Minister's Musings...

It’s been about one month since I announced that I will be leaving as your settled minister at the end of July and I’d like to share a few thoughts with you about change and the future.

First let me say how grateful I am for your kindness and understanding. So many of you have shared how happy you are for me and for Carol and have offered warm congratulations. That kind of compassionate and supportive response says so much about you and about the love that is the doctrine of this church.

Second, I’d like to say a word about all the change you are experiencing. I know change can be a cause for uncertainty and even anxiety. I want you to know that if ever a congregation was ready for and capable of handling and benefitting from change, it is the UU Church of Akron! You are a healthy, visionary, and active church community and I know that you will continue to thrive and to grow.

Change also has the benefit of creating new opportunities and generating new ideas – opportunities to ask important questions that haven’t been asked in some time and to experiment with new ideas and ways of doing things and of being together.

Many of you have asked about next steps. You can feel confident in knowing that the Board of Trustees is already working with the Ministerial Transitions office at the Unitarian Universalist Association and that the process for hiring an interim minister is already underway. My contract ends on July 31 and the interim minister should begin soon thereafter. The interim is likely to serve for two years while the church prepares to search for and call a new settled minister.

Over the coming months we will have time to reflect, to share stories and memories, and to celebrate our shared ministry. Let me conclude by saying again how grateful I am not only for the way you have responded to my decision but also for the love and kindness you have shared with me and my family over the last ten years. Serving the UU Church of Akron has been the greatest privilege of my life and I am so blessed to have been able to share this journey with all of you.

Rev. Tim

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Celebrate Interdependence Day by joining us after church on March 15th for the UUCA Plant Based Potluck!

This year we’ll be celebrating Interdependence Day again with a plant-based potluck following the service on March 15th. Please bring a dish to share – vegan preferred or vegetarian (with milk, cheese, or egg) – and join us for conversation. If you don’t already have a favorite plant based recipe, you can find one from recipes our members have brought to previous potlucks (https://uucaearth1.wordpress.com/) or from one of these sites: www.forksoverknives.com/recipes or www.engine2diet.com/blog/tag/plant-strong-recipes. Please sign up to let us know what type of dish you plan to bring on the Sign Up Genius or on the sheets outside of the Fellowship Hall. We would also appreciate if you could bring a copy of the recipe or submit it digitally through the sign up link.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with preparations or clean-up. Please sign up using the Sign Up Genius.

For more information or any questions, please contact Lynn Bell at lynn.reis@gmail.com.
UUCA COMMUNITY GARDEN
NEWS
- Saturday, March 14th -10AM -
- In the garden -
Our season opening!
Come help get our beds ready for the new season and plant cool-weather seeds!
Begin the thaw-out process!
Renew friendships and learn about organic gardening!
(Garden boots and glove are recommended)
Questions? Contact Karen Hoch at kahoch4224@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

During our retreat in January, members of the Board brainstormed ways to get more feedback from the congregation and to do a better job of listening to your ideas, hopes, and concerns. One suggestion was to make ourselves more available after services in Hannah Hall so that you could “ask a Board member” anything that you’d like to know. We don’t always have answers, but this experiment has been truly rewarding and helpful. I’d like to use this column to describe two ideas shared during coffee hour (and at other times) that I hope we can pursue during the second half of this church year.

Members have asked about what we are doing to enhance safety procedures and building security, particularly in light of news stories that remind us regularly about potential dangers and threats. We have sensible plans in place already and our staff is deeply committed to the goal of making our church a safe and secure place for worship and fellowship. The UUA has developed a wealth of material on this subject. Also, the Akron Area Interfaith Council offers programs and support. I would like to draw a larger segment of the congregation into the knowledge of what we are already doing, as well as into the conversation about what more we can do to make the UUCA safer. I propose the creation of a safety task force. The Board, at its February meeting, heard this idea but before formally creating it, we would like to invite those who would like to join to let us know. Please contact me at rsturr@kent.edu or come to the “ask a Board member” table after church to discuss this initiative.

The second item on my “wish list” for the remainder of the church year is to act on the suggestion from many members that we return to having a printed directory so that we can be better connected to one another as a congregation. There are a variety of ways to go about doing this that I won’t list here—mainly because I’m not very knowledgeable on the subject!—so, I simply want to (again) invite anyone who would like to join this effort to contact me via email or to express interest the next time you stop by our table to say hello on Sunday.

It appears that I’ve turned “ask a Board member” into “ask the congregation” if they’ll get involved, which is exactly as it should be and suits perfectly the spirit of the UUCA. I have always known our congregation to be generous, active, and eager to pitch in. I hope that you’ll consider joining one (or both) of the initiatives mentioned above or, even better, come visit us as the Board table after church one of these Sundays to make new, fantastic suggestions. We are eager to listen to your ideas.

Rob Sturr, Board President
Understanding the Interim Search Process

We have begun a two-year journey that will end with a new settled minister who will lead us into our church community’s next chapter. The first phase of that journey has already begun: the search for an interim minister.

Like all of the ministerial transition process, the Unitarian Universalist Association has published detailed guidance for us to follow as we search for an interim minister. For example the Board of Trustees has agreed to follow the recommendation for a two-year interim period. A one-year period would put us on a very fast track. It would mean that at this time next year, the search committee and board would have a final recommendation to put before the congregation.

Interim ministers have trained specifically in leading congregations through the search for a settled minister. For example, Rev. Mary Moore, our last interim minister, held small group sessions in which members could process our recent experiences and discuss what direction we wanted to move toward as a church. She also suggested and led a number of specific new activities, many focused on social justice activism which helped us explore that facet of our identity.

Unlike a settled minister search, the process for hiring an interim minister is fairly simple and quick. First the Board will appoint an interim ministry task force of three to five people. As this newsletter goes to press, we are identifying members for that committee.

Once our committee is in place, we will submit by email a notice to the UUA Transitions Office that we are initiating an interim minister search. The deadline for initiating a search in Round One of the process is April 18th; we are on schedule to meet that deadline.

As we are waiting for a response from the UUA, the committee will be assembling an interim search packet of materials from which interested candidates can glean a picture of our church – recent newsletters, board minutes, financial documents, and the like. The UUA Transitions Office will ultimately forward up to eight names of interim ministers who are interested in serving our congregation.

The interim ministry task force will review materials submitted by each interested candidate and schedule interviews. After interviews, the task force will determine which candidates interest us, then check references and contact those candidates to make sure they remain interested in us. We will notify the Transitions Office of our ranked preferences for candidates. Then, no sooner than May 15, we can begin to offer the position to candidates on our list.

That ends Round One of the interim search process. If we successfully hire an interim minister in Round One, we are done with the search. If not, we move to Round Two which exists for any church that does not successfully find an interim minister in Round One. The procedure is the same. The second round begins at the end of Round One and concludes June 5.

We are confident that we will hire an interim minister who will start August 1. As the interim search proceeds, the task force will keep in contact with the congregation about how generally the process is going. We look forward to introducing you to the minister who will travel with us as we then search for our next settled minister.

Hermitage of the Heart
A Contemplative Worship Experience

Have recent events left your heart feeling heavy or your spirit burdened?

Are you in need of peace and rest in the midst of all the noise and busyness of life?

Join us on Thursday, March 7th at 7PM in the sanctuary for “Hermitage of the Heart,” a contemplative worship experience featuring music and singing, silence and meditation, candlelight and darkness.

In this time of uncertainty and the rush to get things done, give yourself the gift of quiet, of rest, and of peace.
March 1, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.
“Grace Abounds”
Rev. Tim Temerson
Grace is one of the most challenging ideas in religious life. What exactly is grace and where does it come from? Is grace earned or is it a gift? And is grace something we simply receive or do we ourselves play a role in creating and building a grace-filled world? Join us as we explore these and other questions about grace.

March 8, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.
“Falling Behind on Ourselves; Developing Spiritual, Mental, and Emotional Resilience”
HS Youth Service
With all the hectic events and obstacles of life around us, it can be easy to become overwhelmed. We can lose touch with the things that nurture us if they are deemed less important than the obligations we've made to others. We welcome you to our annual youth service this Sunday as we work to remind each other to reconnect with ourselves.

March 15, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.
“The Gifts That Connect Us”
Rev. Tim & Abby L’Bert, DRE
Each of us has special gifts and talents. As we mark Interdependence Day, today’s service will celebrate the gifts of a remarkable woman and remind us of how connected we are to our own gifts and the gifts of others. Today’s service is intergenerational and features the musical talents of the UU Band and will be followed by a plant-based potluck in Hannah Hall.

March 22, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.
“Let’s Plan a Journey”
Rev. Thomas Bodie
Karen Armstrong writes of going on the great quest that one must be willing to "venture into the darkness of the unknown, where there is no map and no clear route." Apparently, hunting for treasure isn't easy work. But, then, the goals are your goals, and you bring gifts no one else can bring. This morning, let's plan a journey.

March 29, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.
“Margie’s Hope”
Rev. Tim, Bay Gaillard, and Jacob Nash
Few in society face more discrimination and marginalization than those who are transgender and non-binary, and especially trans people of color, teens, and young adults. Today we welcome Jacob Nash, founder and director of Margie’s Hope, to our pulpit. Jacob will share his story and tell us about Margie’s Hope, which is dedicated to supporting the transgender community in Akron through a number of programs and support groups that welcome and celebrate trans people for who they are. Today’s service will include a special collection for Margie’s Hope.

Pastoral Associates:
Linda Marx, Coordinator
330-873-1823 lmarx0605@att.net
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Linda Marx lmarx0605@att.net
Pam Garn Nunn garnnunn@sbcglobal.net
Mary Petrich marypetrich18@yahoo.com
Linda Rush Ryder lryder326@gmail.com
Jan Schrader janzst@yahoo.com
Ron Johnson ronfud2000@gmail.com
Lynn Hawkins hawlynn@ymail.com

CARING COMMITTEE:
Meals:
Contact the church office. It will be set up through Takethememeal.com
Ride Share:
Contact the church office.
Caring Cards
Susan Shah at susanshah353@gmail.com or 330-336-8436
Come to the Blood Pressure screening on the Second Sunday of every month.
Contact Janet Wertz
Hello dear friends,

As we wave goodbye to winter and move into a new season, I wanted to take a minute to remember some of the great things we’ve been able to do and experience over the course of the winter months we’re leaving behind. I hope you’ll enjoy the following images of some of the things we’ve gotten to do together!

Thanks again to everyone who’s taken part in making this community feel and be the sort of community we all want to be a part of. Here’s to a March that feels like growth, grace, joy, peace, family, and lots of fun:).

Abby L’Bert
DRE at the UU Church of Akron

“Hopes and Realities: Coping with a Difficult System”
A Free Training on Legal Issues Facing Immigrant Families

Saturday, March 21st, 1 – 3 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron
3300 Morewood Rd., Fairlawn

Presented by: Professor Elizabeth Knowles
Assistant Clinical Professor of Law
McDowell Law Center, Akron U

Professor Knowles supervises the Immigration & Human Rights Law Clinic and teaches Asylum and Refugee Law. Her current research explores access to justice issues for detained non-citizens and holistic approaches to advocating for ultra-vulnerable clients in removal proceedings.

This training is sponsored by the Immigration Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron.

Donations to assist the U.U.’s Immigration fund will be greatly appreciated and humbly accepted!
MARCH MEETINGS & EVENTS

► WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th

In March, we will read and discuss *The Tie That Binds*, by K. Haruf. It is the story of the lives of people who work in the stark American Middle West.

In April, we will read *Sisters In Law: How Sandra Day O’connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to The Supreme Court and Changed The World* by Linda Hirschman.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. All women are welcome. For questions, call Jan Schrader at 330 650 0036 or Email: janzst@yahoo.com

► COMMUNITY MEAL
March 28th AT NOON
Volunteers needed!

► NEWCOMERS CIRCLE
SUNDAY, March 8th 12:00 - 12:30 P.M.

The Membership committee invites you to join us for a monthly Newcomers Circle! Rev. Tim Temerson and several lay leaders will be available to discuss Unitarian Universalism and our church community, and to answer your questions. No sign-up is required, just drop in for 30 minutes of fellowship and conversation.

► UUWA
Monthly Meetings held on the third Friday.

Join us for WOW! The Wonder of Wetlands program presented by our own Carol Thombs. This is a fun interactive program in which you will consider why over 90% of Ohio’s swamps have been drained. You will work with others to explore the impact of losing acres of swamp land and its effect in Ohio and areas near UUCA. Come away with a new understanding of wetlands and their place in our environment.

This UUWA meeting will be at 10:30 on March 20. Bring a brown bag lunch. As a bonus, you may be treated to a wetland dessert.

We are the UU Church of Action!

YES, and...

It’s time for the 8th Principle

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Want to know more? How do we go about this? How have other congregations embraced this?

Paula Jones, co-author of the 8th Principle, invites you to a community learning conversation.

Wednesday, March 11, 8 pm.
Meeting ID: 190 946 424
Join Zoom Meeting
from your computer at https://zoom.us/j/190946424
Or dial in at 1.646.558.8656, 190946424#
### March 2020

**Sunday Service starts at 10:30 a.m.**
**Fellowship Hour takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>1 Noon-CoYA FAIR TRADE</td>
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<td>7 Youth Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Noon-CoYA FAIR TRADE</td>
<td>4:30pm—Enlightenment Experience</td>
<td>7:00pm—Dismantling Racism Class</td>
<td>6:30pm—FAA 7:00pm—Wmns Book Group 7:30pm-Celi 7:45pm—DA 8:00pm—AA</td>
<td>12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim HERMATIGE SERVICE at 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>8 12:00pm—Newcomers Circle Noon-BP</td>
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<td>15 Plant Based Potluck</td>
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<td>21 1pm—Immigration Training</td>
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<td>16 Plant Based Potluck</td>
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<td>7:00pm—Dismantling Racism Class 7:00pm—Sierra Club</td>
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<td>28 12:00pm—FREE COMMUNITY MEAL</td>
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Please note that the calendar is subject to change. If you need confirmation of an event or activity, please contact the individual in charge or the church office.
REPORTER
Published monthly Deadline: the 15th of every month
Articles for submission may be sent to the church,
faxed to 330-836-3106 or emailed to uuakronoffice@gmail.com

MINISTER
Rev. Tim Temerson

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Abby L’Bert

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Carolyn Stevens

SEXTON
Brittney Gustavel

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Brian Laakso

RE ASSISTANT
Carolyn Stevens

BOOKKEEPER
Sue Michael

OFFICE HOURS:
TUES. – FRI. 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

REV. TIM: Brown Bag Lunch at noon every Thursday
Tim is also available by appointment Tuesday through Thursday;
some evening hours are available.

DRE Abby Call for appointment.

The UUCA is a “Welcoming Congregation” that warmly and openly encourages the full participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the life of the congregation.

MISSION OF THE UU CHURCH OF AKRON
We are a sanctuary of love and welcome for all, dedicated to lifelong intellectual and spiritual exploration, and committed to leading, acting, and speaking for social justice and stewardship of the earth.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED