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OBERLIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

This Week @ OUUF January 14 - January 21

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 1/14	Monday 1/15	Tuesday 1/16	Wednesday 1/17
11:00am Sunday Service (hybrid)	7:00-9:00 OUUF Men's Group (via Zoom)		2:00-3:00 UU Poetry Group (via Zoom)
Thursday 1/18	Friday 1/19	Saturday 1/20	Sunday 1/21
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)	7:00-9:00 Current Event Discussion Group (at OUUF)		11:00am Sunday Service (hybrid)

This Week's Services

January 14

Liberating Love & Compassionate Communication

Exploring spiritual community as an oasis, a practice ground, for growing our hearts, evolving our relationships and our work in the world. Service led by Zellda Zelle and Rev. Mary.

>>[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

January 21

Ted Talk: Leadership is Love: The Power of Human Connections
Service led Jeff Witmer & Meridith Sender

Love can be present in many forms, one of which is leadership. Dr. Mark Rittenberg talks about how human connections bring forth love in his talk "Leadership is Love: The Power of Human Connections."

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 after our story for all ages.

Joys and Concerns - January 7

Candle for Racial Justice, in recognition of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declaring "that all persons held as slaves within

the rebellious states are, and henceforward shall be free," which built the foundation for the fight for racial justice.

Candle for Climate Justice, followed by a brief moment of silence, recognizing that we are approaching the point of no return in our ability to lessen the effect of climate change and we must intensify, with love, our efforts to save our home.

Candle for World Peace, followed by a brief moment of silence, recognizing the need for us to lift up love and sue for these many worldwide conflicts to end.

Joys, Concerns & Appreciations

Ryan: Joy that he has had a 1st and 2nd interview for a position, with a 3rd scheduled for Friday. And he has received requests from two other companies for interviews.

Bobbie: Thankful to the Great Spirit to be here today to share the sisterly and brotherly love offered by our beloved community. And happy that little brother called with jokes which shows he's getting better.

David: Appreciation that Israel's Supreme Court struck down the bill to strip the Supreme Court of the power to declare government decisions unreasonable, the first major piece of a multipronged effort to weaken the judiciary to be passed by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, last year.

John: Recommends that we read the columns by Thomas Friedman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning NYT journalist, to help understand the true nature of the Hamas-Israel War.

Don: Appreciation for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: Back in the 90s I had a conversation with a Christian minister of the challenges Unitarian Universalists face in outreach to prospective members who are church shopping. We cannot threaten people with hell, nor can we promise them heaven. This represents to many people a significant disadvantage in the marketplace where we compete with other religions, for the decreasing percentage of the population who feel the need to do something different Sunday mornings. Rev. Bartoni added we have 1/3 distinct disadvantage: we do not have a person whom we can hold up as a mentor or example of a life well lived in accordance with UU principles.

When I shared this observation with Rev. Mary, her response was: IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Reflecting on this, I considered Gandhi as a possible candidate, but quickly realized many UUs would be troubled by the sacred cows of Hinduism. My nomination then became-and remains-Martin Luther King.

Jeff Witmer has astutely observed that although the civil rights movement is typically regarded as a political movement with religious overtones, it is more accurately seen as a religious movement that had political consequences and impact. Dr. King chose the path of peace and love of Gandhi and Jesus, rather than the path of the warrior in addressing injustice. Inspiring the civil rights movement prevented civil and race war in our country.

In a recent conversation on the subject, Rev. Mary said that Dr. and Mrs. King seriously considered converting to Unitarian Universalism because our principles accurately reflected their beliefs, but they decided their political impact would be greater as leaders of a Christian movement. This was around the time of the merger of Unitarianism with Universalism in 1961, and the subsequent founding of many new UU congregations, including ours. Civil rights legislation was passed by Congress in 1965.

Helen: Challenge for us in 2024 is to put our energy where it is needed.

Barbara: Not able to attend today, noting that many people are reporting lots of problems with respiratory diseases. She asked for a moment of silence for those who are feeling sick.

Gerlind: Thanked Barbara, and said she is one of those people, and hopes to be able to lead the Covenant group discussion on Wednesday.

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.

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

Contact Us!

Minister
Rev. Mary Grigolia
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Director of Religious Exploration
Hanna Steele
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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.

Music Director
Katie Cross
crossk_connect@yahoo.com

Office Manager
Ryan Mincey
office@ouuf.org

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.



OUUF | 355 E. Lorain St, Oberlin, OH 44074

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