

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St John's Unitarian Universalist Church

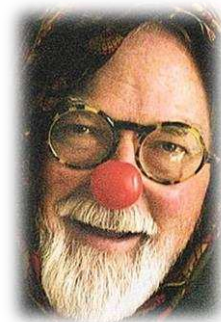
April, 2016



April 3 at 9:00 am ~ in the Chapel

Early Morning Service led by David Mast

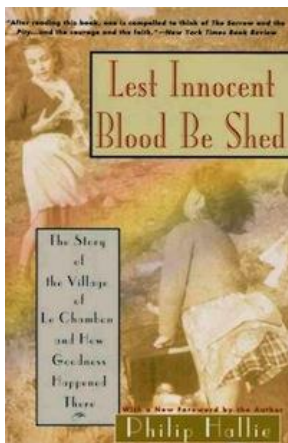
The April service will have three or four "Reflections," with each Reflection consisting of a reading, a song or chant, and a period of quiet contemplation or meditation. All are welcome.



April 3 at 11:00

"Just For Fun" with the Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh

Today we will lighten our spirits with a celebration of Robert Fulghum. And, to celebrate the recently passed April Fool's Day, we will have a time for sharing jokes. Help share if you dare!



April 10 at 11:00

"Goodness Happened There"

with the Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh

Over the past few weeks, a handful of St. John-ers have met to talk about the book, "Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed" by Philip Hallie. Today we bring forward what we learned about a little town in France which successfully saved thousands of Jewish children and adults from the Nazis.

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April 17 at 11:00

"And Justice For All"

with the Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh

Our second principal encourages us to strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. But what does that mean in practice? What does it mean in our legal system or our spiritual lives?



April 24 at 11:00

Annual YRUU Service

An annual highlight presented by YRUU (Young Religious UU – our high school group). Come see what our youth are thinking and creating this year.

Mitra's Message

The House Tells Me...

When we bought our hundred plus year old house, the seller assured us there was no hardwood under the carpet. We were instructed that first floor wall-to-wall carpet was our destiny.

Now, what are the odds that in 1908 the house was built with anything other than a wood floor?

We took up the carpet in the dining room and found hardwood.

In the hall there was hardwood.

In the living room there was hardwood.

And in the bedroom there was... Masonite boards! Each nailed in place with at least 8 nails.

We took up the Masonite. And there we found hardwood... with a sizable, termite-created hole smack dab in the middle of the floor.

Hoping for restoration, willing to settle for new hardwood, we began to gather estimates for the work. Two big companies said it couldn't be done. The old floor had had it.

Then came the third guy. This was the guy who understood the floor. He appreciated the northern forest from which the old pine trees had come. He introduced me to my living room floor, board by board, interpreting the color and grain to tell about the tree it had come from. He sanded and patched and repaired.

He didn't try to cover the hundred holes where Masonite had been nailed down to cover the termite damage. He said they would add character. He didn't use stain, saying that would hide the well-aged color of the wood. He did replace a plank that had nearly buckled as the joist beneath shifted and when he was done, the whole floor glowed. It lay in waves over the bones of my old house.

And I was satisfied to know that we have been made whole again. Covering up the termite damage had left its own scars ... but they add character. And once we uncovered the hole, we were able to patch and protect.

Our house has a story same as all of us do. And sometimes, like with the house, it might be worth asking questions, removing the layers that smooth over the damage and investing in the work of repair. There is a new-old beauty waiting to be reclaimed, if we are willing to put in the trust and the time.

See you Sunday,

Rev. Mitra



Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh

Minister

the Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh

Ministers Emeriti

the Rev Frank Carpenter

the Rev. Annie Foerster

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Jeff Stern

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The St John's Reporter is

now monthly.

NEXT ISSUE:

MAY

Send Reporter

Submissions To:

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Deadline

4/20/16

The Minister is In! Reverend Mitra has regular office hours
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am -1:30 pm and by appointment at other times.

ST JOHN'S UU MUSIC SERIES 2016

Young Professionals' Choral Collective

Saturday April 2

7:00 pm

Vibrant volunteer downtown choir!

[See ypccsing.org](http://ypccsing.org)

Ticket prices:

\$15 Adults

\$10 Students

\$5 Kids (12 & under)

BUY
TICKETS
ONLINE



Post-concert BEER PARTY
5 different Rhinegeist brews
for sale at **\$3.00 a bottle**



Generosity and the St John's Pledge Drive

Some of us are familiar with the New Testament story that Jesus told of the widow in the temple who was only able to contribute a small amount compared to the large sums given by the wealthy.

St. John's has many generous people, on low, middle and high incomes. Being generous is not a matter of how much you pledge, but more a matter of the personal investment you make of yourself, both in money and time, to further the work of our community.

During our pledge drive, our members and friends are asked to make a commitment of the dollars they think they will be able to give to St. John's in the coming church year. This aids our leaders in making plans and decisions about how we can wisely use our resources.

So if you haven't yet made your pledge, please do so, at whatever level you can do. And then remember that each of us, no matter how much money we have, can be generous with how we use both our gifts and time in support of St. John's. ~ Carol Fencil



The Widow's Two Mites

Luke 21:1-4

21 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, 2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.³ So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, [a] but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

St. John's Partner Church Dinner

St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church
320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220

Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM

Ticket Sales: March 20 - April 8 • \$20.00; April 9 - April 13 • \$25.00

Dinners may be purchased online at <https://goo.gl/FNWfj>
or the church office at 513-961-1938. For more information call
Mary Darner at 513-429-2962. Dinner scholarships are available.

Menu

Stuffed eggs, Liptaur cheese,
fresh vegetables and dip

Tokany (Hungarian stew) or
vegetarian entree

Mamaliga, salads and more

Homemade apple cake
and coffee

Hungarian and other wines
available by glass and bottle
for purchase



*Proceeds to support St. John's Partner Church
in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania*



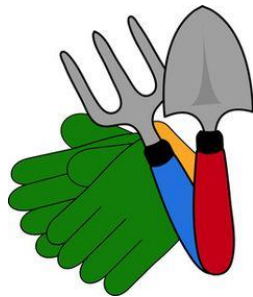
Before dinner entertainment -
Music by Adam Peterson, piano, and Susan Peterson, cello

Susan Marshall Petersen has been
a member of the Cincinnati Symphony
Orchestra since 1977 and of the
CSO Chamber Players series
since its inception.

