



October 2014



Miss Merrily Reviews News Highlights

Worship

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Join Our Mailing List!

Kiya Heartwood Concert!

Award winning UU songwriter Kiya Heartwood to offer a concert here at church, Saturday Oct. 11, 7:00 PM. Tickets at the door---\$10 for adults, children free, part of the

RevElations!

Hey everybody-this is your President and Minister, Jeff and Susan, respectively, writing together.

We wanted to share with you the results of an energizing workshop that we participated in with our Unitarian Universalist Association Regional Lead staff (and member of our congregation!) the Rev. Joan Van Becelaere. Rev. Joan was with us to do a "Restart" workshop for Susan's ministry. Typically, when new ministers begin in a church, the regional staff do a "Start Up" workshop, which is intended to get the new minister and lay leaders on the same page about roles, responsibilities, and priorities. As Susan is in her eighteenth year with

proceeds to go to the congregation. Critics write that "Kiya delivers soulful confessions, political broadside, and a wicked groove." Don't miss this special event! The choir will present the world premier (no kidding) of the four part arrangement of her song "Higher Ground" during worship on Sunday, Oct. 5.

Spread the Word! Service Auction November 23rd!

We have gotten the news via Signal Flag, Telegram, Tin Can with String, and smoke signal - this year's Service Auction on **Sunday, November 23rd** (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) is sure to be a Historic event of Epic Proportions.

The Service Auction is our annual fundraising event where members of the congregation share our eclectic interests and talents by donating services and hand-made goods to be auctioned off to other members. This is a calm, quiet, and polite event where people are not at all competitive as they out-bid each other to get the best of what we have to offer. Nobody has ever gotten into a bidding war over David Petras' beer, Maria Calderone's Horse care lessons, Hartzler Homestead Maple Syrup, the Schardt's Raw Honey or Rototilling Services, Sculptures by Melinda Rosenberg, watercolor paintings by Lauren Richards, or any of the themed dinners offered by the Keiths, Heddens, or by Susan & Donna. Parents who need just one night out of the house without their small children have never outrageously bid over one another for babysitting services, thus gaining fabulous sitters whom their children requested again and again for the next several years. That is just not the kind of event we host. Oh, wait - that is EXACTLY the kind of event we host!

Please Donate your services now! Use the [online donation form](#) , or fill out a paper form and submit it in Fellowship hall before Tuesday, October 21.

- Need ideas for what to donate? Check out [last](#)

the congregation, it seemed time to benefit from this clarification even if she is far from new (no jokes about age, please!).

Your board, committee chairs, and Susan met together on Sept. 20 with Rev. Joan leading us. One thing this seminar helped with was determining ownership between lay led and ministerial led responsibilities. We were able to clarify these responsibilities and understand why ownership of different responsibilities was divided.

There are some shared items that need to be further clarified as to which part of the item is owned by the lay leadership and what part is owned by the minister. It is important that these items be clarified because they will typically be left undone, with no ownership assigned to the area of responsibility. We also went through a series of exercises to learn what our most important priorities should be to remain a growing, vibrant congregation.

We readily agreed to focus first and foremost on our identity as a congregation. We know we are content here-but exactly what is our particular identity? What specific things would we like to be known for? What are our precise hopes for our future? Discerning these things will help us to move to a more effective mission and begin a strategic plan. We also agree to work on leadership development, and strategies for engaging our members more deeply.

We have our to do list for the next board meeting all ready to go-we are indeed re-energized, and excited to move forward.

To Life!
Susan & Jeff

From the Church President

Happy Fall NUUC -

So far, we are off to great start to the new church year. We have installed our new DRE and as shown in the other article, we have performed a ministerial restart. So far, we are off to a great year. I'd like to remind everyone about our DRE starter fund that we have established to make sure we keep this critical program afloat in the upcoming year. You can see more information and make a donation information by [clicking here](#).

There are some great things coming up at NUUC. The Kiya Hartwood concert is coming up. Our annual stewardship campaign is coming up. Probably the most noticeable outward change will be a new sign for the congregation and all of the maintenance that has been performed by our Building and Grounds committee.

One of the great things I get to do as President is to do our monthly shoutout. Everyone who walks into the congregation is greeted by a very special person. There is always a smile and a warm hug waiting for you when you enter our space. Our special "thanks from the Board" goes to Darlene Tschudy for making our congregation warm and exciting.

