, or a special gluten-free loaf, and lots of other

options in between. If you choose to bring bread, please plan to arrive a few minutes early to label and prepare your bread for the service. Children are welcome to join in the fun.

Religious Exploration

Children's Religious exploration has resumed on Sunday mornings! We are excited to have the children rejoin us for the opening of our service, before moving to their space for their own time during our opening song.

Joys and Concerns - November 5

Candle for Racial Justice, in recognition of the 55th anniversary of the election of Shirley Chisholm who in 1968, became the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress. She represented New York's 12th congressional district, centered on Bedford–Stuyvesant, for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. She ran for president in 1972. When asked why, she said because she was in love with an America that doesn't yet exist.

Candle for Peace for the Ukrainians, Israelis, Palestinians, and worldwide, followed by 30 sec. of silence, in reverence for an end to all unjust conflicts, refusing to surrender our humanity to outrage and grief over the loss of life and the brutality.

Candle for Climate Justice, followed by 30 sec. of silence, in reverence for Mother Earth, recognizing that we are approaching the point of no return in our ability to lessen the effect of climate change.

Joys, Concerns & Appreciations

Gail: Pleased to see a pheasant recently, hadn't seen one in years!

Bobbie: Thankful to the Great Spirit that this morning's tears are of joy for the sisterly and brotherly love offered by our beloved community.

David: Continuing his recovery. Trying out a walker this morning since he will need one. So far, so good! And reminding us to vote Tuesday for Issue #1. And maybe Issue #2.

Helen: Candle lit for mother who is 109 today. And for all the mothers whose children of all ages are shot down in gun violence nationwide.

Marvin: Appreciation for Unitarian Universalists and the power of giving. We volunteer help when help is needed.

John: Sorrow for the more than 3,000 children killed in Gaza. And hope that this war will come to some kind of conclusion. And a Hello to Diantha. It's a joy to have her with us on Zoom.

Polly: Appreciation for two recent programs at Kendal. 1. Polly, Jo and Peggy attended a *Racial Equity Forum on Healing the Space Between Us*. Retired social worker Jan Thrope told how she bridged racial and economic divides by walking inner-city Cleveland and East Cleveland neighborhoods and listening to the needs and dreams of residents there. She founded "Inner Visions" with the goal of supporting and promoting community improvement projects. 2. Kendal hosted a free workshop, *SafeZone Training*, presented by LGBTQ+ Lorain County (one of our causes of the month). It was an opportunity to learn about LGBTQ+ identities and gender and sexuality, and to examine prejudices and assumptions. A safe place to ask questions and become a better ally.

Stephanie: Joy to be able to join us via Zoom this morning even though she is sick at home.

Appreciation by Don Leake from October 22 that was missed:

2 weeks ago was CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY-the last one while Mary is still our minister. I apologize for this being a belated expression of appreciation for Rev. Mary's spiritual leadership, which for me personally dates back to the 1990s.

The navigator of a ship is the person whose job it is to steer it. The navigator plans and charts the course and then points the boat in the right direction. Rev. Mary very wisely and skillfully navigated our ship through the perilous pandemic waters with safe passage. She facilitated collaboration with our sister congregation for the mutual support and benefit of each. As the time approached for the resumption of live worship, we reopened in phases, which a few felt were too slow, while a few others felt were too quick-but most felt were prudent. Here in Oberlin, we followed UUA's lead on the much more challenging path of hybrid worship, rather than simply live streaming services, enabling the interactive online participation of folks whose circumstances preclude in person worship. I personally benefited from this capability during my recent convalescence. Hybrid worship, especially during JOYS, CONCERNS AND APPRECIATIONS and POST SERVICE DISCUSSION TABLES enable us to remain integrated as a congregation, rather becoming 2 separate congregations: the in- person participants and the online observers.

The most recent issue of UU WORLD reports that worship leadership in congregations across the country is distributed along a continuum from those which are 100% professionally led, to those which are 100% lay- led with varying combinations in between. I believe the model Mary has developed as SERVICE TEAM LEADER with us here of integration between professional and lay worship leadership is optimal. Mary facilitated the SHARED PULPIT seminar designed by Erika Hewitt for training lay worship leaders. Hewitt declares that the shared pulpit is central to the democratic tradition of Unitarian Universalism.

On a more intimate level, Rev. Mary is an extremely gifted clinical pastoral counselor, guided meditation leader, and small group ministry leader- directly, as well as through the ADULT PROGRAMMING TEAM.

What has been said of a good friend is true of Mary: "A friend is there before you know it to lend a hand before you ask it and give you love just when you need it most." She could have chosen an easier and more profitable career path than parish ministry; for example, a hospital chaplaincy.

Let me close my remarks by quoting Khalil Gibran: "Love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation." Let us ensure we do not take the gift of Mary's presence for granted during these last months of her parish ministry so that they do not drift away without our fullest appreciation. MAY IT BE SO! Please JOIN ME IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR REV. MARY!

OUU-tside & Inside the Fellowship

Revising the Seven Principles

The national UU community (the UUA) is revising Article II of the bylaws where we declare who we are - to each other and to the world. Currently, Article II is where we list the Seven Principles and the six Sources of UU'ism.

Over the last four years, the Article II Commission guiding the revision invited all UU's to participate. At General Assembly (GA) in June (2023), we considered the proposed revision and

accepted some of the many proposed amendments. The final vote will happen at next year's GA 2024.

The values of our beloved 7 Principles speak through the proposed revision, with Love explicitly at the center, at our center. Will we lose our 7 principle? No. We will continue to live from them as long as we choose. They are how UU's described themselves, ourselves, in 1985. We and our bylaws are evolving and how we describe ourselves is evolving, too. Together, we'll decide many ways to continue the 7 Principles. And we'll have an updated expression in the bylaws, holding us and calling us to Love.

To learn more, download the pre-GA [26-page report here](#). When the updated report from GA 2023 is available, we'll share it on our website.

Come Sing a Song With Us!

OUUF Choir will come back into weekly existence this year!! Music Director Katie Cross is excited to begin weekly meetings on Fridays at 12:15pm in the sanctuary beginning August 18th. Anyone attending practices does not necessarily have to have sung in a choir before; several of us have lots of experience and will help you. If you love the music or companionship and want simply to listen, you are also welcome. The choir will prepare selections to share on approximately a once-a-month schedule. We will often just prepare hymns in unison or parts to bolster the congregational singing.

Jesus for UUs: Jesus wasn't a Christian (and wouldn't be).

Four services on the teachings of Jesus, obscured by Christianity, with insights from integral spirituality. (Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10) By Mary and Jeff.

The Weekly Update email is published every Friday/Saturday. Send announcements, advice, concerns, and corrections for the Weekly Update to office@ouuf.org by the Wednesday before publication, with a clear subject line indication what you are sending. Thanks!

355 E. Lorain St.
Oberlin, OH 44074

Services every Sunday at 11:00am
All Are Welcome!

440-775-0355
www.ouuf.org

Our Mission

The Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a welcoming, caring community that promotes religious freedom, encourages spiritual and personal growth, and works for a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

Contact Us!

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Our Covenant

We the members and friends of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship covenant to live together in our quest for truth, love, social justice, and environmental responsibility. In this spirit of caring fellowship, we offer our combined gifts and resources.



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