# THE FORUM



monthly newsletter of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

### **APRIL 2024**



"We are on Earth to take care of life.

We are on Earth to take care of each other."

—Xiye Bastida

## THE FORUM

Monthly Newsletter of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 8690 Yankee Street Dayton OH 45458 937.436.3628 www.mvuuf.org Onsite Office Hours: M-W-F, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

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"The Earth is always changing...readjusting to our existence. Each era is full of unique challenges."

—Joshua Becker

#### **WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR APRIL**

SUN (**online only**—Zoom & Facebook)

APR 7th 11:00 AM

Riding the Rollercoaster of Change

with Rev. Kellie

SUN (multi-platform)

APR 14th 11:00 AM

Accountability is Love with

Rev. Dr. Alice Diebel

SUN (multi-platform)

APR 21st 11:00 AM (outdoors if weather permits)

Worship For All Ages: Dirt Communion with Somaya Bernard, Dir. of Religious Ed.

SUN (multi-platform)

APR 28th 11:00 AM

Writing Our Next Chapter

with Rev. Kellie

"I firmly believe nature brings solace in all troubles."

—-Anne Frank

#### **DEADLINE for the MAY 2024 FORUM**

If you'd like to have an announcement published in the next edition of *The Forum*, please make sure to email your information to the Editor, Jennie Freiberger, at: admin@mvuuf.org by Tuesday, APR 23rd.

## **STAFF STUFF**

#### **CYRE NEWS**



In April, we will have our second CYRE Committee meeting, on APR 14th, following the Worship Service. Snacks & drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring your own, as well. Please let me know if you plan to attend and have any dietary restrictions so that we can accommodate them. We will also offer childcare in the nursery during the meeting. This meeting is for anyone interested in volunteering in CYRE, have great ideas

you'd love to share, or are just interested in learning more about the program.

On Sunday, APR 21st, we will be having our second annual Dirt Communion service. Since our Butterfly Service in August is often outside and the heat can be a bit much, we have decided to make our Dirt Communion service outside instead this year. We hope that we can beat the heat by doing it earlier in the year, and enjoy a lovely spring morning. As part of this service, we are asking you to bring with you a small amount of dirt from a spot that is special to you: a place where you find peace, your power, your joy. Maybe from a garden, a playground, a hiking trail...maybe from a resting place of someone or something you loved.

We want to get the word out early for our event in May! Join us on Sunday, MAY 19th, after the Worship Service, for a Tie-Dye Workshop! This event is open to all ages, and we are excited to get messy and creative together. Since this event is directly after the service, we will have it catered so you don't have to worry about lunch! We will be able to host this rain or shine so no need to worry about the weather, either. I am so excited to host this event, as tie-dye is one of my many creative passions and it is so much fun to create an item you can wear forever! I will provide all the supplies needed, all you will have to bring are some things to dye. There are a few specifications you'll want to look out for when choosing your item(s). It must be made of natural material (cotton or rayon, 100%

for either or a blend of the two). There are other natural materials that work well but these are the most common. No polyester or polyester blends! It will not take the dye. The items don't have to be white, as colors also work, but lighter shades work best. If you have any questions about what will be okay to use, feel free to ask. I will pick up a few extra things to dye for those who forget to or cannot get something. If you would like me to get something in a specific size, please let me know by Sunday, MAY 12th. This event will be messy, with stains that do not come out, so please wear something you don't mind getting "colorful."

—Somaya Bernard, Director of Religious Education, re@mvuuf.org

"To leave the world a better place than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people's trash." —Bill Nye

#### FROM REV. KELLIE

My Dear Ones,

Please accept my apology for my recent, low column production, whether in *The Forum* or in my separate Keeping the Faith message. While I am getting better at slowing down and doing more that feeds my heart, I am still not able to get everything on my to-do list or in my email inbox done. As a people person, I tend to prioritize visits and



meetings over writing and paperwork, which obviously has its drawbacks.

However, in this time of great change for our congregation, I want to be more present with you, especially those of you who I don't interact with often.

One way that I've already been working to do that is by restarting my monthly Coffee with the Minister session. Before COVID shook up our lives, I used to invite congregants to get to know me better by answering questions over a beverage (coffee, tea, water, or even a protein smoothie). Since Sundays have become packed with events before and

after worship, I now host Coffee With The Minister on the 4th Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM via Zoom so our congregants who participate from home can participate fully. My next session is April 27th. I hope you will join me—pajamas are welcome!

I also would like to update you on some of the things happening in my personal life, which also is in a period of transition. Some of you may know that my husband, Ivers, and I separated in 2022. For the majority of our separation, we both worked hard to resolve our differences, including attending marital counseling for a year. Unfortunately, our core beliefs and goals were ultimately too different to reconcile. We still love and care for one another but cannot share a lifeboat anymore. I did not make any public statements about our separation because Ivers' immigration visa was based on our marriage and I didn't want to jeopardize his safety. We expect our divorce to be final in May. While I took this very hard at the time of our separation, I really feel this is the best thing for both of us. So please don't worry about me.

On a happier note, Matt is graduating from high school June 12th. He is a virtual (remote) student of a democratic, student-led private school in Southern California. So we'll be flying to Santa Ana, CA for his graduation festivities. He's going to take a gap year (or two) to do some volunteering, take the SAT, look at schools, and work on his "adulting" skills. We will have a graduation party for him at MVUUF before the end of June and all are welcomed and encouraged.

Finally, I will be mostly off for the next two weeks (April 8th-21st), with the exception of some meetings I was not able to reschedule. I'll be using this time to recharge a bit and prepare my house for sale. I hope to have it on the market by June 1st. I would like to find a townhouse/condo (goodbye yard work), but I may have to rent for a few months between the sale of my house and new purchase. Don't worry about being asked to lift furniture or boxes—I promise to hire a moving company, hehe.

While I am away from the Fellowship, please contact Jennie for any general MVUUF needs. If you have a pastoral care emergency, please call or text me at (847) 804-4614 and state that you have a pastoral care

emergency.

Of all the things that are changing in my life right now, I am incredibly grateful that you all—this faith community—are constants in my life. I cannot fully express my gratitude for the love you have given me, my son, my mother, my husband, and even my kitty. Thank you for becoming my home.

I pray for your health, growth, and flourishing.

With love and gratitude, Kellie

Mobile: **(847) 804-4614**Email: minister@mvuuf.org

Want to know what I'm reading? Click on my bookshelf link: <a href="https://bitly/kelliesbookshelf">https://bitly/kelliesbookshelf</a>

My office hours are 10:00 AM—7:00 PM, Monday—Thursday If you'd like to talk to me, you can schedule a quick call (less than 30 minutes) or a longer meeting/visit (60 minutes) using my online scheduler: **calendly.com/kellieuukelly/** or via email, phone, or text. Choose whichever method is easiest for you; I will reply to messages during my office hours.

#### EARTH DAY 2024 APRIL 22nd

Earth Day is an annual event, held on April 22nd, to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The first one was held on April 22, 1970, and now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by **earthday.org**, including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme this year is *Planet vs. Plastics*.

Find out more at: <a href="https://earthday.org">https://earthday.org</a>

### LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT

#### **NEW CYRE COMMITTEE**

Sunday, APR 14th, 12:30 PM, CYRE Wing

Back in February at our Children and Youth Religious Enrichment (CYRE) Volunteer Training, we discussed the idea of forming a new CYRE Committee. The goal of this committee will be to have a space and a group in which we can talk about how things are going in CYRE and brainstorm ideas we may have. This meeting is open to anyone interested in being more involved in CYRE, or if you have some great ideas you'd like to share, or want to know more about what's going on.

Our meeting this month will be Sunday, APR 14th, 12:30 PM, after the Worship Service; we'll meet in one of the CYRE classrooms. I will bring snacks for everyone; if you have and dietary preferences please let me know so I can accommodate. Childcare will be available for those who need it.

I look forward to seeing those that are able to make it!
--Somaya Bernard, Director of Religious Education re@mvuuf.org

#### **DAYTIME BOOK CLUB**

4th Wednesday Each Month Wednesday, APR 24th, 10:30 AM, on Zoom

Our Daytime Book Club is now usually meeting monthly on the 4th Wednesday—on Zoom—to discuss a featured book.

On APR 24th, they will discuss *The Dog Stars* by Peter Heller.

If you'd like to join them, please use the link below: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83229588801?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83229588801?</a>
<a href="pwd=RHIBM2Z4WnBXZzJyWnc3WmpRN3VuUT09">pwd=RHIBM2Z4WnBXZzJyWnc3WmpRN3VuUT09</a>



#### **CYRE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL**

**APR 7th** Zoom-only service; no Nursery or CYRE class;

OWL will meet

**APR 14th** Nursery; K-5th Grade class; OWL; no youth group;

CYRE Committee after service

**APR 21st** Worship For All Ages: Dirt Communion

(outside); Nursery; OWL

**APR 28th** Nursery, K-5th Grade class; Youth Group

#### LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT

Our Religious Education Program offers classes and groups for adults and youth (middle school and older). If you are interested in offering a class or have questions about our Religious Enrichment Program, please contact our Lifespan Religious Enrichment Representative, **Lathe Snyder**, **Ire.rep@mvuuf.org**.

