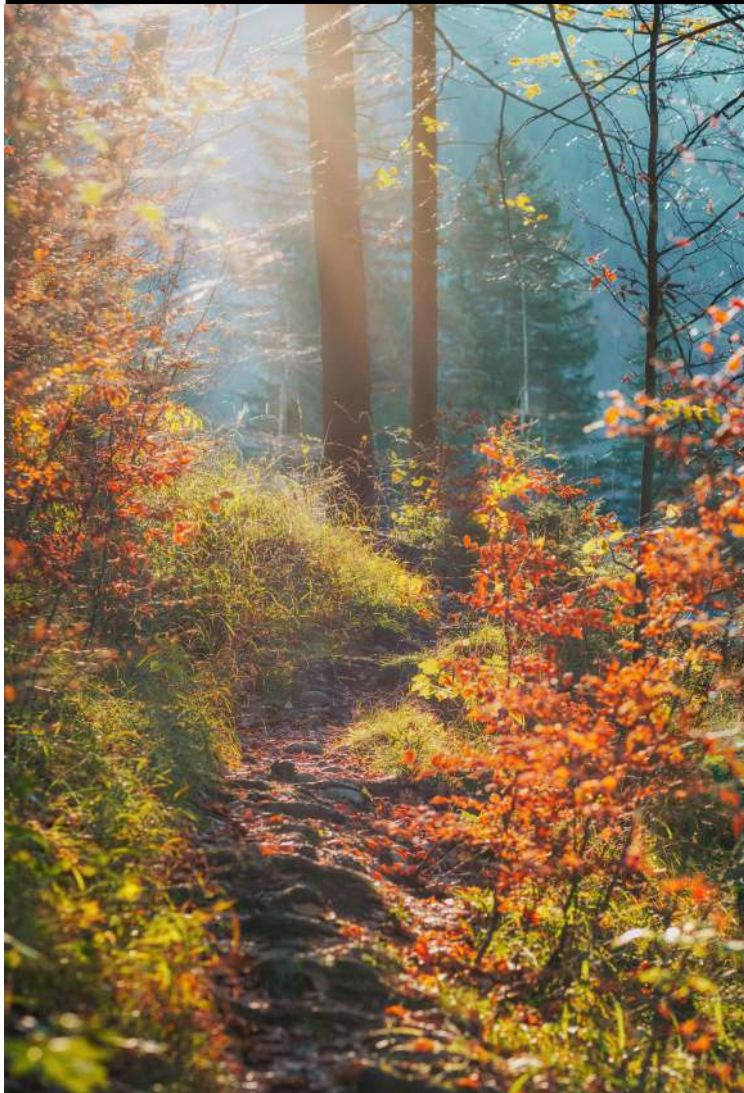


THE FORUM

monthly newsletter of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



NOVEMBER 2024



*“When you rise in the morning,
give thanks for the light,
for your life, for your strength.
Give thanks for your food
and for the joy of living.
If you see no reason to give thanks,
the fault lies in yourself.”*

—Tecumseh

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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“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”

—Meister Eckhart

STAFF CONTACTS

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

Jennie Freiberger, Fellowship Administrator
admin@mvuuf.org

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bookkeeper@mvuuf.org

“Thankfulness is the quickest path to joy.”

—Jefferson Bethke

GOOGLE GROUPS

Anti-Racism	anti-racism.ally@mvuuf.org
Board	board@mvuuf.org
Bulletin Board	bullbd@mvuuf.org
Climate	climate@mvuuf.org
Finance Cmmtte	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 NOVEMBER

- NOV 3rd** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
All Souls': Annual Service for Our Departed
with Rev. Kellie and Rachel Feltner
- NOV 10th** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
Finding the Center
with Rev. Kellie
- NOV 17th** (ZOOM & Facebook ONLY) 1:00 PM
Joy, Justice & Commitment
with Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti,
Board Co-Chair of Unitarian Universalist
Service Committee (UUSC)
- NOV 24th** (multi-platform) 1:00 PM
Worship For All Ages: Connecting Through Play
with Rev. Kellie and Somaya Bernard,
Director of Religious Education

“The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings.”

—Henry Ward Beecher

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

- NOV 3rd**
Nursery; Lego-ValUUes Class; Roots & Branches Class
- NOV 10th**
Nursery; LEGO-ValUUes Class; Roots & Branches Class
- NOV 17th**
NO Nursery or CYRE Classes
- NOV 24th**
NO Nursery or CYRE Classes

***“If a fellow isn’t thankful for what he’s got,
he isn’t likely to be thankful
for what he’s going to get.”***

—Frank A. Clark

JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Make sure to mark your calendars for JAN 19th, 1:00 PM, for our annual January Congregational Meeting. Everyone may attend, and Voting Members are especially encouraged to do so, as they are the only members allowed to vote. Attendance & voting in the Congregational Meeting are privileges and commitments of our Voting members, and a way we can live out our Value of Justice.

More info will be available in upcoming eBlasts.

DEADLINE for the DEC 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 Friday, NOV 22nd.

STAFF STUFF

FROM REV. KELLIE

My Dear Ones,

The sky is bright blue, the air is crisp, and the leaves on the trees are bright orange, yellow and red. At this time of year, I like to sing, " *It's the most wonderful time of the year!*" Not with the kids jingle-bellin', but with nature ready to take it's long winter nap. I love Autumn. It's the start of the school year, the start of the program year, and it's close enough to Christmas that I can be excited without being overwhelmed (I think I am more of a theoretical Christmas fan, ha).



—Look for more from Rev. Kellie, in the NOV edition of *Keeping the Faith!*—

With love and gratitude,
Kellie

Click on Kellie's bookshelf link to see what's she's reading:
<https://bit.ly/kelliesbookshelf>

ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

Thanksgiving used to be my favorite holiday; no shopping or gift-giving, just a chance to be thankful and eat delicious food.

These days, I am concentrating on the "thankfulness" of Thanksgiving, and trying each day this month to name five things for which I am thankful. One of them, on any given day, is that I am thankful I have such a great place to work and wonderful people to work for: MVUUF!



—Jennie Freiburger, Fellowship Administrator

LOOKING FORWARD, PART 1

The holiday season is right around the corner. That means it's time to prepare for our Holiday Giving Tree program. As in years past, we're collecting donations for two Giving Trees: a Pastoral Care Giving Tree and a Social Giving Tree. Read below for more details!

Pastoral Care Giving Tree

The Pastoral Care Giving Tree provides assistance to MVUUF members and friends who need a little extra help during the holidays. Donations will be used to provide gift cards to families. Your contributions will bring cheer to members and friends this holiday season. Contact Steve Steel at steel.steven@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the Pastoral Care Giving Tree.

Social Justice Giving Tree

The Social Justice Giving Tree provides assistance to families who have been affected by incarceration. The Montgomery County Office of Reentry has a "Global Warming" boots & coats donation each year. The boots, coats, and other supplies go to the children of people who have been recently released from prison after serving their time. MVUUF will sponsor one family. There will be gift tags on the Social Justice Giving Tree if you wish to purchase small items for the children. We also encourage financial donations which will be used to purchase boots & coats for the family, backpacks in the late summer, and other incidentals throughout the year. Your contributions will bring warmth and good will to our community this holiday season. Contact Alice Diebel at diebelalice@gmail.com if you have any questions about the Social Justice Giving Tree.

How To Donate

You can contribute to the Pastoral Care Giving Tree and/or the Social Justice Giving Tree in the following ways:

1. Mail a check to—MVUUF, 515 E. Third St., Dayton, OH, 45402—made out to MVUUF with "*Pastoral Care Giving Tree*" or "*Social Justice Giving Tree*" in the memo line.
2. Go to the MVUUF online donation page (link below) and choose *Pastoral Care* or *Social Justice*.
3. Take an envelope from the tree, place money inside, and drop in the collection basket during the offering at an MVUUF service. Donations accepted through Sunday, DEC 8th.

<https://secure.my.vanco.com/L-Z3S8/home>

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?
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

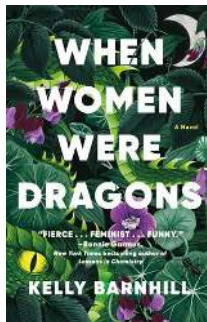
4th Wednesday Each Month

Wednesday, NOV 20th, 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 November, they will discuss *When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill.

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83229588801?
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

NOVEMBER'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER:

Barb Weber

This month's featured volunteer has been an MVUUF member for quite some time...in fact, she was our Director of Religious Education back in the days when we were located on Far Hills Avenue! That's right! It's none other than **Barb Weber!**

Barb has had several different roles at the Fellowship: she has served as Board President, a member of the Transition Team when Rev. Kellie became our Minister, a Music Rep. to the Program Council, a MidAmerica Regional Consultant, a member of the Committee on Ministry, and a Process Server at meetings. During COVID, she was a co-organizer of a Caring Calling Tree, a group that would check on members during the pandemic.

These days, you're likely to find her volunteering for Children & Youth Religious Education (CYRE), or getting Coffee Hour organized and up & running in our new location. And don't just take it from me; our current Director of Religious Education, Somaya Bernard, has this to say about Barb: "*We have been so lucky to have Barb's help and insight in CYRE! She has brought so much love and joy to the program, and been a comforting adult for several of our children. We are so thankful for her continued support, be it help with WFAA services or her willingness to be a last minute volunteer in our class rooms.*"

Is it any wonder she earned the Wince Award in 2020? Barb's calm, loving demeanor and her bright smile have helped MVUUF to continue on its journey, and we look forward to sharing that journey with her for many more years.

The next time you see Barb, make sure to thank her for all she's done for MVUUF.

—Jennie Freiberger, Editor



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

WOMENS' GROUP

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 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, NOV 14th, 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, NOV 10th, 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, NOV 17th, 6:30 PM, in the Chapel

Join CUUPS as they experience their monthly Full Moon Ritual, on Sunday, NOV 17th, 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, NOV 24th, 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



*"Some people are always grumbling
because roses have thorns; I am
thankful thorns have roses."*

—Alphonse Karr

FROM OUR FIRST SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S



SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

2nd Thursday of Each Month

Thursday, NOV 14th, **NOW MEETING AT 5:30 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?
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, NOV 14th, **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://uaa.wufoo.com/forms/m1w669841ox9xn1/>

AN INVITATION TO THE CASTLE

3rd Monday of Each Month

Monday, NOV 18th, **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, NOV 26th, **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.uaa.org/lgbtq/transnb>

ISRAELISM DOCUMENTARY & DISCUSSION

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) invites you to watch the documentary *Israelism* at your convenience, and participate in a Zoom discussion organized by the SJC. With the U.S. providing \$18 billion in military aid to Israel over the past year, it is worthwhile to learn about the connections between the U.S. and Israel. The acclaimed documentary has a 93% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Watching Israelism: *Israelism* is a 2023 documentary made prior to Oct 7, 2023. The perspective is that of young adult American Jews exploring how views of American Jews towards Israel have been formed as well as how those views are changed by visiting Israel and the occupied territories. Links for watching the documentary on a variety of platforms are at:

<https://www.israelismfilm.com/> . It can be watched free with ads on Roku and Tubi. It can be rented for \$4.99 on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6cEAW-dXfA> It is also available on Prime and other platforms.

Zoom Discussion: The Zoom discussion will be before Thanksgiving with the date, time, and link to be forthcoming in MVUUF communications.

ACTIVITIES

ACOUSTIC FOLK JAM SESSION

3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, NOV 12th, 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!

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

4th Saturday of Each Month

Saturday, NOV 23rd, 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.

BOARD MEETING

Saturday, NOV 23rd, 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, NOV 23rd, beginning at 1:00 PM on Zoom. To join the meeting, use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521323250?pwd=YWgxKzIWRnJXZDFiTG9pT1ZYbWlrdz09>

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.

ADULT GAME NIGHT

4th Saturday of Each Month

Saturday, NOV 23rd, 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).

PRODUCTION TEAM

4th Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, NOV 26th, 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=aFdkK1VuY1BZd0NWZlIEcHdPUHJKUT09)

[pwd=aFdkK1VuY1BZd0NWZlIEcHdPUHJKUT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95267921276?pwd=aFdkK1VuY1BZd0NWZlIEcHdPUHJKUT09)

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.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, NOV 28th, 1-3:00 PM,

at Figment Studios (across the street from St. John's UCC)

You are invited to a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, NOV 28th at 1:00 PM for our Holiday Dinner! We're thrilled to announce that we have found a location across the street from St. John's that has a kitchen and NO STAIRS. Hooray!

For the dinner, we will serve turkey, along with pot-luck dishes from members. The dinner is FREE and ALL are welcome, with or without contributions. We will need cranberry sauce, dressing, potatoes & gravy, sweet potatoes, salads, vegetables, rolls & butter, plus apple cider, soft drinks & desserts; set up & clean up volunteers are also needed. Kids are welcome. A Sign-Up Genius link is below:

<https://bit.ly/MVUUF2024Thanks>

To reduce clean-up needs and keep our environmental impact low, please bring any dishes, glasses, and silverware that you will need (washing it back at home after the dinner). The Figment Studio does not provide any dishes or cutlery.

JOIN US IN SHARING THE WARMTH OF COMMUNITY

We are holding a blanket drive to benefit our unhoused neighbors!

We invite members of both MVUUF and SJUCC congregations to participate by donating new or gently used blankets to be given to the unhoused in our community. Donations can be donated on Sundays, NOV 3rd through DEC 8th by leaving them in the gift-wrapped box in the back of the entryway to the Sanctuary (right next to the Giving Tree; there will be a sign). To drop them off during the week, please contact Jennie Freiburger, MVUUF Fellowship Administrator, by email at admin@mvuuf.org to set up a time to come by during office hours (M-F, 9:30AM—3:00PM).



Donated blankets should be in good, clean condition; they don't have to be brand new. When deciding whether or not to donate a blanket, please consider whether or not you would be comfortable using the blanket yourself, or giving it to a friend. The idea is to provide the dignity of warmth and some protection from the elements during the cold winter months. Fleece and wool blankets are less likely to hold water than say 100% cotton, so they are ideal for gifting to our unhoused neighbors. If the blanket is not in its original packaging, please place it in an plastic bag (from Kroger, Meijer, etc.); indicating the size is helpful but not necessary.

The blankets we collect will be distributed through the street outreach team at

Miami Valley Housing Opportunities (MVHO), a non-profit organization focused exclusively on creating permanent supportive housing solutions for homeless persons with mental illness, chemical dependency, and other disabilities throughout Montgomery County. They serve 1,500 individuals annually.

In addition to supportive housing, MVHO provides case management, job

(continued on Page 11)

counseling, mental health services, chemical dependency counseling, and transportation, to support the recovery of those who have experienced chronic homelessness in achieving independence.

The PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) program provides street outreach services in Montgomery County to persons experiencing street homelessness and living in places not meant for human habitation.

MVUUF congregant, Tina Musgrove, is connected with the MVHO/PATH program through her work at Homefull, and frequently collaborates with their team. Tina will coordinate the distribution of the donated blankets, and ensure that they reach individuals in the community who are most in need.

Interfaith Forum of Greater Dayton

In Collaboration with
Jewish Family Services of Greater Dayton
Invites You to a Panel Discussion on



Helping Caregivers of Mentally Challenged Individuals

Join medical experts and faith leaders as they discuss the role of faith in helping caregivers who are taking care of people with mental illness. Traditions represented include: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikh, Bahai, and Jain. Our own Rev. Kellie will be one of the panelists.

Sunday, NOV 17th, 3-6:00 PM

Boonshoft CJCE 525 Versailles Drive Dayton, 45459

- 2:15-3:00PM Registration
- 3-4:00PM Panel Discussion
- 4:15-5:00PM Breakout Sessions
- 5:15-6:00PM Discussion/Q&A

free event all are welcome must have ID

FOOD DRIVE FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR HOUSE

Throughout the Month of November

This month, we're joining with our friends at St. John's UCC by donating to their November Food Drive, which benefits Dayton's Good Neighbor House. You can make a donation at any time during this month by dropping donations into the bin; if you cannot do so on a Sunday, and still want to contribute, please contact our Fellowship Administrator, Jennie Freiburger, at admin@mvuuf.org or 937-436-3628 to set up a time for dropping items off during office hours.



Items needed are personal-sized, individually-wrapped healthy snacks: crackers, fruit cups, tuna/chicken/Vienna sausages, applesauce, granola bars, oatmeal, peanut butter, fruit drinks, soup with pop-tab lids, personal hygiene items.

LOOKING FORWARD, PART 2

ANNUAL WASSIL SERVICE

Sunday, DEC 8th, 1:00 PM

Please join us for this wonderful service, filled with all things Christmas! Afterwards, we will continue the celebration with singing lots of Christmas favorites and enjoying some delicious wassail punch! Make sure to mark your calendars!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Thursday, DEC 19th

Our Children & Youth Religious Education team is offering this event to help out busy parents...more details coming SOON in our Friday eBlasts!