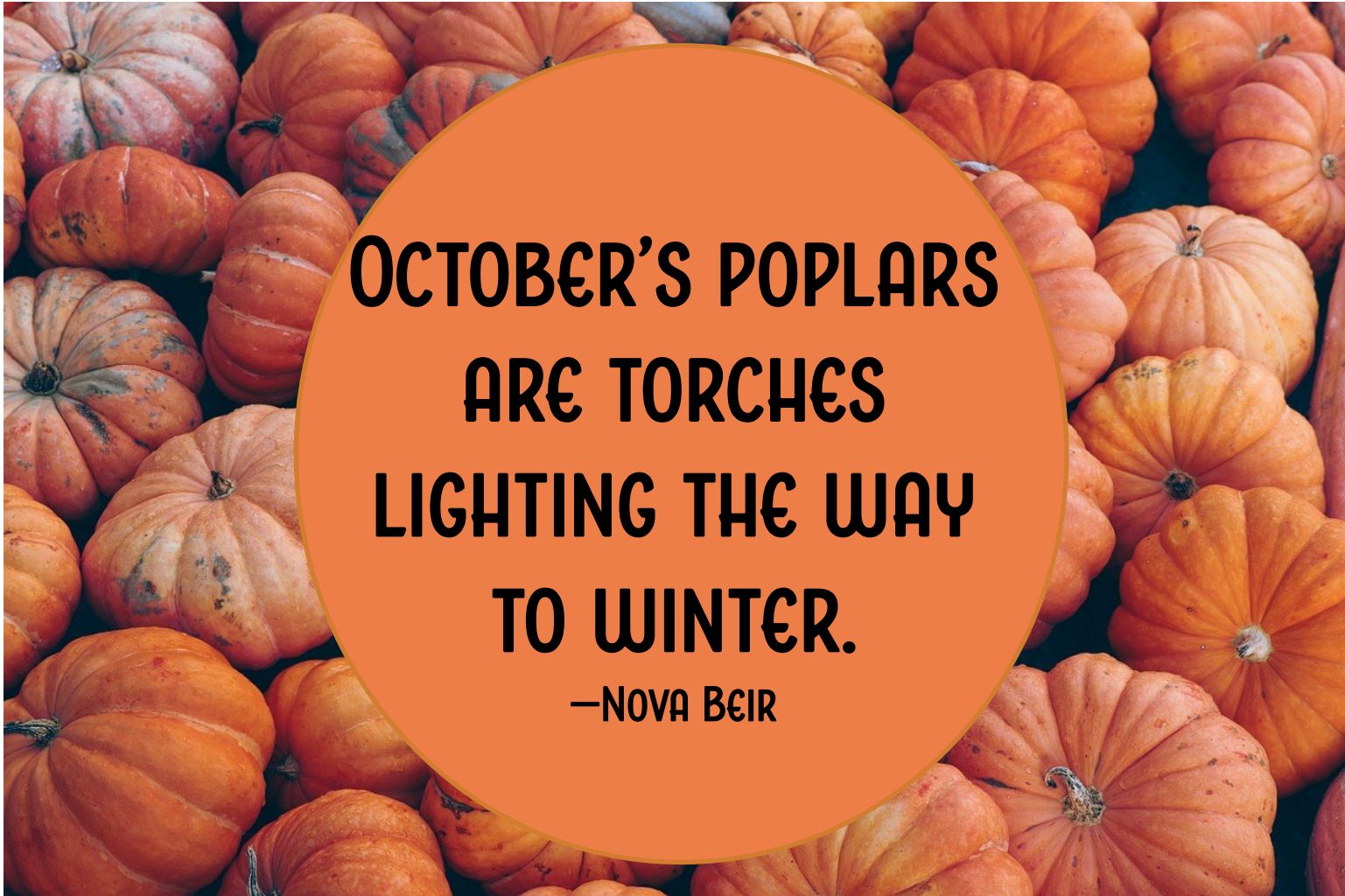


THE FORUM

monthly newsletter of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



OCTOBER 2024



**OCTOBER'S POPLARS
ARE TORCHES
LIGHTING THE WAY
TO WINTER.**

—NOVA BEIR

THE FORUM

Monthly Newsletter of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
at St. John's United Church of Christ
515 East Third Street Dayton OH 45402
937.436.3628 www.mvuuf.org
Onsite Office Hours: M-F, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

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***"October is the treasure of the year,
And the months pay bounty to her store."***

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

STAFF CONTACTS

Rev. Kellie C. Kelly, Minister
minister@mvuuf.org

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

Jennie Freiburger, Fellowship Administrator
admin@mvuuf.org

Brianna Kempe, Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@mvuuf.org

***"Life starts all over again when
it gets crisp in the fall."***

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

GOOGLE GROUPS

Anti-Racism	anti-racism.ally@mvuuf.org
Board	board@mvuuf.org
Bulletin Board	bullbd@mvuuf.org
Climate	climate@mvuuf.org
Finance Cmmte	finance@mvuuf.org
News	news@mvuuf.org
Outdoors Group	outdoors@mvuuf.org
Social Justice	social.action@mvuuf.org
Transgender	transgender@mvuuf.org
Women's Group	womens@mvuuf.org

WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- OCT 6th** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
Worship For All Ages: Animal Blessing
with Somaya Bernard, Dir. of Religious Education
- OCT 13th** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
The First American Thanksgivings
with Rev. Kellie
- OCT 20th** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
*The Welcome Table: Building Beloved Community
In the Heart of the City*
with Rev. Kellie & Tina Musgrove
- OCT 27th** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
Healing Our Religious Wounds
with Rev. Kellie

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

- OCT 6th**
Worship For All Ages: Animal Blessing, NO Nursery or CYRE
Classes today)
- OCT 13th**
Nursery; LEGO-ValUUes Class; Roots & Branches Class
- OCT 20th**
Nursery; LEGO-ValUUes Class; Roots & Branches Class
- OCT 27th**
Nursery; LEGO-ValUUes Class; Roots & Branches Class



At left are some of the people who enjoy being a part of our Folk Jam Sessions. This photo was taken Tuesday, SEP 17th, as they gathered for the first time at their new location: The Wellington at Dayton Senior Living Facility, 2656 W. Alex-Bell Road. Pictured are (L-R): Tom Adams, Dave Nolin, Brenda Gaines, Jeff Bohrer, and Beth Sorensen.

DEADLINE for the NOV 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 Freiburger, at: admin@mvuuf.org by Wednesday, OCT 23rd.

STAFF STUFF

FROM REV. KELLIE

Dear Ones,

I will be out of the office until Sunday, October 13th, moving to and getting settled in my new townhome in Vandalia (just 16 minutes away from MVUUF's downtown location). So I will be up to my elbows in movers, utility technicians, and boxes. During this time, I will not be accessible via email.



For any fellowship-related needs while I am out of the office, please contact our Fellowship Administrator, Jennie Freiburger (937-436-3628). If you are having a pastoral emergency, please call or text my mobile phone number (847-804-4614) and put EMERGENCY in your message. I will return your message as soon as I can. Thank you for understanding!

With love and gratitude,
Kellie
847-804-4614

Want to know what Rev. Kellie has been reading?

Click on her bookshelf link:

<https://bit.ly/kelliesbookshelf>

ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

If you have your contributions sent to MVUUF directly from your bank, please give them a call and let them know our new address: **515 E. Third Street Dayton, OH 45402.**

This way we can make sure we receive your check at the new location and it doesn't get lost in the mail. Thanks!

—Jennie Freiburger, Fellowship Administrator



CYRE NEWS



As some of you may know, Lizz Halfpap is unable to travel to our new building for work, as her drive to St. John's is significantly longer than it was to Yankee Street. Lizz has been working in the nursery for the last two years and has been absolutely wonderful in her role. Her official last day was last Sunday, Sept. 29th but has graciously offered to fill

in when needed.

On Sunday, SEP 29th, our new nursery staff member started! I would like to warmly welcome Latusha Harvey to MVUUF! Latusha is very passionate about working with kids and was a natural at playing kitchen on Sunday. I think she will be a great fit and I look forward to working with her.

Don't forget to register for RE this year...please click the link below!

<https://forms.gle/gWVwc8C4fkXVXJKd9>

We need volunteers in the nursery and K-5th classes each Sunday that there is not a WFAA. There is a sign up sheet if you are interested in volunteering and would like to pick a specific date. If you would like to volunteer but don't have a preference, please let me know and I will fill you in where needed! The link to the volunteer sign-up sheet is below.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12KEi_uYgklmpVYUFyso13TEalp2P1CR8Y7N-b5g4eok/edit?usp=sharing

—Somaya Bernard, Director of Religious Education

***“October is crisp days and cool nights,
a time to curl up around the dancing flames
and sink into a good book.”***

—John Sinor

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/424304843?pwd=RFcyeTlpR2J5bVRoZlI3TElEU3UzUT09)
[pwd=RFcyeTlpR2J5bVRoZlI3TElEU3UzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/424304843?pwd=RFcyeTlpR2J5bVRoZlI3TElEU3UzUT09)

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**

SHARING STORIES BOOK GROUP

4th Wednesday Each Month

Wednesday, OCT 23rd, 10:30 AM, on Zoom

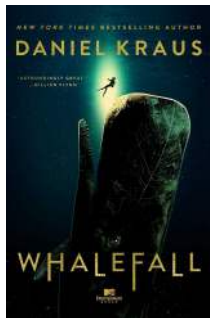
Our Sharing Stories Book Group usually meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday—on Zoom—to discuss a featured book.

in October, they will discuss *Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus.

If you'd like to join them, please use the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83229588801?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83229588801?pwd=RHlBM2Z4WnBXZzJyWnc3WmpRN3VuUT09)
[pwd=RHlBM2Z4WnBXZzJyWnc3WmpRN3VuUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83229588801?pwd=RHlBM2Z4WnBXZzJyWnc3WmpRN3VuUT09)

Joining by phone? Please dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and at the prompts enter the Meeting ID **832 2958 8801** and Passcode: **224361**.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER:

Jim Poltrone

This month's featured volunteer has helped out at MVUUF for quite a few years. That's right, **Jim Poltrone** has shared his assistance & knowledge in many different ways throughout the Fellowship.



When there was a void in the technology part of our services, Jim stepped into the A/V world using his experience with music, computers and technology to advise on the best ways to use our equipment. His experience with computers also led to him creating a separate database for our annual Service Auction, taking care of this enormous task through 2019.

Jim doesn't shine merely with computers & electronics, either. During 2021-2022 he and Larry Stone led a small group ministry for men; and a couple years ago Jim and Ian Hogan tried to get another men's group started at MVUUF as well. I'm guessing Jim's helpfulness with these groups may have come from his previous work with The Mankind Project. In fact, he chose one of The Mankind Project's founders, Bill Kauth, as his Peace Hero!

Jim also enjoys singing with the MVUUF Choir as well as the Centerville Community Chorus. He uses his lovely voice and musical talents in many different activities around the Fellowship. His love of coffee is shared with many of us at MVUUF and Jim has been known to help out during Coffee hour by producing some of that delicious brown liquid, or cleaning up, or whatever is needed. His quiet (and at times unnoticed) helpfulness is so appreciated especially when it comes to getting things done at MVUUF. I mean, what more could you want in a volunteer?

The next time you see Jim, thank him for all his help over the years!
—Jennie Freiburger, Editor

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

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=eFJVNWZaSTRPdHQ5NkM4REt2WTg3QT09>

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.

SMART CHOICES

2nd Thursday Each Month

Thursday, OCT 10th, 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.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM CONTACTS

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

PAGAN EVENTS

DISCUSSION GROUP

Sunday, OCT 13th, 2:30 PM, in the Chapel

Our pagan group, CUUPS, has a discussion group on the 2nd Sunday of each month. They will now begin at 2:30 PM in the Chapel. 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, OCT 13th, 6:30 PM, in the Chapel

Join CUUPS as they experience their monthly Full Moon Ritual, on Sunday, OCT 13th, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Chapel.

The evening begins with the ritual, followed by a pot luck meal, and the celebration is open to all.

BUILD YOUR OWN BOOK OF SHADOWS

Sunday, OCT 27th, 2:30 PM, in the Chapel

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.

SAMHAIN RITUAL

Sunday, OCT 27th, 6:30 PM, in the Chapel

Join CUUPS as they celebrate the end of summer and the harvest season during their Samhain Ritual on Sunday, OCT 27th, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. The evening begins with the ritual, followed by a pot luck meal, and the celebration is open to all.

FROM OUR ANNUAL WATER COMMUNION



SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

2nd Thursday of Each Month

Thursday, OCT 10th, 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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022429356?pwd=dmhiKzIzZzhvTTdwbTBpQ1JzWVlpdz09)
[pwd=dmhiKzIzZzhvTTdwbTBpQ1JzWVlpdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022429356?pwd=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, OCT 10th, 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, visit:

<https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/m1w669841ox9xn1/>

AN INVITATION TO THE CASTLE

3rd Monday of Each Month

Monday, OCT 21st, 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!

UPLIFT: UUA TRANSGENDER/NON-BINARY MONTHLY GATHERING

4th Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, OCT 22nd, 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>

COFFEE!

Friends, we need help! Coffee’s always been our chance to gather and talk after the service. Now that we’re settling into our new building, we need help making coffee happen. Especially in this time of transition, nurturing our community is vital.

We owe our amazing Coffee Queen, Bea Walther, huge gratitude for her many months of work in the Yankee Street kitchen. But she is no longer able to make coffee for us.

So we need some new helpers. We’ve figured out the new logistics & can explain the process. Please contact me at blw622@yahoo if you are able to help put coffee together or clean up after.

—Barb Weber

ACTIVITIES

CONNECTING OVER CLIMATE WORKSHOP

Saturday, OCT 5th, 10:30 AM, in the Chapel

Temporary parking passes will be available in the parking lot at the side door.

The world is in the midst of overlapping climate crises. MVUUF is one of 350 UU congregations participating this fall in the UU Climate Justice Revival. This workshop will use the Revival dialogs for participants to connect over challenging realities and the intersection of the need for action with individual passions and capacities. Free and open to all.

RSVP requested but not required to Lynn Buffington at ABUFFLG@gmail.com. Simple snacks will be served.

ACOUSTIC FOLK JAM SESSION

3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, OCT 15th, 7:00 PM, at The Wellington

Make sure to join us for some fun and fellowship, and LOTS of music! We'll be gathering at our new location, The Wellington, at Dayton Senior Living Facility, 2656 W. Alex-Bell Road, to share our love of music with the residents & staff there! (Check out the picture on page 3!)

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

BOARD MEETING

Saturday, OCT 19th, 1:00 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.

Our monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, OCT 19th, beginning at 1:00 PM on Zoom. To join the meeting, use the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521323250?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521323250?pwd=YWgxKzlwRnJXZDFiTG9pT1ZYbWlrdz09)
[pwd=YWgxKzlwRnJXZDFiTG9pT1ZYbWlrdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521323250?pwd=YWgxKzlwRnJXZDFiTG9pT1ZYbWlrdz09)

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.

HOUSING INSTABILITY WORKSHOP: HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Sunday, OCT 20th, 2:20 PM,

Join MVUUF congregant Tina Musgrove for her workshop on understanding the housing crisis, those most impacted most by it, and the coalition working to combat homelessness in Montgomery County. Tina is a Master of Human Services Administration (MHSA) and Qualified Mental Health Specialist (QMHS), respectively. She has been working with the unhoused and unstably housed population in various capacities for over 13 years.

PRODUCTION TEAM

4th Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, OCT 22nd, 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!

To join them, use the link below:

[https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95267921276?](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95267921276?pwd=aFdK1VuY1BZd0NWZlIEcHdPUHJKUT09)
[pwd=aFdK1VuY1BZd0NWZlIEcHdPUHJKUT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95267921276?pwd=aFdK1VuY1BZd0NWZlIEcHdPUHJKUT09)

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.

***"The clear light that belongs to October
was making the landscape radiant."***

—Florence Bone

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

4th Saturday of Each Month

Saturday, OCT 26th, 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: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95559512887>
If joining by phone, dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **955 5951 2887** at the prompts.

ADULT GAME NIGHT

4th Saturday of Each Month

Saturday, OCT 26th, 7:00 PM, in the Chapel

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 Saturday evening (no longer Fridays) 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, etc. ; we'll have plenty to share. 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).

MANY THANKS!

Gratitude! Dozens of congregants pitched in to collaborate and complete a great number of varied tasks in July and August as part of our move from Yankee Street to East Third Street. Many found new homes for items, others packed and sorted, a brave few scrubbed out the oven, microwave, fridge and freezer, some removed our MVUUF identifying markers, others helped move things to East Third and, in some cases, helped move furniture to those in need and to organizations serving those in need.

Congratulations and Celebrate! Board President Antonia Harter and Vice President Bill Ross met with a representative of the new owners for a walk through and turn over of the Yankee Street building. Antonia and Bill reported that the representative was immensely pleased with the condition of the building. We wish the new owners the best in their new home. We also celebrate the many extra efforts that were made to recycle, re-use, and re-purpose items.
—the MVUUF Board

LOOKING FORWARD

DINNERS FOR 8

Sign-ups in OCT and NOV

Whether you are a long-time member or a newbie, sitting down for a small group meal is a great way to get to know your fellow MVUUF congregants,

We are planning on rotating groups of 8, which will meet monthly, either at congregants' homes, the Fellowship, or a mutually agreed-upon location. Each month, participants will get a different group-assignment to spread the fun around. To make it easier to participate, the dinners will all be potluck-style.

Sign-ups will be in OCT and NOV with dinners happening once a month, JAN-APRIL/MAY; look for registration forms coming later this month!