Minister's Musings...

This month we will once again experience one of my favorite services at the UU Church of Akron – Share Your Spiritual Journey Sunday. Two members are invited to tell their spiritual stories and the service takes place on Sunday, February 9. I hope you can join us.

There are many reasons I find this service to be so meaningful. For one, I love the space it creates for storytelling, reflection, and sharing. I also love the freedom it provides for those who are sharing to be who they are and to tell their authentic stories. There are no expectations about what one’s spiritual journey needs to include or say. In Unitarian Universalism, every spiritual journey, every spiritual path, is welcomed and celebrated.

While each of our spiritual journeys is unique, I am always touched by how much we have in common. The stories that are shared almost always include details about spiritual growth and change, about questioning and exploration, about a need for community and connection, and about how those questions and needs lead people to Unitarian Universalism and to the UU Church of Akron. As the great spiritual writer Frederick Buechner notes, “The story of each of us is, in some measure, the story of all of us.”

I hope you can join us for the service on February 9. I also hope that you will be inspired to reflect on your journey and to write your spiritual story. I promise it will be a wonderful experience for you and for those with whom you share your story.

Rev. Tim

FUN HAT SUNDAY!
Please wear your favorite hat on Sunday Feb. 9th. Fashionable, funny, fuzzy or fancy...we want to see them all!

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As we continue into 2020 and welcome February, this month brings with it the budding energy of spring-time plans and looking forward to what this new year brings.

First off, we’ll be starting the new month with a bang, brought to us by our COYA youth! They will be hosting Souper Sunday after service in Hana Hall on February 2nd! Hot bowls and take home soup containers will be sold to raise funds to support COYA’s continued work in our congregation, such as this December and January’s Holiday Hike for families! Vegan and gluten free options will be available as well. Please come ready to purchase and enjoy a delightful dose of hearty soup on February 2nd. Remember that soup goes fast, so it’s first come, first serve at this highly popular event!

I’m also immensely excited to invite all of you to a special DRE Start-up event that will be hosted on Saturday, February 15th from 10am to 12pm here at the UUCA, jointly-led by UUA Regional Staff members Shannon Harper and Rev. Sunshine Wolfe and me. This will be a wonderful time for us to come together as a congregation to consider our shared vision for the present and future of our church’s Religious Education program. I can’t wait to see you all there and look forward to a beautiful time of shared reflection and vision sharing!

Our Ohio Meadville Regional Winter Sr. High Con is happening this February 28th through March 1st as well! Those with Sr. High youth, please be sure to reach out to me @ dre.uuakron@gmail.com or Carolyn Stevens @ uuakronoffice@gmail.com for the registration link if you don’t already have it!

Thank you all and blessed be, 

Abby L’Bert, DRE
Conversations about race don’t have to be scary!

The Compassionate Warrior’s Guide to Ending Racism One Conversation at a Time.

A 6-week class based on David Campt’s White Ally Tool Kit

February 18–March 24
Tuesdays 7–8:30 pm

No fee, but purchase of workbook required
WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
“The Greatness of America”
Rev. Tim Temerson
As we celebrate Black History Month, today’s service will consider the power of dissent and resistance in the African American tradition and the vital role they have played in the struggle for freedom and justice and in helping to redefine what it means to be patriotic.

Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
“Celebrating Our Journeys”
Rev. Tim Temerson & UUCA Members
As Unitarian Universalists we use the metaphor of the “journey” to describe our spiritual lives. Today we will explore what it means to make a spiritual journey as members of our congregation share their spiritual journey stories. Today’s service will feature the musical talents of the UU Band and also marks our annual UUCA Fun Hat Sunday so be sure to wear your most favorite and fun hat to church!

Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
“Being the Seed & the Flower: Making Ourselves Our Vision”
Rev. Sunshine Wolfe, Shannon Harper, & Abby L’Bert
This congregation is a community garden of people. We were planned into being by those who came before. We dig our fingers into the dirt of life that is both messy and abundant. What do we hope will grow? What will bring about the next garden’s growth, and the next? This weekend, Regional Field Staff Shannon Harper and Rev. Sunshine Wolfe have facilitated conversations with Acting Director of Religious Education Abby L’Bert and leaders in the Religious Education Program to ask these questions. This service will ask us to consider how we answer these questions as individuals and communities, within and beyond this congregation.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
“Who is My Neighbor?”
Rev. Tim Temerson & the Immigrant Worker Project
Over the last three years, our nation’s treatment of immigrants has been cruel and heartless. Families have been separated and children have been put in cages. Today’s service will look at our broken immigration system and how it impacts immigrants living in Northeast Ohio. Today’s service will include a special collection for the Immigrant Worker Project.

CARING CORNER

Pastoral Associates:

Linda Marx  330-873-1823  lmarx0605@att.net
Mary Ann Ballinger  330-612-3145  jballinger@neo.rr.com
Mary Caesar  330-929-2765  marycaesar2765@gmail.com
Pam Garn Nunn  330-869-8358  garmnunn@sbcglobal.net
Mary Petrich  330-688-5410  marypetrich18@yahoo.com
Linda Rush Ryder  330-472-9821  lryder326@gmail.com
Jan Schrader  330-650-0036  janzst@yahoo.com
Lynn Hawkins  hawlynn@ymail.com

CARING COMMITTEE:

Meals:
Contact the church office. It will be set up through Takethemameal.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
**A message from Rob Sturr (Board President) & Hallie Bowie (President Elect):**

Dear Friends,

The Board of Trustees received the news that this would be Rev. Tim’s last year as our settled minister at our regular January meeting, last Wednesday evening (1/29). We felt the same mixture of gratitude and sadness that he described in his recent message to the congregation. We took time during the meeting to thank Rev. Tim and to tell him about how much his leadership has meant to our church. Many of you have already reached out to him and many more are eager to do so in the weeks and months ahead. We promise that our church community is going to celebrate what Rev. Tim has so aptly described as “the extraordinary ministry we have done together”. You will have many opportunities to thank Rev. Tim for his dynamic leadership and to show appreciation to the Temerson family for their loving and generous presence at the center of our community.

Rev. Tim has pointed the Board toward the comprehensive set of resources provided by the UUA for congregations experiencing a ministerial transition. Hallie and I have already been in contact with the Transitions Office to inform them about our upcoming change. The next step will be to arrange for the hiring of an interim minister. The UUA recommends a two-year period during which an interim minister leads a congregation while it prepares for the search process and eventual call that will bring a new settled minister.

Board members have already been given some ‘homework’ to do, in the form of reviewing timelines and guidebooks created by the UUA to assist churches as they get started on this process. At our Feb. 26th meeting, the Board will review this material and vote to create the task force that will lead the selection process (in close consultation with the UUA Transitions office) for our interim minister. Members of the congregation are always welcome at meetings and we invite your feedback and suggestions, on the selection of an interim minister or any other matter.

During a time when he has been pondering a difficult decision, Rev. Tim has continued to both empower and inspire so many of you to assume leadership roles and to join together in supporting our broad and diverse ministries. As you know, that is typical of his leadership style. We are confident, with such an engaged congregation, that we will move forward boldly and continue to be the UU Church of action. Thank you, Tim, for all that you have done!

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**HAPPENINGS AT UUCA!**

**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 of life?

**Join us on Thursday, February 6 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 quiet, of rest, and of peace.

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**UUWA**

Join us for our UUWA meeting on Friday, February 21, 2020 for an overview and discussion of Reproductive Justice in Ohio and the US. We will discuss the many restrictions that have been proposed and enacted that severely restrict women’s reproductive rights. Organizations that provide abortion information and services are struggling to continue their mission. Many of them, including our own UUA, are working to overturn these restrictions and are doing their best to ensure that women find the help and support they need. Most importantly, we will learn how we can assist in these efforts.
WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

The Story Teller’s Secret by Sejal Badari will be our choice for February. This is the story of a daughter who travels to India in search of information about her Mother’s family.

In March, we will read and discuss The Tie That Binds by K. Haruf.

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

NEWCOMERS CIRCLE

SUNDAY, February 9th 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.

IMMIGRATION TRAINING

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron is proud to stand on the side of love and has a long history of working for immigration justice.

Are you interested in learning more about Immigration?? Please join the Immigration Committee on Saturday, February 15th from 9 – 12 at the U.U. Church of Akron.

Trainer, Tiffany Stacey will present “Supporting Immigrant Families.” This training will cover:
- Brief overview of UUCA and AIIA background
- Models of Service: Accompaniment, case management
- Helping without hurting; awareness of race and class issues in doing service
- Boundaries and self-care
- Push and pull factors for migration
- Overview of Central American Cultural Characteristics
- Effects of migration on family dynamics
- Local Organizations and boundaries of their services
- Resources we can help with: CORE, WIC, food stamps, etc.

Although this training is geared more towards volunteers, all are welcome to come and learn!! Stay tuned for future trainings to expand our knowledge!!

* Donations to assist our immigration fund will be greatly appreciated and humbly accepted!

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP

The UU Non-Fiction book group will next meet on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 PM at the church. We will be discussing "How Democracies Die" by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. The Trump presidency has raised a question we never thought we would be asking: Is our democracy in danger? The authors, both Harvard professors, believe the answer is yes. They discuss historical situations from the past 100 years (e.g. Germany and Italy in the 1930's and Venezuela in the 2000's) and draw parallels to the present. The good news is that there are several exit ramps on the road to authoritarianism.
### February 2020

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10:00am-SA Council 4pm-COYA</td>
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| 2      | SOUPER SUNDAY  
Noon– Immigration Noon-COM  
5:30pm-OWL |
| 3      | 4:30pm—Enlightenment Experience |
| 4      | 6:30pm—FAA  
7:00pm—Wmns Book Group  
7:00pm– Singers Co  
7:30pm-Celi  
7:45pm—DA  
8:00pm—AA |
| 5      | 12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim  
6:00pm-Singing Bowl  
6:00Lillian ABbot  
7:00pm—Hermitage |
| 6      | 12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim  
1:00pm– Pastoral Assoc |
| 7      | 9:00am– Immigration Training  
10:00am– RE Start Up |
| 8      | 10:00am-SA Council 4pm-COYA |
| 9      | 12:00pm—Newcomers Circle  
Artisan Craft Fair  
FUN HAT SUNDAY!!!  
5:30pm-OWL |
| 10     | 4:30pm—Enlightenment Experience |
| 11     | 6:00pm—Queer Game Night |
| 12     | 11:00am—Staff Mtg.  
6:30pm—FAA  
7:00pm– Singers Co  
7:30pm-Celi  
7:45pm—DA  
8:00pm—AA |
| 13     | 12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim  
1:00pm– Pastoral Assoc |
| 14     | 9:00am– Immigration Training  
10:00am– RE Start Up |
| 15     | 10:30am—UUWA  
6:00pm—Community Meal Food Prep |
| 16     | 12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim  
1:00pm– Pastoral Assoc |
| 17     | 4:30pm—Enlightenment Experience |
| 18     | 7:00pm—Sierra Club  
7pm-Dismantling Racism class |
| 19     | 11:00am—Staff Mtg.  
6:30pm—FAA  
7:00pm– Singers Co  
7:30pm-Celi  
7:45pm—DA  
8:00pm—AA |
| 20     | 12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim  
7:30pm– Stewardship of the Earth |
| 21     | 10:30am—UUWA  
6:00pm—Community Meal Food Prep |
| 22     | 12:00pm—FREE COMMUNITY MEAL |
| 23     | Noon-Racial Justice  
5:30pm-OWL |
| 24     | 4:30pm—Enlightenment Experience |
| 25     | 7pm-Dismantling Racism class |
| 26     | 11:00am—Staff Mtg.  
6:30pm—FAA  
7:00pm– Singers Co  
7:00pm—Board mtg  
7:30pm-Celi  
7:45pm—DA  
8:00pm—AA |
| 27     | 12:00pm—Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Tim |
| 28     | 6pm—Village spaghetti dinner |
| 29     | 5pm—Sanctuary Dinner |

*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.*
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.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED