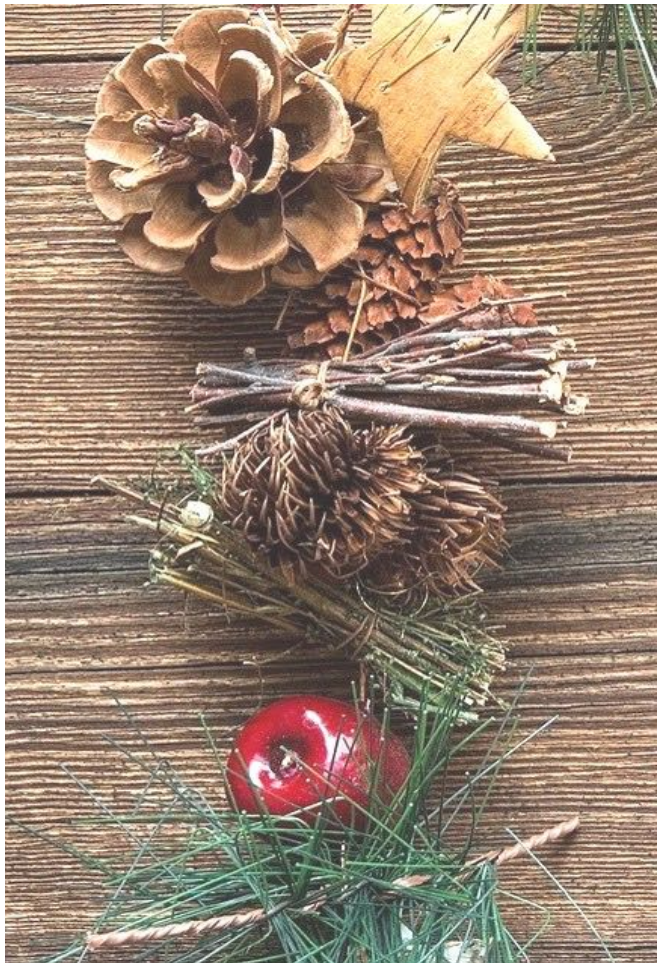


THE FORUM

monthly newsletter of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



DECEMBER 2023



“It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.”

—Charles Dickens

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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Christmas is the time when we seek to make children happy, and ourselves become as little children in innocence and purity of heart.

—John Haynes Holmes

HOLIDAY WORSHIP CALENDAR

SUN DEC 3rd	(multi-platform) 11:00AM <i>Worship For All Ages: Wassail!</i> with Rachel Feltner and Jeff Bohrer
SUN DEC 10th	(multi-platform) 11:00 AM <i>New Member Ceremony</i> with Rev. Kellie
SUN DEC 17th	(multi-platform) 11:00 AM <i>Special Congregational Meeting</i> (no Service today)
THR DEC 21st	(TBD) 7:00 PM <i>Longest Night Service</i> (a special service for those who struggle or feel blue during the holidays) with Rev. Kellie
SUN DEC 24th	(multi-platform) 7:00 PM (no 11:00 AM Service today) <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i> with Rev. Kellie
SUN DEC 31st	(no Service today) <i>Staff & Volunteer Holiday</i> Happy New Year!
SUN JAN 7th	(multi-platform) 11:00 AM <i>Pajama Worship For All Ages: Fire Communion</i> with Rev. Kellie and Somaya Bernard and hot cocoa after the Service!

STAFF STUFF

FROM REV. KELLIE

If you're looking for my letter, please remember that I'm now sending out a separate email with just my message; it's called ***Keeping the Faith***. Look for it in the middle of the month.

With love and gratitude,
Kellie



How to Contact Me:

Mobile **(847) 804-4614**

Email: **minister@mvuuf.org**

My office hours are 10:00 AM-7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday. If you'd like to talk with 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 my messages during office hours.

ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

Happy Holidays! I wanted to take a few moments to let everyone know I will be out of the Office a bit this month. These dates are:

DEC 12th-14th, 22nd, and 29th. On these dates the Office will not be open; otherwise it should be business as usual. What's usual? M-W-F, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM I am in the MVUUF Office, and on T and TH, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM, working from my home. You can reach me at **937-436-3628** and **admin@mvuuf.org**.



Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

CYRE NEWS

As 2023 comes to an end, I just want to say how grateful I am for all of you. This year has been so full of ups and downs for all of us (as is every year it seems). Thank you all so much for continuing to show up and help in growing our community. We are seeing new faces every week and it has been so wonderful to see children running around the Sanctuary, laughing and playing and creating bonds that will be cherished for years to come.

During the beginning of the program year we typically do a CYRE training. However, due to my time off over the summer, I've been playing catch-up most of this program year. Better late than never, though! We will host the training after the service on Sunday, JAN 21st. I wanted to get this date out there ASAP and we will have more information to come. We will provide lunch for you all and I hope to have some new content for those of you who have taken the training in the past. We invite parents and anyone else that is interested in volunteering in CYRE to attend.



You will find our CYRE Schedule in the **CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT** section of this month's newsletter.

There is no way to peace; peace is the way.
—Emily Greene Balch

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT

RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Our Children & Youth Religious Enrichment (CYRE) Program is open to EVERYONE, whether you have children in the CYRE Program or not. Would you like to help the teachers with their classes? Would you like to help plan family events? Would you like to know more about our program, and what we have to offer children, youth, and their families?

If you have any questions about our Religious Education Program, please contact our Lifespan Religious Education Representative, Shannon Harper, at Ire.rep@mvuuf.org, or our Director of Religious Education, Somaya Bernard, at re@mvuuf.org.

CYRE HOLIDAY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 3rd** *Worship For All Ages: Wassail*; Nursery Only
- 10th** CYRE Classes; Nursery
- 17th** childcare available for children 12 and younger (no service, congregational meeting instead)
- 24th** TBD (Christmas Eve service is at 7:00 PM)
- 31st** No CYRE Classes or Nursery (no service today)

JANUARY

- 7th** *Pajama Worship For All Ages*; Nursery Only

Our Nursery

Our nursery is open from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM for children infant—preschool. Lizz Halfpap, who is our paid nursery person, is accompanied every week by a volunteer adult to assist. In the room they have toys and games and art supplies to get creative with!

Our Kindergarten—5th Grade Class

Cassia Patten, our K-5th grade teacher, is currently leading a fun and engaging class this year called *CartUUns*. This curriculum has the kids watching a new cartoon short every week that leads us into discussions and projects where we can talk about our faith.

Our Youth Group

Our Youth Group is for those in middle and high school, and is led by Jacob Nolin. Students participate in discussions about faith, which are focused on building community with one another in the group.

OWL Group

OWL (which stands for Our Whole Lives) is a comprehensive sex-education class. This current class is for students who are in the 7th—9th grade. This is a closed group, and due to the nature of the course, we are unable to add additional participants after the start date. If you are interested in having your child start these classes, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Somaya Bernard, at re@mvuuf.org.

FAMILY EVENT: SAVE THE DATE!

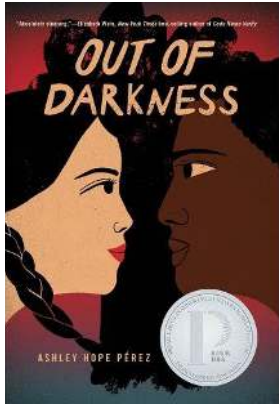
Mark your calendars for Saturday, DEC 16th, 10:00 AM, at MVUUF for a special Holiday Crafting Event! More details coming very soon in the Friday eBlast!

ADULT RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT

"BANNED BOOK" BOOK CLUB

4th Monday Each Month,

Monday, DEC 18th, 7:00 PM, on Zoom



Ever wonder what is so "terrible" about the books that are being banned in various schools around the country? We have a newly-formed book club to discover the answer for ourselves!

The club usually meets on the 4th Monday of each month, beginning at 7:00 PM, on Zoom. For the month of December, they'll be meeting on Monday, the 18th to discuss *Out of*

Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez. This month the date was moved up a week due to Christmas.

To join them, please use the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84184253018?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84184253018?pwd=RDQ3VDgzU3Z4ZEhuOUowaVZYaW9mUT09)
[pwd=RDQ3VDgzU3Z4ZEhuOUowaVZYaW9mUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84184253018?pwd=RDQ3VDgzU3Z4ZEhuOUowaVZYaW9mUT09)

Joining by phone? Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and at the prompts enter:

Meeting ID: **841 8425 3018** and Passcode: **887368**

For more info regarding book banning, please go to:

<https://pen.org/book-bans-frequently-asked-questions/>

You can also contact member Susan Forman at either
937-901-1509 or jsforman72@gmail.com.

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

4th Wednesday Each Month

Wednesday, DEC 20, 10:30 AM, on Zoom

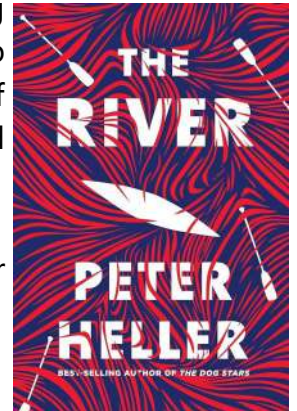
Our Daytime Book Club is now usually meeting monthly on the 4th Wednesday—on Zoom—to discuss a featured book. For the month of December, the group will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday, due to the holidays.

On DEC 20th, they'll discuss *The River* by Peter Heller.

After that, they will discuss:

JAN 24th *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck

FEB 28th *A Tale for the Time Being* by
Ruth Ozeki



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)

Meeting ID: **832 2958 8801** Passcode: **224361**

Joining by phone? Please dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and at the prompts enter the Meeting ID and Passcode listed above.

Success is not the key to happiness.
Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you
are doing, you will be successful.
—Albert Schweitzer

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=RFcyeTlpR2J5bVRoZlI3TEIEU3UzUT09>

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**

SMALL GROUPS

SMART CHOICES

2nd Thursday Each Month

Thursday, DEC 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 give Allie Petersen a call at **937-672-5301**.

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/339923301?pwd=eFJVNWZaSTRPdHQ5NkM4REt2WTg3QT09)

[pwd=eFJVNWZaSTRPdHQ5NkM4REt2WTg3QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/339923301?pwd=eFJVNWZaSTRPdHQ5NkM4REt2WTg3QT09)

Passcode: **042027** Meeting ID: **339 923 301**

If joining by phone:

Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER: GARLENE STATON

Isn't it amazing when we think about how differently we do "church" these days, compared to life before COVID-19? We've had Worship Services and meetings that were on Zoom only, and we've figured out how to have them multi-platform, as well, so that even more people can join. And despite an occasional internet or technology hiccup, it all seems pretty easy and smooth enough for most of us to feel as if we've been doing it this way forever.



Not true, though. And in the beginning, it was difficult and confusing and frustrating. Remember? Luckily—or really, thankfully—we had a member who knew something about technology and Zoom meetings and producing video, and not only did she know how to do things, she was even willing to train many of us on all this confusing stuff: our very own Garlene Staton!

Where would MVUUF be without her assistance? Not only has she been an integral part of training people on how to use Zoom and other equipment to help us connect us, she also heads our Worship Service Production Team which makes sure we all have an opportunity to see & hear Worship Services; the group also meets once a month to work out bugs that they have encountered (and they encourage others to join the Team).

Garlene also has a full time job away from the Fellowship, she's raising college kid, Max, (who also volunteers with the Team), and she cares for her ill, elderly parents. In fact, you may have heard that Garlene's beloved father, Garland, passed away this past August; Rev. Kellie was able to officiate at a Memorial Service for him last month.

Anyone can see that Garlene has a very full life, in addition to all of the help and assistance she provides for MVUUF's audio/visual needs. And aren't we lucky AND thankful that despite the difficulties & busyness in her life, she also chooses to volunteer at the Fellowship? The next time you see her, please let her know much she's appreciated!

The 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism

1

The inherent worth & dignity of every person

2

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

3

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

4

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

5

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations, and in society at large

6

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

7

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

8

Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountable dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions

PAGAN EVENTS

CHALICE OF THE WILLOW (CUUPS)

DISCUSSION GROUP

2nd Sunday Each Month

Sunday, DEC 10th, 12:30 PM, in the Founders' Room

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

You can find out more by contacting Tate Grossmann at [**chaliceofthewillow@gmail.com**](mailto:chaliceofthewillow@gmail.com).

YULE OVERNIGHT

**Saturday, DEC 16th, 6:00 PM—Sunday, DEC 17th, 8:00 AM
at MVUUF**

Yule is a celebration of the winter solstice; this festival is observed by watching the yule log burn. This fire watch becomes a sacred acknowledgement of the divine blessings and the spirits that watch over us on the longest night of the winter. As a marker of the passage of time, Yule enables us to look forward to the spring and to look back on the year as a moment of reflection.

Yule Overnight has presentations all night, with topics ranging from Pendulums, to Appalachian Divination, to arts & crafts. Each presentation is unique, and provides individual and interesting views of paganism, and some good fun!



Doors open at 6:00 PM on Saturday, DEC 16th. Our three main rituals will occur at 7:00 PM, 12:00 AM, and 6:00 AM. Rituals and presentations become more silly as the evening progresses. This tradition of letting loose and getting a bit more silly ties into the festivities of staying up to watch the log, the joy & merriment that comes with being able to rejoice over the long night.

Yule helps us fund the rest of next year's festivities; admission is \$10/person, or \$25/group of 3 or 4. We welcome EVERYONE from various backgrounds and practices—please do come and celebrate the longest night of the year, with fun and festivities.

Contact [**chaliceofthewillow@gmail.com**](mailto:chaliceofthewillow@gmail.com) for more info.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

3rd Saturday of Each Month

Saturday, DEC 16th, 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 3rd 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.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, DEC 19th, 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.

Mike Fanelli
fanellimike@aol.com
937-231-6359

Tina Musgrove
musgrove.tina1@gmail.com
937-204-7504

Steve Steel
steel.steven@yahoo.com
937-304-4087

Maury Wyckoff
mauryw651@gmail.com
937-478-2993

pastoralcare@mvuuf.org

In December, they will be meeting on Tuesday, DEC 19th, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. To join them, use the Zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88940402234?pwd=RjQzY1loRyt0dHZ5K2o4eVI3cHIJQT09>

Joining by phone? Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **889 4040 2234** and Passcode: **996150** at the prompts.

BOARD MEETING

Friday, DEC 22nd, 6:00 PM

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 December Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, DEC 22nd, beginning at 6:00 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.

PRODUCTION TEAM

4th Thursday of Each Month

Thursday, DEC. 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!

They'll meet on Thursday, DEC 26th, beginning at 7:00 PM, on Zoom. 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.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

WEST DAYTON ACTION GROUP

1st Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, DEC 5th, 6:30 PM, on Zoom

If you are concerned about the economic, health, and other disparities facing people living in West Dayton, please consider attending our West Action Dayton Group.

They meet on Zoom the first Tuesday of each month, and have developed & participated in several actions—tutoring, Book Drive, Baby Shower, etc.—to benefit those living on Dayton's West side.

They'll be meeting on Tuesday, DEC 5th, beginning at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Please contact Bob Lewis at bobslewis@hotmail.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

2nd Thursday of Each Month

Thursday, DEC 14th, 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=dmhiKzlwZzhvTTdwbTBpQ1JzWVlpdz09)
[pwd=dmhiKzlwZzhvTTdwbTBpQ1JzWVlpdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022429356?pwd=dmhiKzlwZzhvTTdwbTBpQ1JzWVlpdz09)

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, DEC 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 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, DEC 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!

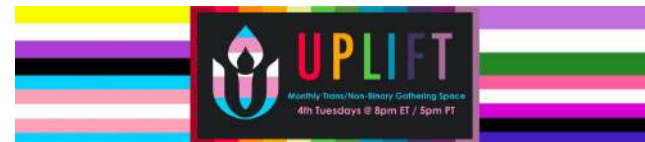
UPLIFT: UUA TRANSGENDER/NON-BINARY MONTHLY GATHERING

4th Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, DEC 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 the link below:



<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/transnb>

SHARE THE OFFERING RECIPIENT for DECEMBER

Did you know that 50% of our Sunday Collection each week is donated to organizations that benefit the larger community? For the month of December, our Share the Offering recipient will be the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This fund is used for members & friends that are in need of short-term financial assistance.

Please give generously!

CHOOSING THE SHARING THE OFFERING RECIPIENTS FOR 2024-2025

Each year, nominations are requested for organizations with which MVUUF shares our non-pledge Sunday offerings. Our Social Justice Committee asks that nominees be nonprofit organizations with values in alignment with UU principles. Recent designated recipients have been The Castle, Faith Choice Ohio, Felons With a Future, and Linda Vista Project, among others. There are some great ideas among the community gems at: <https://www.daytondailynews.com/communitygems/>

Please send nominations to Lynn Buffington by Friday, DEC 15th, at ABUFFLG@gmail.com., or text/call 937-657-0426. Feel free to include info regarding why you chose the group and a website link.

ONSITE GATHERINGS

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RUTH SCOTT

Saturday, DEC 9th, 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary and on Zoom

In January of 2020, Fellowship member Jerry Jenkins lost his beloved wife, Ruth Scott. Ruth's original Memorial Service had been scheduled for March of 2020...which fell several days after MVUUF was shut down due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Ruth's life will now be celebrated at a Memorial Service on Saturday, DEC 9th, beginning at 1:00 PM at MVUUF. There will be light refreshments after the service.



If you will joining on Zoom, please use the link below:
[https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95381147453?](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95381147453?pwd=Wng5YXFTUnJ0NU44aHhySUxCQjBrUT09)
[pwd=Wng5YXFTUnJ0NU44aHhySUxCQjBrUT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95381147453?pwd=Wng5YXFTUnJ0NU44aHhySUxCQjBrUT09)

If joining via phone, please dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923**
and at the prompts, enter Meeting ID: **953 8114 7453** and
Passcode: **869000**

WELCOME SESSION

2nd Sunday of Each Month

Sunday, DEC 10th, 12:15 PM, in the Library

Are you new to MVUUF? Would you like to know more about the Fellowship and what we have to offer?

We have a monthly Welcome Session where you will have the opportunity to meet new people, ask members & friends questions, and get to know more about why we love MVUUF.

We hope to see you there!



WHY WE CAN'T TURN AWAY: UU RESOURCES ON ISRAEL & PALESTINE

Sunday, DEC 10th, 12:30 PM, in the Sanctuary

Since the October 7th Massacre in Israel, many of us have been able to think of little else but Israel, Palestine, and our Jewish and Muslim siblings. As a pluralist faith, Unitarian Universalism has many congregants, religious professionals, and interfaith partners who are Jewish, Muslim, and/or are of Middle East descent. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is keenly aware that members of our Unitarian Universalist community do not all share an identical analysis of the history of the region or the realities of the current crisis. Nonetheless, we are all united by our shared heartbreak over the killing, kidnapping, displacement, and violence impacting so many of our human siblings, regardless of their national identities.

Please join Rev. Kellie when she shares some of the UUA resources and begins this conversation within MVUUF. At this onsite gathering we will have cheese & crackers; feel free to bring a lunch with you, as well.



If you would like to participate online, the online event is Monday, DEC 11th, 7-8:30 PM, on Zoom; please use the link below:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93038586245>

Joining by phone? Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and at the prompts enter Meeting ID: **930 3858 6245**.

If you are not able to participate either day/time, please email Rev. Kellie for UUA materials.

REV. KELLIE'S BROADWAY MUSICAL SING-A-LONG

Friday, DEC 15th, 6:30 PM, in the Sanctuary at MVUUF

Bring your enthusiasm, your singing voice (even if it's off-key), your American history interest, and/or your dancing shoes (no talent required) to MVUUF for Rev. Kellie's Broadway Musical Sing-A-Long. Just imagine—a big screen, great sound, and your fellow congregants singing, dancing, or simply watching along with you!

The musical's running time is 2 hours and 40 minutes; we'll have an intermission so please bring a snack to share if you can (not required).



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, DEC 17th, 11:00 AM, in the Sanctuary and on Zoom

We hope you will join us for this very important Congregational Meeting as it regards our current discernment process. If you cannot be there onsite, you will also be able to join us on Zoom; you will find the link below:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95381147453?pwd=Wng5YXFTUnJ0NU44aHhySUxCQjBrUT09>

Joining by phone? Dial **1 312 626 6799** or **1 646 876 9923** and enter Meeting ID: **953 8114 7453** and Passcode: **869000** when prompted.

ACOUSTIC FOLK JAM SESSION

3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Tuesday, DEC 19th, 7:00 PM, in the Gathering Space

Make sure to join us for some fun & 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!



CHRISTMAS DINNER AT MVUUF

Monday, DEC 25th, 1:00 PM, at MVUUF

As we have done in the past, once again we will gather together on Christmas Day to enjoy meal together and celebrate the season!



You can find out more about what's needed AND how you can help by using the SignUp Genius link...you'll find it SOON in the Friday eBlast!

SEWING CIRCUIT TAKING A BREAK

Sewing Circuit is taking a break for the month of December, and will be back to all things crafty in January.

For now, happy crafting and enjoy these lovely tree ornaments made by Trudy Krisher!

Nicely done, Trudy!



Forget conventionalisms; forget what the world thinks of you stepping out of your place; think your best thoughts, speak your best words, work your best works, looking to your own conscience for approval.

—Susan B. Anthony

THE ART OF THE JOURNEY:

An Exhibit of Photographic Images by Maury Wyckoff during his Bicycling Journey, San Diego CA to St. Augustine FL, 2017-2022

Riding across the country was a dream of Maury Wyckoff's for several years when in 2016 he mentioned it to fellow cyclist, Mike Fanelli, who said he and some buddies were planning such a trip. Maury inquired about joining them, and two weeks later was told, "Yes, you're in!" Maury's first reaction was, "Oh, great!" followed by "Oh, sh*t!"

The journey began in FEB 2017, departing from San Diego, CA following the Adventure Cycling Association's Southern Tier Bicycle Route to St. Augustine, FL. The team divided the ride into five phases, finishing in NOV 2022.




Because Maury is an award-winning photographer who took many photos during the trip, he currently has an exhibit in the Sanctuary at MVUUF, where you can see the scenic beauty, delight, and diversity he experienced on this adventure, through JAN 21st, 2024. Open hours are Sundays, noon-1:00 PM, or by appointment; call 937-436-3628 for available times.

You can find out more about this amazing trip at a reception on Sunday, JAN 14th, 12:30 PM, at MVUUF. Enjoy light refreshments and a lively presentation from Maury as he details the bicycling part of his journey, sharing the experiences about the many places he traveled through.

ALL of his works are available for purchase, with 100% of the proceeds being shared between MVUUF and Linda Vista, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing housing to homeless single women.

You can contact Maury at mauryw651@gmail.com.



DEADLINE for the JANUARY 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 Monday, DEC 18th.