#### **SCRIPTURE STUDY**

#### Sunday Mornings, 9:00 AM, on Zoom

If you are interested in learning about different religions, and especially in the writings from those different religions, then you should consider attending our weekly Scripture Study. This group meets every Sunday morning, beginning at 9:00 AM, on Zoom. Feel free to contact John Bierman, at **johnbierman78@gmail.com** if you have any questions.

To join them on Zoom, use the link posted below: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/424304843? pwd=RFcyeTlpR2J5bVRoZlk3TEIEU3UzUT09

To join by phone, dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 929 205 6099** and at the prompts enter Meeting ID: **424 304 843** and Passcode: **720015** 

## **NEW HOME TASK FORCE**

Values: Community, Love, Transformation, Justice, Inclusivity
Mission: A liberal religious community uniting in love
and action for a more just world

April 2024

Dear MVUUF Members & Friends,

Wow, we certainly have been busy!

Over the last two weeks, our New Home Task Force has visited four potential locations and will be visiting our fifth today. We also have messages out to a few other locations that have been recommended. At this time, we are looking predominantly in Centerville, Dayton, Kettering, and Washington Township.

We also would like to thank all those who took the time to give us feed-back on our initial selection criteria. If you haven't had an opportunity to respond, please provide feedback via this Google form:

https://forms.gle/RBYFcWyWaQnSqH4n6 or by emailing <a href="mailto:newhome@mvuuf.org">newhome@mvuuf.org</a>.

We hope to have a report ready for the Board by the beginning of May with one to two location recommendations. As we explained in our March introduction letter, we may suggest a temporary home for the time being because of our short timeline (we must move by the end of August). Rest assured—we will find a new and beloved home again!

Your New Home Task Force,

Rev. Kellie, minister (co-lead), Bill Ross, Board Vice-President (co-lead), John Bierman, Aimé Boyd, 23 Eakin, Shannon Harper, and Maury Wyckoff

## **ONSIGHT GATHERINGS**

#### **ACOUSTIC FOLK JAM SESSION**

3rd Tuesday of Each Month Tuesday, APR 16th, 7:00 PM, in the Gathering Space

Make sure to join us for some fun and fellowship, and LOTS of music!

Feel free to bring any music/lead sheets or lyrics you'd like to share. Instrumentalists, singers, and "listeners" are ALL welcome!

#### **ADULT GAME NIGHT**

4th Friday of Each Month Friday, APR 26th, 7:00 PM, in the Sanctuary

Our new Adult Game Nights are a great way to play, laugh, and have together! Please join us for a fun evening of playing games and community building on the 4th Friday evening of each month.

What type of games? Whatever you'd like to play, whatever you'd like to bring—board games, card games, Magic the Gathering, Cards Against Humanity, Exploding Kittens...you get the idea. If you don't want to bring a game, we'll have plenty to share so we welcome you just the same. We'll also have Jaxbox for games with the whole group; make sure to bring your smartphone or tablet for Jaxbox games.

Please bring a snack and/or beverage to share. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Gemperline at 937-681-0136 (text preferred).



### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

## APRIL'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER: CATHERINE QUEENER



There are SO MANY reasons why Catherine Queener is our featured volunteer this month! Read on to find out what some of them are; listing all of the reasons would require several boxes of paper.

"CQ" as she is lovingly known throughout the MVUUF world is one of those

volunteers you can always count on. She's the one to call if you need a tasty vegan dish for a potluck meal, or a cheerleader for MVUUF events and the rights of all humans; she was on Ministerial Search Teams for both Rev. Greg and Rev. Kellie; she was the Stewardship Chair in 2019 and 2020; and has been the caretaker of our labyrinth and the Peace Heroes Coordinator since 2020. Since 2023 she's been a member of our Board, and also a Worship Associate. She frequently helps out at social action events (cheer leading, sign-holding, chanting and representing), and even finds more volunteers when they are needed. And for as long as I can remember, she's been a Choir member, and CYRE teacher, and a leader of a Small Group.

So when I state that CQ can be counted on to help out in almost any way, you can see I'm not exaggerating! And when I say that I don't think MVUUF would be MVUUF without her, I'm guessing you'd agree. She is such a help and a light at MVUUF...please let her know the next time you see her!

—Jennie Freiberger, Editor

## **PAGAN EVENTS**

#### **BUILD YOUR OWN BOOK OF SHADOWS**

Sunday, APR 7th, 6:30 PM, in the Founders' Room

Have you ever thought of creating your very own Book of Shadows? This is a magical journal, and our pagan group, Chalice of the Willow (CUUPS), can teach you how to put one together.

They will have packets each month for you to fill out, so that you can create your own journal. It's a creative way to express yourself and find out more about paganism in the process.

#### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

Sunday, APR 14th, 12:30 PM, in the Founders' Room

Our pagan group, CUUPS, has a discussion group on the 2nd Sunday of each month, beginning at 12:30 PM, in the Founders' Room. It's a great way to find out a bit more about pagan beliefs & traditions, and to converse with others in a comfortable, non-judgmental atmosphere.

#### **FULL MOON RITUAL**

Sunday, APR 21st, 6:30 PM, at MVUUF

Join CUUPS, or pagan group, as they experience their monthly Full Moon Ritual on Sunday, APR 21st, beginning at 6:30 PM at MVUUF. The evening begins with the ritual, followed by a pot luck meal. The celebration is open to all.

#### **BELTANE RITUAL**

Sunday, APR 28th, 6:30 PM, at MVUUF

Celebrate the beginning of summer with CUUPS! This fun ritual takes place on Sunday, APR 28th, beginning at 6:30 PM, at MVUUF. After the ritual, we'll enjoy a delicious pot luck meal. Come join us!

## **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

#### **SMART CHOICES**

#### 2nd Thursday Each Month Thursday, APR 11th, 11:30 AM, MCL Cafeteria

This group of ladies has been getting together for quite a few years, celebrating birthdays & enjoying each other's company. They have a GREAT time and would like you to know that you're invited to join them!

They get together on the second Thursday each month, 11:30 AM, at MCL Cafeteria in Kettering. If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact Allie Petersen at allieoop777@yahoo.com.

#### **MEN'S GROUP**

1st & 3rd Thursdays Each Month, 6:30 PM, in the Founders' Room

A new group has formed at MVUUF for those who identify as male!

There will only be one gathering this month: Thursday, APR 18th, 6:30 PM, in the Founders' Room. If you plan to attend, please contact **Ian Hogan** at: **hoganmathematics@gmail.com**; materials for the sessions are sent out ahead of time, so dropping in to the group is not advised.

#### **NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP FORMING!**

We are very excited to start a Young Adult Group for congregants 18-35 years old. We are here to create connections, community, and experiences. We will plan events both remote and in-person, with multiple focuses, including events that are educational, social, spiritual, creative, and more.

Young adults interested in community are invited to fill out this Google form to register for our Discord server: <u>Google.com/forms</u>

For more information, email the facilitator: **Damian Haviland** at **8cara3liz@gmail.com** 

## **ONLINE ACTIVITIES**

#### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

3rd Tuesday of Each Month Tuesday, APR 16th, 7:00 PM, on Zoom

Our Pastoral Care Team is a group of lay leaders who volunteer their time to tend to the heart of our community. Led & guided by Rev. Kellie, they reach out to/work with individuals who are in need and reach out to the Team—for many different reasons. If you need their assistance, reach out to anyone on the Team at any time. Contact info is below; you can also reach them at: pastoralcare@mvuuf.org.

Mike Fanelli	937-231-6359	fanellimike@aol.com
Allie Petersen	937-672-5301	allieoop777@yahoo.com
Steve Steel	937-304-4087	steel.steven@yahoo.com
Maury Wyckoff	937-478-2993	mauryw651@gmail.com

#### **COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER**

NOW on the 4th Saturday of Each Month Saturday, APR 27th, 10:30 AM, on Zoom

Before COVID shook up our lives and the world, Rev. Kellie invited congregants to get to know her better by answering questions over a beverage (coffee, tea, water, or even a protein smoothie). Why did she become a Minister? Why does she love peanut butter so much? Come and learn the answer to questions like these and others asked by fellow congregants. Since Sundays have become packed with events and groups both before and after worship, Rev. Kellie will host Coffee with the Minister on the 4th Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM. She has decided to do it via Zoom so our congregants who participate from home can participate fully. Pajamas are welcome!

To join the chat, use this link: <a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95559512887">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95559512887</a>
If joining by phone, dial 1 312 626 6799 or 1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID: 955 5951 2887 at the prompts.

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

#### 4th Tuesday of Each Month Tuesday, APR 23rd, 7:00 PM, on Zoom

What does it take to produce a multi-platform Worship service? The Production Team definitely knows something about that, and includes Zoom host and co-host roles, as well as onsite A/V Booth and Mevo roles. Those interested in learning more about what the Team does—and potentially volunteering on it—are invited to join them!

They'll meet on Tuesday, APR 23rd, beginning at 7:00 PM, on Zoom. To join them, use the link below:

<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95267921276?">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95267921276?</a>

pwd=aFdkK1VuY1BZd0NWZIIEcHdPUHJKUT09

Joining by phone?

Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **952 6792 1276** and Passcode: **051561** at the prompts.

#### **BOARD MEETING**

#### Sunday, APR 28th, 2:00 PM, on Zoom

Our Board meetings are open to EVERYONE, and time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting to answer any questions for Board members.

The April Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, APR 28th, beginning at 2:00 PM, on Zoom. To join the meeting, use the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521323250? pwd=YWgxKzlWRnJXZDFiTG9pT1ZYbWIrdz09

Joining by phone? Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **815 2132 3250** and Passcode: **003493** at the prompts.

"And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and my soul."

—John Muir

#### **WOMENS' GROUP**

#### Sunday Mornings, 9:00 AM, on Zoom

This weekly group---which meets every Sunday---is open to all who identify as female, and they would love to have you join them for one of their interesting and thought-provoking discussions! To join the gathering online, click on the link below---

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/339923301?

pwd=eFJVNWZaSTRPdHQ5NkM4REt2WTq3QT09

If joining by phone: Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **339 923 301** and Passcode: **042027** when prompted.

## OUR HUMANITARIAN GIVING RECIPIENT FOR APR, MAY, JUN 2024



# SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

2nd Thursday of Each Month Thursday, APR 11th, 6:30 PM, on Zoom

Our Social Justice Committee offers many different ways for you to "be the change" you'd like to see in the world: immigration action, improving conditions in West Dayton, tutoring projects, and the list goes on.

Feel free to join their next meeting by using the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022429356?

 $\underline{pwd} = \underline{dmhiKzIzZzhvTTdwbTBpQ1JzWVlpdz09}$ 

Joining by phone? Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **850 2242 9356** and Passcode: **613674** at the prompts.

#### **TAPROOT: A NATIONAL BIPOC SPACE**

2nd Thursday Each Month Thursday, APR 11th, 9:00 PM, online

The work of the spiritual community is complicated in the 21st century. The need for faithful leadership that is grounded and resilient is imperative. This is all the more true for leaders within our communities and congregations who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPoC).

All too aware of this need, Congregational Life is excited to explore and co-create a network with congregational leaders that support them in this time in emergent ways through Taproot: A National BIPOC Space. BIPOC Leaders rooted in the Unitarian Universalist congregations are invited to take part in this monthly, virtual gathering.

To register online, please visit: https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/m1w669841ox9xn1/

#### AN INVITATION TO THE CASTLE

3rd Monday of Each Month Monday, APR 15th, 11:30 AM at The Castle

The Social Justice Committee invites YOU to join other members who are sharing their time & talents with The Castle!

The lunch team needs more volunteers: each month, it designs a new menu and prepares a meal, dropping off items to The Castle by 11:30 AM on the 3rd Monday. Lunch is then served by the staff. If you would like to volunteer, contact Mary Lou Heitkamp at 937-291-1831 (home) or 937-615-7295 (cell) early in the month. She will then call you when they have set the menu, to determine which item you can provide (for 15-35 people). Try it for a month—you may just like it!

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful." — e.e.cummings

## UPLIFT: UUA TRANSGENDER/NON-BINARY MONTHLY GATHERING

4th Tuesday of Each Month Tuesday, APR 23rd, 8:00 PM, online

Join the UPLIFT monthly gatherings focused on trans, non-binary, and other not (completely or at all) cis UUs. Join us to connect with other trans/non-binary UUs and co-create support & community across our faith. The gatherings focus on getting to know each other and on sharing our collective dreams, ideas, and talents for this space. Expansive definitions of trans, non-binary, and UU all apply. If you are interested in this space, and you aren't cisgender, it's a space for you!

To join them, use this link: https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/transnb