Adam Petersen earned a BM in Piano
Performance from CCM in 2011 and
is currently working as the Eurythmy
Pianist for the Cincinnati Waldorf
School and the Accompanist for
St. John's UU Church.

**22nd
ANNUAL
DINNER**

More Upcoming Events



Outdoor Spring Clean-up

Saturday, April 2

10 am to noon

Spring Clean-up of Outdoor Sanctuary. Sign-up sheet in the lobby. Join the party! Have some fun with gardening and Green Sanctuary friends.

Doctor Who

April 10

7:00 pm

in Krolfifer

Last show of the year!



Come join us for the last of this year's series of **Intergenerational, Intergalactic "Doctor Who" movie nights!** Whovians of all ages are invited to enjoy a few family-friendly "Doctor Who" episodes that transcend time and space. Bring a snack or dessert item to share—and you might also consider bringing a lawn chair to make your viewing experience a little more comfortable! This regular event is held on the second Friday of each month.. Questions? Contact Bill Surber, event coordinator, at williamsurber@fuse.net) for more info!!

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

4th Wednesday every month

Bring food to share!

April Meeting: Wed 4/27 6:30 pm

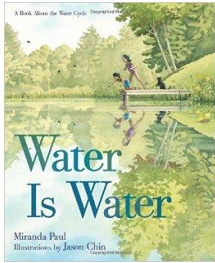
Marion DiFalco will share her theatre and improvisational talents with us. **RSVP:** Nikki Orlemann ngorle@gmail.com or telephone (513) 591-2521 in order to assure that we have sufficient utensils and places at the table. We look forward to seeing you there. ~ Nikki Orlemann

MEDITATION EVERY THURSDAY

Meditation is once again in session on Thursday mornings from 10 am to noon in Gandhi. All are welcome. We do alternate sitting and walking meditation. You are welcome to join us for all or part of the time, regularly, or once in a while as your schedule permits. If you have questions about the practice feel free to talk to Charles Seibert or Nina Tolley.

Celebrate Earth Day ~ Friday April 22

Encourage your kids to celebrate Earth Day by reading one of these great books!

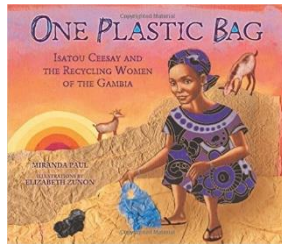


Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle,
by Miranda Paul

A beautifully illustrated and poetic book that highlights the water cycle in its many forms and through the four seasons. A great way to learn about this important resource! For kids ages 4-8.

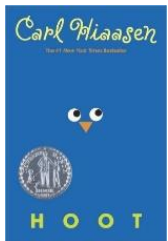
One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia,
by Miranda Paul

Isatou recognizes the devastating effects plastic bags have on her environment and when she reaches adulthood, she does something about it! An inspirational true story that shows how one person's actions really can make a difference. For kids ages 5-8.



Arlene the Rebel Queen, by Carol Liu

Arlene has physical challenges, but she doesn't let that stop her from becoming an activist as she tries to reduce her school's carbon footprint. This story has great messages, including empowerment, honesty, respect, responsibility, and compassion. For youth ages 8-11.



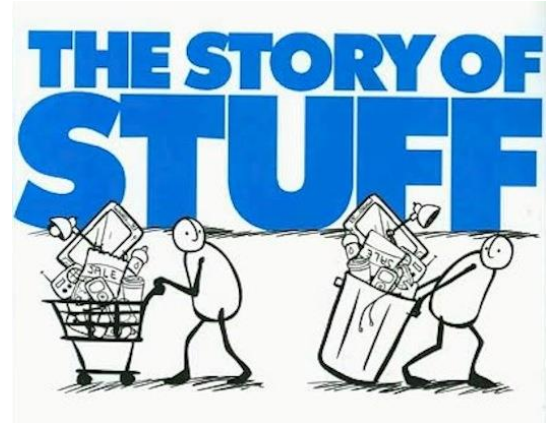
Hoot, by Carl Hiaasen

A *Newbery Honor* winner, this novel features Roy, a boy who's recently moved from Montana to Miami. Not only does he miss his old home, he has to deal with bullies. Roy is a quiet kid who comes out of his shell for a good cause—to save endangered miniature owls. For youth ages 10 and up.

Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen

Another *Newbery Honor* winner, this young adult novel is a gripping story of survival and courage in the Canadian wilderness. For youth ages 12 and up.

Suggestions for the Whole Family

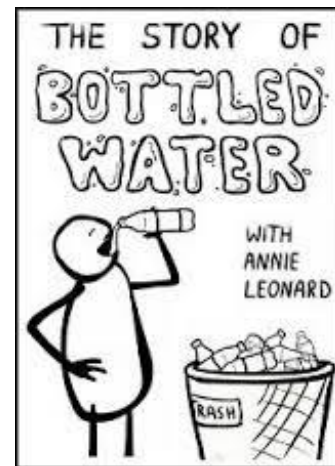


20 minute film

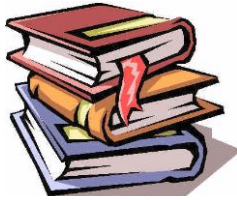
Free Online at

storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff/

Also recommended & also free:



storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-bottled-water/



START COLLECTING NOW!

Earth Day Book Sale – Sunday, May 8

sponsored by YADA (Young Adult Discussion and Action)
Spring Clean for Mother’s Day! (And to raise funds for St John’s)

Join Now: The Brigade of the Beans!



Sign up by clicking here! (You can also find the link on the front page of www.stjohnsuu.org). Join a convivial group to get the coffee ready (10:45-11:00) and mingle and clean up afterward (11:45-1:00).

Serving has gotten easier! First, caretaker Steve Roth will have most of the setup done ahead of time. Second, we now have coffee hosts for every Sunday of the month. So you newbies can count on an experienced leader to show you the ropes. Our illustrious leaders are: First Sunday - **Wanda Crawford**; Second Sunday-**Choir**; Third Sunday – **Rebecca Crone**; Fourth Sunday – **Carole Baker**; Fifth Sunday – **Barbara Hadden**.

Are you willing to be an illustrious leader *substitute*? We still could use a few volunteers to pinch hit occasionally during spring & summer vacation season. Contact EHodges@stjohnsuu.org.

Meanwhile, please thank the folks who have stepped up for coffee duty since late February:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Carole Baker | Tracy Flanagan | David Mast | Kari Olson |
| Will Bronson *twice! | Nan Fox | Julie Mitchell | Dave Rentz |
| Wanda Crawford | Winnie Goodridge | Mary Newman *twice! | Lori Oros Schaffer |
| Rebecca Crone *twice! | Charlotte Lewis | Lyn O'Brien | Bridget Shoe |
| Dick Croy | Bill Luerssen | Laura Oliver | Susan Small |
| Joy Croy | | | |

Thanks! ~ Your Guru for Brew, Emily Hodges

YADA Reports (Young Adults Discussion and Action) 3-1-16 Meeting

On March 1 we met for discussion, and Bill chose the topic of our priorities. What are our individual priorities for our lives, and how do we live by them? Does it ever feel like you're living your life according to other people's priorities, and what do we do about that?

Several of us shared what we hope to do with our lives, such as vacation to other countries, have kids, choose a better career, or choose not to have a career at all. Some of us shared about going through life changes where we had to reevaluate in a big way what our priorities are, while others described the small, day-to-day ways we can align our lives with our values.

We also discussed ideas for fundraisers and talked about volunteer opportunities. Then we ate dinners we brought to YADA and donated money to pay for supplies for the church picnic. ~ *Michael Waddell*

First April YADA meeting is scheduled for April 5.

St. John's University (SJU)

May 14-15, 2016

April 8 Deadline - Sign up to Teach
[click here](#)



Are you still thinking about teaching something during SJU May 14-15? We'd love to have you!

We need your class on the schedule by April 8 so organizers can schedule the classrooms and advertise times.

St. John's members and friends will volunteer to teach classes Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday (after lunch) in 50-minute, 110-minute or 30-minute classes.

Those same members and friends plus non-congregants will sign up for those classes. Their fees will go to St. John's, and everyone will learn something while growing in community.

Young can teach old, old can teach young. Sign up to teach by April 8 at the following link:

www.tinyurl.com/sju-teachers

Classes are going for \$5-\$30 with most at \$10 and one free session. You can start signing up as a student approximately April 10. Details to come.

Ask Claire Wagner any questions: 521-0124 or wagnerc@fuse.net.

Thanks! We're so glad you're part of this marvelous church community!

~ Claire Wagner (On behalf of your board)



Caring Circle Offering

Saturday May 14 at 10:00 am

All are invited to participate in learning about funeral options. Todd Fowler, Executive Director of The Funeral Alliance of greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky will tell us about the choices we have in -- burial, green or otherwise, cremation, funeral homes, costs etc. This presentation will be on Saturday May 14 at 10 am. It will be part of the St. John's University course offering but it is free. Please contact Nina Tolley by phone or email if you are interested. 281-2515 ninatolley@yahoo.com.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2016 General Assembly to be held in Columbus Ohio

June 22-26

**Theme – “Heart Land: Where Faiths
Connect”**

General Assembly Registration

If you are considering registering for either part or all of GA held up in Columbus, remember that the registration fees will increase as of May 1. Go online at www.uua.org and click on General Assembly for more details about the speakers, workshops, the Thursday late afternoon Public Witness event. If you need housing, there are a number of options available, but rooms closest to the convention center get taken first, so don't delay making your plans. We have a number of St. John's planning to attend, as well as our 5 delegates, so car pools and room-sharing may be possible. The two UUA presidential candidates, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Phoenix AZ (who was in Cincinnati for the Immigration Conference several years ago), and Rev. Alison Miller, Morristown NJ will be in attendance. The Presidential election will be held at GA 2017.

Bus to General Assembly

If you'd like to spend Sunday, June 26 with several thousand other UUs from all around the country, plan to take our St. John's bus up to Columbus. Round trip spaces are available on a sliding fee basis of \$10 - \$25, non-refundable. Make your check out to St John's UU Church, put "GA BUS" in the lower corner, and either give to Carol Fencl or mail to the church office. Please include your phone and e-mail. You will receive a confirmation if space is available.

Our day will include the Sunday Worship Service, lunch on your own, and a chance to visit the Exhibit Hall, filled with fascinating displays, UU merchandise, the UUA bookstore, and other booths. You will find this to be a never-to-be-forgotten day! The 56 passenger bus will leave from First UU Church at 8 a.m. and return about 5 p.m.

~ Carol Fencl,
Denominational Affairs Chair

GA -Highlights

- **Wed. evening** - Banner parade and Opening Celebration
- **Thursday morning**, our own Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh will lead the Morning Devotional from 8 - 8:15 a.m.
- **Thursday afternoon** Public Witness (free and open to all) will from 4:45- 6 p.m.
- **Thursday evening** Service of the Living Tradition will feature Rev. Bill Sinkford, former UUA President, currently serving in Portland OR, and originating from Cincinnati. This service is also free and open to the public.
- **Sat. evening** 7:30-8:30 p.m. will be the Ware Lecture. (You must be a paid registrant to attend this). The featured speaker for this year's distinguished Ware Lecture will be author and public radio figure Krista Tippett.
- **Sunday morning** Worship service and the Exhibit Hall after the service, will be free and open to all.

Another GA Opportunity

Carpool Thursday for two free events:

- **4:45 pm** UUJO Racial Justice Public Witness Action at the Statehouse
 - **7:30 pm** GA Service of the Living Tradition
- Email UUJO at info@uujo.org to make arrangements.

Also This Summer:

UU Camps Around the Country

If your family has been considering going to a UU camp this summer, it's still not too late to register. Favorites of St. John's families have been:

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, N.C. - camps for young people in June and July, plus

intergenerational family camp July 24-31, 2016
MUUSA - July 3-9, 2016 - held in Potosi, Missouri
Ohio-Meadville District Summer Institute July 17-23, 2016 - held in Oberlin OH

For more information, visit the uua.org website and type "camp" in the search box in the top right corner.

~ Carol Fencl

[Ed note – See also the article on page 17.]



MORE DENOMINATIONAL GET-TOGETHERS

Mid-America Region - St. Paul

This year's Annual Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, of which St. John's is a member, will be held in St. Paul from April 29 - May 1, 2016. This event is like a mini-GA, for our region, with speakers, workshops, and worship services. More information can be found on their website www.midamericauua.org. If anyone is interested in attending this, and/or serving as a delegate from St. John's, please contact Carol Fencl, Denominational Affairs Chair.

Universalist Convocation

The Universalist branch of our denomination holds special convocations to focus on Universalist-based contributions, both historically and in the present, to our modern UU movement. This year's Universalist Convocation will be held in Marietta OH from May 20-22. Speakers will cover Daniel Parker: a Frontier Universalist and Universalism's Role within Unitarian Universalism Today. For more information e-mail Rich Koster at richkoster2@aol.com or see www.outlawsbridechurch.org/Convocation.html.

~ Carol Fencl, Denominational Affairs

St John's Board Biz

The board has started thinking about next year's budget, and planning for the annual congregational meeting in June.

There will be an Adult Forum on May 1 where you can learn more about the work of the board.

Five congregational delegates (and one alternate) to the upcoming General Assembly in Columbus were approved. Thanks to these 6 people for their willingness to serve: Debbie Combs, Stanley Loeb, Amy Monson, Nikki G. Orlemann, Howard Tolley, and Nancy Henry (alternate).

In February the board passed a resolution to be forwarded to the Regional Assembly of the Mid America Region of the UUA, expressing support for Muslims in our communities during this current period of fear and prejudice. Thanks are also due to Carol Fencl, whom the board approved to be our delegate to this assembly.



~ Judy Strong, Board Secretary

AMOS Public Meeting Decision Time for Preschool Promise

Earnings Tax or Property Tax?

Business Leaders

Representatives of Cincinnati Public Schools

Leaders of Preschool Promise

Sunday, April 10th at 5 PM

New Prospect Baptist Church, 1580 Summit, Cincinnati, 45237

REGISTER ONLINE: action.ohorganizing.org/page/s/preschool-promise-public-meeting

Upcoming Adult Forums

Sundays at 10:00 am Location: Krolfifer. Drop-ins welcome!

April 3 “Where Am I and How Did I Get Here?”

(Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys.)

Much of our heart and vitality at St. John’s comes from understanding and respecting our personal stories. Come, listen and share in the discussion to follow. Speakers will be Kathryn McDonough, David Roth and Shannon Tubb.



Apr 24 Homeless Shelters/Solutions

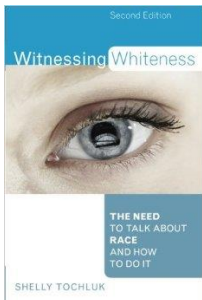
Genell Stephens, volunteer coordinator for the Shelter House will describe the new facilities for homeless men and women and talk about the homeless situation in Cincinnati.



April 10 - Witnessing Whiteness Revisited

Almost two dozen people attended last year’s Adult RE program, titled “Witnessing Whiteness,” which focused on examining what it means to be white in a multi-

cultural society and how the concept of “whiteness” is a barrier to equality among all people. John Kachuba will lead a discussion that will review the findings of that RE and evaluate what progress has been made since then in our thinking and actions regarding racial equality.



May 1 St. John’s Board

Why do we have a board? Moderator: Jim McDonough President. Who serves on the board and how do they get there? What are the Policies and Procedures? How are they different from the By-Laws?

How do new Policies and Procedures come about? How do new By-Laws come about or get changed? How does someone get elected to the Board? Come to the May 1, 2016 Board Forum and get the answers to these and other questions you might have. If you have specific questions you would like answered, please send them to Jim so he can be prepared to answer them.

April 17 Witnessing Race:

What commitments to racial justice will St. John’s make at the annual Congregational meeting in June? Howard Tolley will share proposals for a draft resolution that includes a commitment to witness comparable to the 2008 Congregational resolution on peacemaking that called for display of peace cranes and a peace pole, and seek input on proposed revisions and improvements.



In Memoriam: Phil Henry

Beloved member Phil Henry died in hospice on March 14, two weeks after stopping his dialysis treatments. He was very active at St John’s as a mentor to our youth, a greeter, forum leader, and as a great friend. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Nancy, and will miss him dearly.

Rev Kiss captures the spirit in which Phil lived and loved, in his letter copied on page 13 of this Reporter.

“Phil made this last part of his journey exactly as he planned, and it was good,” says Nancy. We are so glad he included us.

Adult RE: Updated Offerings and Registration!!

New Registration Procedure: In order to be more flexible in our ability to add new classes, the Adult RE Committee is revamping our registration. Please continue to check the Reporter, E-news, and the Adult RE website page ([click here](#)) for continual year round updates to St. John's Adult RE offerings. Below is a list of current offerings.

Register online at [by clicking here](#). (This same link is available on the Adult RE website page.) You can update your registration and sign up for new classes as they become available throughout 2016.

Alternatively, you can do a paper registration by leaving a written note with your name, phone number, email, and the class you are interested in the Adult RE mailbox in the office.

Current Adult Religious Exploration Offerings:

NEW!! - UU's 7 Principles & Political Economy

Facilitator: Charles Seibert

Dates/Location: April 13 and 27, 2016 from 7 – 8:30pm in Gandhi Room at St. John's

Come participate in an exploration of the American presidential race through the lens of UU principles. In this class, participants will collaborate in a joint research project investigating the economic policies of the candidates for our country's chief executive. This endeavor will culminate in a presentation at a class-led Sunday Forum close to the November 8, 2016 election at a date to be set by the group. Participants will also communicate by email -- and perhaps meet in person -- during the summer to finalize their contributions. The plan of this program is to push beyond the usual two-party mindset and to explore all aspects of the race to see how the proposed economic policies can be evaluated from the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition.

sitWRITEdown

Facilitator: Sherry Tippey

Dates/Location: March 29, April 12, April 26, May 10, and May 24, 2016 from 7-8:80 pm in the Library at St. John's.

sitWRITEdown is a writing practice group. The intention is to stimulate spontaneous writing activity, by means of prompts, that gives us rich material for shaping and revision at home. No books are required. I email prompts (text and image) ahead of time, but they are also available in class, on the day. The class has been structured to allow drop-in attendance, because we have busy lives with many priorities. Please let me know before each scheduled class if you plan to attend or not, by text or email, so we can close the doors and start on time. Contact Sherry Tippey directly at tippeytours@hotmail.com.

Tai Chi

Facilitator: Nan Fox

Dates/Location: 5:30pm-6pm (Beginner) and 6pm-7pm (Intermediate) in Krolfifer. Every Thursday, March 17 through April 21, 2016.

Join us in Krolfifer for Huang style Tai Chi, a moving form of meditation set to music. Beginners meet Thursdays from 5:30-6:00 p.m., followed by the intermediate class from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes with leather or cotton soles. We'll incorporate poetry and also Chi Gong warm-up exercises. Nan has been "playing" Tai Chi for 30 years and is delighted to share this wonderful form with St. John's. Classes are six weeks each.

Partner Church News

REV. KISS AND ROZSA SENT THEIR THANK YOU

The following note of thanks from our now retired partner church minister, Rev. Mihaly Kiss, and his wife, Rozsa, was recently received and read during the service on March 6th. For those of you were not in church on that day, we are including this note in this issue of the Reporter.

To the members and friends of St. John's:

Dear brothers and sisters, it was so wonderful to be with you last Sunday and see so many people at your service. When I spoke to you in Hungarian, I knew you didn't understand Hungarian, but by looking into your eyes, I knew that in some ways, you did understand my feelings. The eyes of a person are the windows to the soul. By looking into someone's eyes, you can know what a person is thinking.

I was very touched when the elderly gentleman stood up and said his goodbyes to all his friends. I could only think that he must have had a strong love for his faith community.

Rozsa and I loved seeing all the babies in your church. As you well know, the children are the hope for the future. We hope there will continue to be many children participating in your services.

I would like to thank you for all your support to my congregation and wish you much success in all your endeavors. Rozsa and I wish you all good health. We also wish Rev. Mitra can serve St. John's for over forty years as I have served Szentlaszlo.



Remember, there is faith, hope, and love, but the most important of these three is love. Our love to you.
Egy Az Isten – God is One.”

~ Rev. Mihaly Kiss (pictured with Rozsa and Rev Mitra)

The Friends of Szentlaszlo Steering Committee wishes to thank everyone for their gracious welcome to the Kiss's and for helping with and attending the Saturday reception. While we hope to continue our communications with the Kisses, we look forward to growing our relationship with our new partner church minister, the Rev. Zsolt Leta and his wife, Piroska.

The **PARTNER CHURCH DINNER**, set for April 16th, is fast approaching. Please note the flyer on page 4 of this issue of the Reporter, and buy your tickets right away online or on Sundays. You can click on the online purchase link on the flyer to buy tickets by credit card.

At the same time, sign up at <https://goo.gl/vqHw7K> to volunteer and help make this celebratory event happen! The Partner Church Dinner is a major fundraiser for our partner congregation in Romania and is deserving of your support.

~ Tom Darner, Friends of Szentlaszlo

Justice Ministry News

RACIAL JUSTICE

St. John's CONGREGATIONAL INITIATIVE

DISCUSSION:

**Faith and Race:
Let Justice Roll**
Monday 4/4 at 7:00 pm
in Krolfifer.

Prepare for the annual congregational meeting in June!

Howard Tolley will lead a discussion of proposals under consideration for presentation to the congregational meeting in June about what commitments St. John's should make to promote racial justice.

Thursday April 14 at 7:30

Women's City Club National Speaker 2016

Isabel Wilkerson

Author of "The Warmth of Other Suns"

**"Black Migration to Racial Justice:
Are We There Yet?"**

Tickets \$40

Music Hall Ballroom, 1241 Elm Street in Over-the-Rhine

**Purchase tickets from Melissa Rowland
or Jeanne Nightingale to support
St John's sponsorship of this event.**

MeetUp4Justice

RACIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP

Sponsored by UU Justice Ohio and UU Council of Greater Cincinnati

Saturday, April 9

9:00 am–1:00 pm

Location: St. Johns UU Church, Krolfifer Hall

Keynote speakers **Troy Jackson (AMOS)** **Stephen Johnson-Grove (OJPC)**
and **Pastor Ennis Tait (Project Ceasefire)**

Attending: Activist UUs from around our region

Register Online Now! (Registration Deadline 4/2/16)

In collaboration with partners and allies, UUJO's Cincinnati workshop seeks to identify concrete reform proposals to address police killings and to plan effective strategies for promoting criminal justice reforms at the state and local level.

UUJO is organizing similar racial justice training workshops in Cleveland and Columbus in preparation for the UUA General Assembly in Columbus June 22 - 26. On Thursday June 23 UUJO is co-sponsoring the GA racial justice public witness event at the statehouse featuring Rev. William Barber and leaders of national denominations, anticipating a turnout of 2,000.

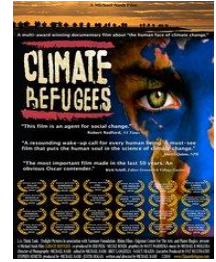


Changing CO₂urse: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis

Sunday, April 24 ~ 6:30 to 8:30 pm

CLIMATE REFUGEES

First feature film to explore the global impact of climate change and its destabilizing effects on international politics. Experts predict that by mid-century hundreds of millions of people will be uprooted as a result of sea level rise and an increase in extreme weather events, droughts and desertification. Little is being done to plan for the potential mass migration of millions of refugees who will be forced to cross national borders.



COSPONSORS: St John's UU Green Sanctuary Partners, Woman's City Club, League of Women Voters, Citizens' Climate Lobby*

*Citizens' Climate Lobby is now meeting at St John's in the Chapel on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 6:30-8:30 pm. St Johners are welcome to attend! Next meeting April 14.

St John's Culture of Generosity

Split the Plate February

The February split-the-plate collection resulted in a donation of **\$600.25** for Refugee Resettlement Services of Catholic Charities of SW Ohio. Catholic Charities is the only agency serving refugees who are resettled in Greater Cincinnati.



Through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Department of State, CCSWO resettles approximately 200 refugees a year in Cincinnati. CCSWO has resettled more than 12,000 refugees in this community since 1980. Most of these refugees come from extreme poverty, violence, or religious and political persecution in their homelands; seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

~ John Kachuba, Outreach Chair

Split the Plate March

The March split-the-plate collection netted a donation of **\$469.83** for the Madison Avenue Christian Church's Homeless Feeding Program. The program began with an idea in 2004 to take the Sunday morning men's breakfast and open it up to the poor and needy of the Covington, Kentucky community. This summer, Madison Avenue Christian Church is marking the 10th anniversary of its popular community meal program. Dedicated church members and hundreds of community volunteers serve on average, 26,000 hot meals a year, and over 150,000 have been served since the beginning of the program.

An interesting side-note about Madison Avenue Christian Church is that, despite the protest resignation of some congregants, the church recently approved same-sex marriages.

~ John Kachuba

Guest at Your Table 2015-2016

Thanks for a Successful Guest at Your Table program!

Final count is in for Guest at Your Table program. This year our congregation raised **\$2,221.56** through our Guest at Your Table program. We collected \$298.30 more than last year. Congratulations and Thank you!



~ Amy Monson

Split the Plate April

Split the plate for April will go to the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for the purchase of radios provided to those who cannot afford the equipment needed to listen to CABVI broadcast readings.



ST JOHN'S VOLUNTEER COLLABORATIONS

Matthew 25 Ministries

“Hands On” Service to the Community

Next St John's Service Date: **April 9 9:00-11:00 am**

RSVP to Jay (guenther.jay@gmail.com) as M25M asks for a count of volunteers in advance.



IHN News (Interfaith Hospitality Network)

St Johners Serving IHN

Over **350** volunteer hours, over **50** volunteers, **7** congregations, **12** guests in **4** families, over **150** servings of food for guests, and **84** bed-nights: These numbers are one way to describe what we accomplished Feb 28-March 6 in one week of hosting homeless families with our network at First Unitarian Church.

But numbers alone can't convey the fellowship, shared laughter, art projects, or delicious home-cooked meals. Here are a few comments from volunteers about the best part of their experience:

- Interaction with the IHN guests
- Spending time helping the kids with crafts and artwork
- Fellowship with other volunteers
- Wonderful children and moms
- Plenty of work to do. I know I'm needed!
- Delight in hearing guests compliment the chef on the food
- Preparing the food
- Personal growth
- Seeing smiles on the kids' faces



The week's volunteer team included these St. Johners:

Carole Baker (twice!)	Amber Lowe	Jay Guenther
Debbie and Tony Potochnik	Amy Monson	Zoe Enright
Tori Irwin and son Beckett	Ruth Anne Wolfe	Max Skove
Shernaaz Bellhouse	Amelia Wolfe-Jewell	Adrianna Dusold
		Wanda Crawford

Please thank them and ask them about their experience!

Join us next time: Our next hosting week is July 3-10. There are opportunities for preparing and serving a meal, playing games and activities with guest children, and providing safety by staying overnight at First Church. [Click on this link to sign up](#), or contact Wanda Crawford for information.

IHN Summer Expansion MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

at CAIN's Grace Place

Did you know that for families with minor children, homelessness is a bigger problem in the summertime? Relatives that made couch space available for parents and children with no place to go during the school year find themselves too cramped when it gets hot. Tax returns that helped hold a cheap, by-the-week hotel room through the spring runs out.

To address the issue of increased family homelessness in summer, IHNGC is exploring with Churches Active in Northside (CAIN)—operators of Grace Place—a 13-week summer expansion pilot. From **May 15th to August 14th**, 2016, Grace Place in College Hill would become a third IHNGC host site.

CAIN will provide the site and some volunteers, but to make this work IHNGC needs to bring some of its volunteer power to the table. Hosting duties will include providing meals, evening activities, and overnights, just like a traditional IHNGC host week. Youth groups, groups of co-workers, civic groups—volunteers do not have to be affiliated with a religious congregation to participate! If this is something you would like to do once—or several times—during the summer, talk to your congregational liaison, Wanda Crawford. Or contact IHNGC executive director Stacey Burge to volunteer (email stacey@ihncincinnati.org or call [513-471-1100](tel:513-471-1100), ext. 13).

UU SUMMER CAMPS

Meet Amazing UUs & Deepen Your Faith This Summer

by Rev. Leslie Woodward, RE Director, Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church
Reprinted with permission



Yes, it is [April] and the weather is even more unpredictable than usual. All the more reason to begin thinking summer! Why not consider attending a camp or conference that will honor your identity as a Unitarian Universalist, strengthen your connection to our faith, and allow you to have a fun and fulfilling vacation?

Experiences at summer camps can include week(s) long age-based camps, institutes and camps for all ages, family retreats and specific training programs. When attending these camps and institutes, UU's from all over our region (and beyond) experience the living of our UU values in communities outside the walls of our congregations, strengthening their ties and commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

There are several institutes within driving distance from Cincinnati. It's hard to be around Heritage UU Church for long without hearing about SUUSI — the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. Many Heritage members are regular SUUSI attendees and some (including Rev. Bill) are self-described SUUSI addicts. Every summer hundreds of UUs gather to “share an intergenerational environment of love, personal freedom, ethics and joy in an intentional, non-judgmental community.” This year SUUSI will be held at Western Carolina University in North Carolina from July 17-23.

Located at Trout Lodge in the YMCA of the Ozarks near Potosi, Missouri, the annual Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) is also a tradition for many members of Heritage. Scheduled for July 3-9, MUUSA is “an annual intergenerational Unitarian Universalist retreat for fun, fellowship and personal growth.”

Another all-ages camp is the Ohio-Meadville District's Summer Institute (or OMDSI) which takes place at Oberlin College in Ohio. Approximately 600 people gather to “explore our interconnectedness, learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, delight in the joys of meeting old friends and making new ones, share outdoor adventures, dance, and sing.” OMDSI is also from July 17-23.

The Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community (or UUMAC) taking place at DeSales University in Centerville, PA is another family camp opportunity. As the name indicates, UUMAC is focused on UUs from the Mid-Atlantic States but anyone is welcome to attend. This year's theme is Radical Hospitality and Radical Justice and takes place from July 10-16. Activities include yoga, sewing, blues harmonica, excursions, art, and much more.

Additional opportunities for high school youth service-learning and leadership training abound. The Unitarian is offering three Activate youth justice trainings this summer. Youth can sign up for Activate Boston: Climate Justice (July 9-17); Activate Tucson: Immigration Justice (July 23-31); or Activate New Orleans: Racial Justice and Beloved Community (July 30-Aug 7).

The Youth Midwest Leadership School is a weeklong intensive experience designed to “engage participants in all aspects of leadership in a Unitarian Universalist faith community.” Students stay in the dorms on the Beloit College campus in Wisconsin, this year from July 10-16. Goldmine Youth Leadership School is “an intense leadership school for youth focusing on self-reflection and leadership skills.” Participants develop concrete leadership skills as well as hanging out and playing together. Goldmine takes place in Northeast Ohio from July 10-16.

Youth and young adults of color are invited to a five-day gathering to “deepen our faith, lift our spirits, and build critical skills for leadership in the face of our uncertain, broken and beautiful world.” Thrive: Leadership Schools for Youth and Young Adults of Color seeks to include those of African Descent, Caribbean, Native/American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latina/o and Hispanic, Middle Eastern/Arab, and those who identify as multiracial. Thrive Youth East is July 27-31 at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

Summer Seminary is a program for Unitarian Universalist youth exploring the possibility of becoming a religious professional. Summer Seminary 2016 will take place August 2- 8 in Berkeley California.

If that isn't enough, other UU summer camps are located in the Adirondacks of upstate New York (Camp Unirondack), on the Jersey Shore (Murray Grove), the coast of Maine (Ferry Beach), in the mountains of North Carolina (The Mountain) and on an island off the coast of New Hampshire (Star Island).

The next time you are snuggled indoors escaping the cold, consider exploring some of these wonderful opportunities and begin making your summer plans now!

Faithfully,
Rev. Leslie

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson, St John's Director of Religious

Spring has arrived!

Ahhh...I love this time of year! Even though we had a mild winter, I always look forward to spring—tree buds bursting into leaves,



yellow daffodils and purple pansies, the cacophony of bird calls as they madly woo their mates or fiercely protect their nests, the earthy smell of dirt as well as the sweet perfume of lilacs—what's not to love?! Spring is a time of rejuvenation and growth—and what a great

time for a *Coming of Age* celebration! It was inspiring to hear four truly distinct voices share their beliefs about things like the importance of community, challenging your comfort zone, accepting your uniqueness, and, when faced with challenges, figuring out how to make connections. Congratulations and thank you to our *Coming of Age* youth (and their mentors)—Zoe Enright (Alicia Rosselot), Roya Franseth (Karen Miller), Jessie Moteleb (Kari Olson), and Trae Rowland (Frank Meyer)—for sharing your hearts and minds with us!

Opportunities for Growth...

There are some fun and fantastic ways—perfect for families!!—to contribute to our community, both near and far, in April, including:

- **Saturday, April 2 from 10am-12pm:** Consider supporting our *Green Sanctuary* efforts by pitching in to clean up the church yard and freshen up our gardens! See the display and sign-up board in Haehnle—or just show up!
- **Saturday, April 9 from 9-11am:** Our *St. John's Matthew 25 team* is scheduled for their monthly session at the M25 facility in Blue Ash. It's meaningful work as well as a chance to meet a fun team of people! Email Jay Guenther at guenther.jay@gmail.com if you are interested.
- **Saturday, April 16:** The annual *Partner Church Dinner* fundraiser supports our Unitarian church in Nyardszentlaszlo, Transylvania. Youth help is needed to serve appetizers and bus tables on Saturday evening and there are also a variety of opportunities to assist throughout the week leading up to the event. See the sign-up board in Haehnle or online at the St. John's homepage: www.stjohnsuu.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for these upcoming events

Sunday, April 3: First Sunday for PreK-7th grades in Krolfifer during regular RE time.

Friday, April 8: FINAL Doctor Who Movie Night of 2015-16 year, beginning at 7:00pm in Krolfifer.

Saturday, April 9: St. John's volunteers (everyone ages 5+ welcome!) at Matthew 25 Ministries from 9-11am at M25M on Kenwood Road in Blue Ash. Great family opportunity!

Sunday, April 10: Second Sunday for 1st-7th graders during regular RE time.

Sunday, April 10: Senior High OWL at First Church, 1:00-5:00pm (for registered participants only).

Saturday, April 23: YRUU worship service breakfast & rehearsal, 9am-12pm in Krolfifer and sanctuary.

Sunday, April 24: Annual YRUU worship service at 11:00am in sanctuary.

Sunday, April 24: Senior High OWL at First Church, 1:00-5:00pm (for registered participants only). This is a makeup date for postponed gathering in February—and the final gathering!

★ **Sunday April 24: ANNUAL YRUU SERVICE.** Our YRUU teens are busily preparing for the worship service they will lead on Sunday, April 24! They'll be sharing their thoughts and talents on the meaning of music in their lives. Don't miss it!

Keep in touch!

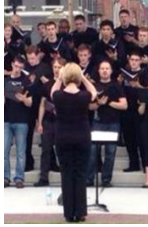
On Sundays, I arrive at church no later than 9:00 am. My weekday office hours are typically Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30am-1:30pm—and by appointment. (I'm happy to arrange a meeting time outside of my regular office hours.) I can be reached via email at youthre@stjohnsuu.org. Also, feel free to call me at home—the number is in the People Book (or send me an email and I'll send you the number)—I only ask that you limit calls to the hours between 9am-9pm.

St. John's Church Calendar

Saturday, April 2

9:00 am UU & You - Krolfifer/Kitchen
10:00 am Spring Cleanup ~ Outdoors!

7:00 pm **St John's MUSIC SERIES CONCERT**
Young Professionals Choral Collective
– Sanctuary - **See page 3**



Sunday, April 3 ~ Choir Off ~

9:00 am Early Morning Service –David Mast –Chapel
10:00 am Forum - "Where Am I and How Did I Get Here?"
with Kathryn McDonough, David Roth & Shannon Tubb - Krolfifer
11:00 am RE First Sunday - Krolfifer
11:00 am Worship Service-Rev. Mitra "Just for Fun" - Sanctuary
12:20 pm Young Adult Cookies & Conversation (YACC)- Krolfifer
2:00 pm Rebecca Crone – Althena's birthday party - Krolfifer
6:00 pm Men's Group - Krolfifer

Monday, April 4

7:00 pm Racial Justice (Faith + Race: Let Justice Roll) - Krolfifer
7:00 pm Enneagram Study Group - Library
7:00 pm Friends of Szentlaszlo Meeting - Darner Residence

Tuesday, April 5

9:30 am Appreciate Your Feet - Krolfifer
7:00 pm Young Adult Discussion & Action - Wells

Wednesday, April 6

5:30 pm Caring Circle - Library
7:00 pm Connections - Darwin
7:00 pm Worship Arts -Chapel

Thursday, April 7

10:00 am Meditation - Gandhi
5:30 pm Tai Chi - Beginner - Krolfifer
6:00 pm Tai Chi - Inter./Adv. - Krolfifer
7:15 pm St. John's Choir - Krolfifer

Friday, April 8

6:30 pm LAF's (Lively After 50) - away
7:00 pm Dr. Who Family Movie Night - Krolfifer

Saturday, April 9

8:30 am Justice Ministry - Krolfifer
9:00 am Matthew 25 Ministries - Volunteer Day

Sunday, April 10

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:00 am Forum- John Kachuba
"Witnessing Whiteness Revisited" - Krolfifer
11:00 am RE 2nd Sunday - Krolfifer
11:00 am Worship Service – Rev. Mitra
"Goodness Happened There" - Sanctuary
1:00 pm Leadership Celebration - Krolfifer
1:00 pm Childcare for Leadership Meeting - Rosa Parks

Tuesday, April 12

9:30 am Appreciate Your Feet - Krolfifer
7:00 pm sitWRITEdown - Library

Wednesday, April 13

7:00 pm UU's 7 Principles & Political Economy - Library

Thursday, April 14

10:00 am Meditation - Gandhi
5:30 pm Tai Chi - Beginner - Krolfifer
6:00 pm Tai Chi - Inter./Adv. - Krolfifer
6:30 pm Citizen's Climate Lobby Cincinnati Chapter - Chapel
6:30 pm Executive Committee - Wells
7:15 pm St. John's Choir - Krolfifer

Saturday, April 16

6:00 pm Partner Church Dinner - Krolfifer, Kitchen, Haehnle

Sunday, April 17

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:00 am Forum –Howard Tolley – "Witnessing Race"- Krolfifer
11:00 am Worship Service – Rev. Mitra – "And Justice For All"
12:20 pm Young Adult Cookies & Conversation (YACC)- Krolfifer
12:45 pm Introduction of Safe Congregation Committee - Chapel

Monday, April 18

7:00 pm Enneagram Study Group - Library

Tuesday, April 19

9:30 am Appreciate Your Feet - Krolfifer
7:00 pm Young Adult Discussion & Action - Wells

Wednesday, April 20

REPORTER DEADLINE
6:30 pm Board Meeting -Wells

Thursday, April 21

10:00 am Meditation - Gandhi
5:30 pm Tai Chi - Beginner - Krolfifer
6:00 pm Tai Chi - Inter./Adv. - Krolfifer
7:15 pm St. John's Choir - Krolfifer

Friday, April 22

5:30 pm YRUU Rehearsal - Sanctuary, Haehnle, Kitchen

Saturday, April 23

9:00 am YRUU Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Krolfifer/Kitchen
11:00 am Chalice Group (Nunn) - Library

Sunday, April 24

Choir Off
10:00 am Forum – Genell Stephens – "Homeless Solutions" Krolfifer
11:00 am Worship Service – "Annual YRUU Service" - Sanctuary
7:00 pm Changing Co2urse - Krolfifer

Monday, April 25

7:00 pm Justice Ministry - Library

Tuesday, April 26

9:30 am Appreciate Your Feet - Krolfifer
7:00 pm sitWRITEdown - Library

Wednesday, April 27

6:30 pm Women's Connection - Hammond North
7:00 pm UU's 7 Principles & Political Economy - Library

Thursday, April 28

10:00 am Meditation - Gandhi
7:15 pm St. John's Choir - Krolfifer

Friday, April 29

5:30 pm Passover Seder - Krolfifer & Kitchen
7:00 pm Game Night-Krolfifer



Search for St John's Unitarian
Universalist and click "Like"

St. John's

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45220-1616

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thought of the Month

“The world breaks everyone
and afterward many are
strong at the broken places.”

*Ernest Hemingway,
A Farewell to Arms*



Photo by Steve Pavey in Palestine