

# NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March 2014

## Worship

[Click here for upcoming worship topics!](#)

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## Ways and Means

The **Rummage Sale** is Coming....

Mark your calendar! We're going to have a Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday July 18 & 19 right in the middle of summer--- Tired of winter? What pleasant thoughts about July can we conjure? Picnics, the pool, and NUUC's second enormous Rummage Sale! Yes! You can say goodbye to items you'd like clear out of your homes. Tired of that table? Thinking about replacing your bedroom set? Wondering why you still have those old toys or that picture you never liked all that much anyway? Well, here's your chance. It is not too early to start setting aside or noting those unwanted items.

Our rummage sale will be a significant fund-raiser. We will create a "department store" in Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary and fill them to the brim. So, please try to store away (instead of throw away) items you think will sell and therefore benefit our congregation. As the event approaches, we can arrange to have your big items picked up and taken to the church. Watch for future notices about this event.

**February Fair Trade Sales** Totaled \$144.25!

## Revelations

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for after service on March 9. I hope you can make it. We don't actually worship democracy here, but it is at the heart of everything we do, and it is, for us, a theological matter for sure. The Puritans who designed this congregational polity did so because they were convinced that the church would be open to corruption if it mixed its concerns with the state, and if it were only governed by high officials. For me it is theological in a different way. What commits me to religion is the belief that wisdom must be held by groups of diverse people, not isolated individuals. Sometimes we joke about how UUs worship meetings more than any deity, but there is at the heart of our tradition the understanding that revelations of the holy are received by communities, not private persons.

And at this meeting we thank our outgoing leadership and election new leaders. I especially want to take this time to thank Marty Keith for her term as President of the Congregation. Marty has served with her entire heart and soul, and I have been very inspired and touched by her.

To Life!  
Susan

## Notes from the President of the Board

Well, we're wrapping up the church year, and I'm soon going to be making way for Jeff Hill, Board president for 2014-2015. I feel I have become even better acquainted with many of you through discussions about policies and possibilities for the building's expansion, and during events such as the Spaghetti Supper and Concert, quite a "happening" that involved so much of the congregation. It was successful...and fun.

**March Fair Trade Sale is scheduled for March 16th**

Share your passion for fair trade and UU-ism with others by giving gifts whose labels proudly display these values.

If you are interested in volunteering for these opportunities, or if you have other ideas for fundraising opportunities for our congregation, Please contact Becca Morse

at [beccamorse@gmail.com](mailto:beccamorse@gmail.com).

Thank you!

**Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards card**

Do your regular grocery shopping, and earn money for NUUC at the same time! If you need help signing up, someone will be available on the second Sunday of each month to walk you through the process.

**Did you know?**

We are a registered Non-Profit organization at the Delaware County Community Market. You can buy groceries from Local vendors AND have a portion of your purchase donated to us! Check it

out! <http://www.dccmc.com/>

**Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting, for the purpose of electing new trustees and members of the Nominating Committee, has been called for after worship, Sunday March 9, 2014.

**Dinner For 9**

*It's been a long, long winter, agreed? so we're bustin' out with a spring celebration!*

*You are invited to. . . in fact. . .*

*You are cordially invited to*

**DinnerFor9**

**April 12    May 17    June 14**

*Gather with UUs for fun and flavor*

*Come to one, two or all three evenings*

*no partner required*

Time and location set by the host for the evening

Thank you, everyone, for all your work and support.

The status of achievements and works-in-progress are as follows:

The Threshold Congregation Team recommended to the Board of Trustees that a "Leaders Council" be established, and we Board members thought that was a great idea. This Council will meet every other month, to begin with, about a week before the scheduled Board session. Committee chairs (or another representative), some members of the Threshold Congregation Team, Commissioned Lay Leaders, a Pastoral Care Associate, and our minister are to be invited to attend. The Board vice-president will facilitate. The first meeting has been set for March 3, and I'm pretty excited about it.

Through this Leaders Council, all the committees can share their plans and even collaborate on some of them. Improved communication and good suggestions for projects and events are bound to happen, making our already wonderful church community even better.

The Board resubmitted our application for the Chalice Lighters grant each quarter of this past church year. Acceptance is by no means a foregone conclusion; the Ohio-Meadville District considers all applications and selects the one felt to express the most need at the time. As you know, NUUC was chosen in January to receive the Chalice Lighters money to help us get a new sound system. With that, plus part of the surplus money from this last year, we now can hear Susan and other speakers in the sanctuary so much better, as was proved on February 23, the sound system's debut.

Also, soon an architect will be drawing a plan, based on the Board's original thoughts and the input several of you provided, of an addition to our building. This plan will be presented and displayed for your perusal, and for any additional input. The proceedings for the building expansion have been slow and measured, but we wanted to be sure that we were being realistic about the design, our expectations, and the cost.

However, the new sign for out by Lewis Center Road is finished, and I, for one, think it is beautiful and sure to get attention as people roll by in their cars. It will compete successfully with that ever-growing tree out there, I'm certain. There will be a brief wait for the final zoning approval and then for the sign shop to do its work, but you can expect to see that sign soon.

So-thus ends my final note to the best congregation I know or could ever dream up!

Thank you again.

Marty Keith

**From your Social Action Committee**

**March 2014 Newsletter**

**MOVIE AND POTLUCK RESCHEDULED DUE TO**

**WEATHER:** Please join the Social Action Committee on **March 9TH** to watch the documentary, A Place at the Table. "Why are almost 50 million Americans hungry, and why are more than 23.5 million children and teenagers overweight or obese (and sometimes hungry, too)? What triggers and connects these trends? What systems and institutions perpetuate food insecurity, and

Come with a dish to pass - or host 9 UUs in your home

**If you would like to come as a *guest*:**

email the following information to Marty Keith or Sydney

Schardt: [martykeith@frontier.com](mailto:martykeith@frontier.com) or [sydney-schardt@columbus.rr.com](mailto:sydney-schardt@columbus.rr.com)

--Guest name(s) Email(s)  
--Dates I'd like to attend

**If you would like to *host* in your home, please send:**

--Name  
--Email  
--Date(s) I'd like to host

Please note: Signup period ends March 29.

*As a guest, you would...*

RSVP to host's invitation  
Bring a dish to share

*As a host, you would...*

Invite guests via email - send date, time, location (guest list to be provided by coordinators)  
Provide main dish and light beverages  
Provide space for dinner for 9 people (including yourself)

### Threshold Congregation Committee (TCC) - Update

Threshold Congregation Committee  
NUUC Newsletter  
Feb 27, 2014

The Threshold Congregation Committee\* (TCC) is excited to see their first recommendation taking shape - the formation of a Leaders Council.

After months of diligent study and consideration, the Leaders Council recommendation, crafted by TCC, was submitted to the Board and accepted. Through its studies, TCC has found that one of the "road blocks" to our growth is the lack of communication (right hand knowing what the left hand is doing). TCC believes this must be improved before we can move forward with setting and achieving goals in the various aspects of growth. The Leaders Council is an exciting step in this direction.

what reforms will ensure that people get the healthy food they need?" Come engage in a conversation about these questions at a potluck and free screening of the critically acclaimed documentary "A Place at the Table," directed by Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush on Sunday, March 2, 2014. The movie will begin at 5:00 pm followed by a potluck and discussion at 6:30 pm. See the bulletin board for more information about hunger in America.

At the service on Sunday, **March 9**, 2014 we will learn about local problems with food insecurity from MelodieCorroto, Executive Director of Andrews House (<http://andrewshouse.org/>). Learn what the needs are in our community, what is being done, and what you can do to help.

Our **Loose Change** donation in February and March will go to **Andrews House** in Delaware, OH. Andrews House is Delaware's multifaceted community services center whose mission is "People strengthening people." The Andrews House founders envisioned the facility as "...a place for hospitality, healing, and education and to advocate for individuals and families in the community. It is a safe place of acceptance, where people meet, learn, find solutions, overcome differences and achieve wholeness." Andrews House is the home of six small social service agencies and also provides office space for a church and two small service-oriented businesses. Andrews House also supports eight programs separate from those of its resident partners including free meals, free legal advice, computer learning center, and a medical clinic.

**Guest at Your Table:** It's coming! The 2014 Guest at Your Table campaign will be introduced **March 16**. Guest at Your Table is a program started by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) in 1975. Its purpose is to educate members about the UUSC and to raise funds for its four focus areas:

*Rights in Humanitarian Crises*-Defending the rights of marginalized groups in the aftermath of natural disasters and in the course of wars, genocide, and ethnic cleansing.

*Environmental Justice*-Holding governments accountable for providing adequate clean water to all citizens and challenging private companies that restrict water availability.

*Economic Justice*-Defending workers' rights, and supporting living wage campaigns and fair trade practices.

*Civil Liberties*-Opposing state-sponsored torture; supporting freedoms of speech, assembly, and religious worship; and safeguarding rights of privacy and due process.

The UUSC is nonsectarian and is guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948. The UUSC partners with grassroots organizations worldwide to do its wonderful work. Note that this group is an associate member of the Unitarian Universalist Association but receives no general financial support from the UUA, so the UUSC greatly appreciates whatever donations UU congregations provide. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, N. Y., typically matches individual and family contributions of \$100 or more, doubling what we can do. Please consider participating.

### Some Facts about Hunger in Central Ohio

What is food insecurity?

The first meeting of the new Leaders Council, chaired by the vice-president of the Board, will be Monday, March 3 at 6:30p. Although designed for committees, the meeting is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

TCC has also been deepening its 'gathering information' phase by recently having a valuable listening/visioning conversation with Susan. And on Saturday, March 1, we continue listening and learning when we meet with five other Threshold Congregations in Akron to compare successes, challenges and questions.

Speaking of questions, we'll be happy to answer any that you have or search for the answer.

Feel free to contact any committee member: Laura Howe, Bob Keith, Cathy Rodeheffer, John Rodeheffer, Sydney Schardt.

*\* What is a Threshold Congregation? Threshold Congregations are basically healthy congregations who are poised and ready to strive for the next level of effectiveness. While "seats in the pews" are one aspect of growth, equally important is the offering of vibrant and challenging worship experiences, welcome and true hospitality, an effective system of governance with effective leaders, loving social action beyond its walls, and the inclusion of everyone of all ages in the work of the congregation. UUA/CERG (Central East Regional Group) awarded a three-year, non-monetary grant to NUUC in May 2013.*

### Spiritual Autobiography Class

Unitarian Universalism offers you the freedom to chart your own spiritual course.

Each of us do this but we rarely talk to each other about our journey. "Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography (Well, Just an Essay)" is a three-session class where you can reflect on your spiritual history and clarify your spiritual present and future. The class will involve guided discussion and culminate with an autobiographical essay which can be shared with the group.

The dates/times/place: 3 Sundays (March 2, March 16, and March 23) from noon until 1:30pm in Nielsen House. Group facilitator: Dick Leavy. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall.

Food insecurity refers to the inability to afford nutritionally adequate and safe foods. There are four pillars of food security-- availability, access, utilization, and stability.

Why does it matter?

Food insecure individuals suffer from many physical and mental health concerns. Specifically, food insecure and low-income people are especially vulnerable to obesity due to the additional risk factors associated with poverty, such as lack of access to healthy, affordable foods; fewer opportunities for physical activity; cycles of food deprivation and overeating; high levels of stress; greater exposure to marketing of obesity-promoting products; and limited access to health care. Obesity is a major contributor to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers.

How common is food insecurity in Ohio and Franklin County?

- In Ohio, 17.8% of the state's population (over 2 million people) are food insecure
- 18% of Franklin County residents (over 208,000 people) are food insecure; 52% of these people are eligible for food stamps, free school lunch, or senior meals; 15% are eligible for reduced school lunch or WIC; 35% are relying on charitable response; 67% of residents are overweight or obese
- Among children in Franklin County, 21.4% are food insecure (679,000 children); 63% of these children are eligible for governmental assistance programs such as WIC, food stamps, and free and reduced lunch; the other 37% rely on charitable response; the average cost of a meal is \$2.41.
- Among children in Delaware County, 15% of children (7,390 children) are food insecure; only 33% of these children are eligible for a governmental assistance program; the other 67% rely on charitable response; the average cost of a meal is \$2.71.

**ADVENTURES IN GREEN:** The next meeting for our environmental stewardship group will be on **March 12th** at 6:30 at Nielsen House. Our topic this month will be Energy. Please join us to discuss renewable energy sources vs. fossil fuels and strategies for being more energy efficient.

### JOIN OTHER VOICES FOR JUSTICE AND PUT LEGS ON FAITH

- **FARMWORKERS JUSTICE MARCH TO WENDY'S HEADQUARTERS** on **March 9th** at 2:00 pm: On March 9th, the widely acclaimed Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) will arrive in Columbus for a one-time ever March on Wendy's. Congregations from around the state are gathering delegations to join the farmworkers for this exciting event. For decades, Florida farmworkers faced sub-poverty wages, wage theft, sexual harassment, and in the most extreme cases, modern-day slavery. Join farmworkers and allies from around the country in marching to Wendy's headquarters to demand that the final fast food holdout support fundamental human rights.
- **THE STATE OF THE CLIMATE** on **March 18th** at the Ohio Statehouse: This event begins at 10:30 am and is sponsored by several organizations including Ohio Interfaith Power & Light. Presentations will be provided by Dr. Lonnie Thompson of the OSU Byrd Polar Research Center, the Honorable Bob Inglis, Executive Director of the Energy and Enterprise Initiative, and Ben Lowe,

## Brown Bag Books

Meets at Noon the Third Tuesday of the month. Get all the details by [clicking here](#).

## NUUC Youth Group

For grades 6 through 12  
We will meet the  
THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH at 7pm!

Questions?  
Contact Kristin Grimshaw  
[grimshaw@wowway.com](mailto:grimshaw@wowway.com) 614-582-5747

or Melinda Rosenberg  
[melindarosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:melindarosenberg@gmail.com) 614-781-0166

## Ohio Meadville District of the UUA

[Click here for the Latest News!](#)

## Spring Spruce-up Day

Spring Spruce-up Day on Saturday **May 17th**

Mark your calendar! On Saturday May 17th, we will be holding Spring Spruce-up Day to get both the church and Nielsen House ready for summer. We'll be working in the morning and early afternoon and doing a variety of tasks both outdoors and indoors. Please consider helping out on this day. You could work for a few hours, half a day, or more... whatever works best for you. Any help will be appreciated.

If May 17th doesn't fit your schedule, you can select a task and do it when you can. Look for the sign up sheet and list of tasks posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about this event, please contact a member of the Building & Grounds Committee (Bob Keith, Brad Dana, Barry Fagan, Roger Orwick, John Rodeheffer, Jerry Schardt, or Gary Rusk).

## NUUC MEMBER DIRECTORY

Our **NUUC Member Directory** is now available online! Go to the "About NUUC" menu tab on our website, and select "Members Directory." The password is RUUU2? Also, please email her a digital photograph for inclusion in the directory if you can! She will also be roaming around

national spokesperson for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action. This is an opportunity to meet with legislators, hear the up-to-date climate science, followed by lunch in the Statehouse atrium and an opportunity to network (1:00-3:00 pm). See the bulletin board or Ohio Interfaith Power and Light website for more information.

- **OEC'S ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY on March 26th** (8:30am to 4:00 pm) at The Athenaeum: Join the Ohio Environmental Council's environmental-conservation network to bring environmental concerns and priorities directly to state lawmakers and officials from environmental and regulatory agencies. OEC will set up meetings for you with lawmakers as well as give you tips and information to make your meetings as productive as possible. See the bulletin board or OEC website for more information.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE LIBRARY:** The Social Action Committee is starting a lending library of books and DVDs on social justice issues such as immigration, poverty, LGBTQ, environment, and human rights. Check out our selection on the bookshelf in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating appropriate books or DVDs to add to our collection.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE BULLETIN BOARD:** Check out the folding divider in Fellowship Hall with information about upcoming SAC activities as well as issues and actions at the local, state, and national level. If you have information about social justice issues you want to share with the congregation, please post it on the bulletin board or email it to Pam Patsch at [pgp723@aol.com](mailto:pgp723@aol.com).

**HELP WANTED:** Our Social Action Committee has some ambitious and creative ideas for this year, but we need your help. We would love to have new (or returning) members on the committee to help us brainstorm and implement activities related to social justice. We also welcome people who are unable to commit to being on the committee on a regular basis, but are willing to help with a specific project. Contact Pam Patsch at [pgp723@aol.com](mailto:pgp723@aol.com) if you are interested in getting more involved in social justice at NUUC.

## Treasurer's Report of January 2014

Our Junior Bean Counters are still counting. They even had mom involved by taking our picture (posted on the bulletin board) and then she too stuffed pennies into paper tubes for the bank deposit. Thank you all.

January financial results are below.

North Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Summary of Financial Results for Month ending January 31, 2014

INCOME			
2014 Pledge Offerings	9,877.00	12,420.00	(2,543.00)
Non-Pledge Offerings	199.00	0.00	199.00
Rental Revenue	100.00	125.00	(25.00)

this month, randomly terrorizing people with her camera.

Ways and Means-Fundraising	20.31	716.67	(696.36)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,196.31</b>	<b>13,261.67</b>	<b>(3,065.36)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			
Administrative - Church	373.61	560.85	187.24
Building & Property Insurance	0.00	308.34	308.34
Building Mortgage	800.00	816.67	16.67
Building Property Tax	146.90	21.25	(125.65)
<b>TOTAL Building R&amp;M</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>431.26</b>	<b>111.26</b>
<b>TOTAL Building Utilities</b>	<b>898.01</b>	<b>676.26</b>	<b>(221.75)</b>
<b>TOTAL Committees</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>175.03</b>	<b>90.03</b>
<b>TOTAL Compensation</b>	<b>9,689.03</b>	<b>9,360.92</b>	<b>(328.11)</b>
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	<b>907.00</b>	<b>911.67</b>	<b>4.67</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,219.55</b>	<b>13,262.25</b>	<b>42.70</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>(3,023.24)</b>	<b>(0.58)</b>	<b>(3,022.66)</b>

Explanations of Actual vs Budget results:

Pledge offerings were less than expected, perhaps due to weather, and we will keep an eye on them.

The Ways and Means Fundraising Budget is spread evenly over the year so the actual vs budget difference is a timing issue as the garage sale and service auction are scheduled later in the year. Expenses overall are at budgeted levels even with a paying a semi-annual bill for property tax and annual security monitoring.

If you would like further detail please email [gschardt@nuuc.org](mailto:gschardt@nuuc.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Schardt, Treasurer.

From Your Board of Trustees Meeting

[Click here for minutes from the November Board meeting](#)

[Click here for minutes from the December Board meeting](#)

January minutes pending