As the cool weather sets in and Halloween approaches, be safe and there is always a warm and welcoming place.

Blessed Be.

[year's catalog](#), or the [2012 catalog](#).

- Want more information about how exactly the Service Auction works? Check out our [FAQ](#)!

The 2014 Service Auction Task Force is Bob Keith, Marty Keith, Becca Morse and Erika Shell-Castro. Please do not hesitate to approach us - we will be happy to help polish your ideas for offerings or answer any questions you have.

Thank you!

-The 2014 Service Auction Task Force

Jain Center of Central Ohio

Our neighbors at the Jain Center of Central Ohio (6683 S. Old State Road, Lewis Center) will be celebrating an Interfaith day of Ahimsa (nonviolence) on Saturday Oct. 4, 2014, 2-4 PM. A number of persons will speak (including Rev. Susan Ritchie, and Buddhist and Jain leaders) and refreshments served. Please RSVP by October 3rd at jainunity@yahoo.com

Ways and Means

Fair Trade Sales

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. 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.

Jeff

From your Director of Religious Education

Our new "Workshop Rotation Model" of religious education is off and spinning! Join us at First Sunday worship each month-in the intergenerational portion of the service we share a story for all ages, then that story and its themes provide the focus for RE for the rest of the month. Our story for September, How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids had us using drama, food, games, and stories to consider how our actions affect others and ourselves--interdependence. A big thanks to Roger Johnson, who hopped right in with our regular teachers to offer workshops on pets and nature to Chalice Children and Explorers! We also added a middle school group on Sunday mornings by popular demand-the self-named "Seekers" meet upstairs in Nielsen House and already have big plans!

The October story, "The First Woman and the Strawberry," comes from Cherokee storytellers and ties with themes from Yom Kippur and the Jewish harvest festival or "Sukkot." The BIG news: with design help from John Rodeheffer and construction assistance from the NUUC Youth Group, we will build a sukkah, or covered booth, in RE classes on October 19 for Sukkot. Then, on October 26, please join us after service for a harvest festival prepared by the RE groups!

Finally, we encourage members of the congregation to consider offering RE workshops. We are looking for Art Shops, Movement Shops, Game Shops, Story Shops, Writing Shops, Nature Shops, Music Shops and more-take your passion, connect it to the monthly story, and share it with our children!

--Jen Aultman

The TCC Update

"It Takes a Village"

As TCC* began to study all that we could about other UU congregations, it quickly became apparent that a strong RE program was the common denominator between vibrant, growing congregations. Hiring a DRE became one of the TCC goals and as we heard from you, through the Idea Well, it was a desire of yours as well.

You knew, as we, that a solid RE program can give our children a spiritual perspective that many of us were not privileged to have until adulthood. You knew that it can open possibilities for NUUC to share UU principles beyond our own doors, not to mention that it can bring even more joy, giggles, art and life to our community.

Now we're on the path. Jen has emerged as our very own and capable DRE. She's developing a program that is already realizing results. And through abundant, generous actions, we're not only standing behind her, we're moving the RE program forward. Our engagement - through gifts of time, talent, treasure - is making a difference in our NUUC community, our "village". Thank you for helping NUUC move forward.

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/>

Adult Enrichment

North Unitarian Universalist Congregation is moving into the fall with several Adult Enrichment programs in place. The two covenant groups, one led by Sue Frederick and the other by Teri Cornell, are doing well. In September, two new Adult Enrichment explorations began. One was "Mindful Writing II: Writing to Wake the Soul," facilitated by Marty Keith; the other was the Unitarian Universalist theology course, "What Moves Us," taught by Rev. Susan Ritchie.

"Mindful Writing II" follows, not surprisingly, this past summer's "Mindful Writing I," six sessions of journaling that a small but happy group of writers enjoyed. The new course, meeting on the fourth Monday of each month, also involves sharing original journals, poems, stories, reveries-whatever is inspired-about thought-provoking topics. The primary, but not only, source of ideas is Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Karen Hering's book, *Writing to Wake the Soul: Opening the Sacred Conversation Within*. Hering takes what she considers traditional theological concepts and asks writers to use their own experiences to see those concepts in new ways. She quotes William Stafford's poem, "When I Met My Muse": [His muse tells him], "I am your own way of looking at things. When/you allow me to live with you, every/glance at the world around you will be/a sort of salvation."

The topic for October 27 is "A Murmuration of Grace." In this context, grace can be an expansion of consciousness, realization of our kinship with the rest of creation, a sense of harmony...in short, joy

The TCC has new news to share - we are pleased to welcome a new member to the TCC, Dee Burlison. Dee is involved with RE as a teacher and parent, and she has generously agreed to share her voice of experience and engagement with RE by serving on the TCC. We welcome her RE perspectives, as we work together to strengthen and build our UU community.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions to share with the TCC, please contact any of us. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

The TCC -
Sydney Schardt, Laura Howe, John Rodeheffer, Bob Keith, Cathy Rodeheffer, Dee Burlison

** 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.*

News from your Social Action Committee (SAC) - October 2014 Newsletter

"DOLLARACRACY - THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY ON OUR DEMOCRACY AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT": Join us on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm to learn more about this important social justice topic and the grassroots movements working to take back our democracy. Michael Greenman (First UU, Move to Amend, Interfaith Caucus), will present an overview of the topic and representatives from several local organizations will share positive actions being taken to address some of the many problems created by the influence of wealth on government and in our daily lives. After the presentations, we will share refreshments and ideas for actions each of us can take. Envision the world you want to live in and the legacy you want to leave behind. It will take both individual and collective action to create the change we wish to see in the world. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

UU JUSTICE OHIO (UUJO): Join UU's from around Ohio at the UUJO Justice Assembly on November 8th at First UU in Columbus. This year's theme is **"Get Smart on Organizing"** and will feature Democratic State Representative (and UU) Nickie Antonio, West Shore UU, and lobbyists from UUJO allies and partners such as the ACLU and Equality Ohio offering guidance on how to impact issues before the Ohio General Assembly. Issue Group workshops on Immigration, Economic Justice, Criminal and Racial Justice, LGBTQ, Environment, Voting Rights, and Reproductive Freedom will promote education, service, and advocacy through lobbying, litigation, media, public witness, and civil disobedience. Following the Justice Assembly, there will be a UUJO Standing on the Side of Justice Rally, **Get Smart on Crime**, which will provide UUJO members and allies an opportunity to engage in a public witness event promoting action on mass incarceration, reentry, and the death penalty. Program workshop details are posted on the UUJO website uujo@ohiomeadville.org and the SAC bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to meet and network with other UU's from around Ohio. Please see Pam Patsch if you are

brought on by anything we might see, hear, touch, or think. Hering's own experience happened on a Minnesota prairie when a murmuration (that is what it is called) of starlings came from the horizon and across the sky "like a beautiful black blanket loosely woven of thousands of small chirping birds, all flapping their wings."

Here, then, is the invitation for "Mindful Writing II": Has a murmuration of grace ever swept you up, filled your senses? Express it in "your own way of looking at things" and bring it to share October 27, 6:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall.

"What Moves Us" started on September 25.... This program explores the life experiences of both historic and contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith. Taught by Rev. Ritchie, every other Thursday 7:00 PM-8:30 PM,, the remaining sessions are Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Nov. 20, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to join us even if you can't make all the sessions, and didn't begin on Sept. 25.

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 614-582-5747

or Melinda Rosenberg
melindarosenberg@gmail.com 614-781-0166

interested in attending and/or would be willing to help with hospitality (set up, clean up, greeting, etc.).

CROP HUNGER WALK - October 12, 2014: CROP Hunger Walks are sponsored by the Church World Service (CWS). Communities around the country hold walks to raise money to help people struggling to feed their families - both around the world and within their communities. **"What is the point of walking?"** Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as many as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because we want to end hunger - one step at a time." Within the Central Ohio area there are several communities holding walks on October 12th including Columbus, Delaware, Westerville, and Worthington. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised benefit the communities where they take place by supporting local food banks, pantries, community gardens, and other hunger fighting initiatives. If you are interested in participating in one of the local CROP Hunger Walks, you can call 888-297-2767 or visit the website at www.crophungerwalk.org. See the bulletin board for more information.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING: Our October Loose Change Offering will be donated to the Delaware CROP Hunger Walk.
COMING SOON - Empty Bowls on Sunday, November 9th after the service.

SOCIAL JUSTICE LIBRARY: The Social Action Committee has started 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 and 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 pqp723@aol.com.

NEXT SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING - October 5th at 11:45 am. New members are welcome.

Treasurer's Report of August 2014 Results September 26, 2014.

This month a BIG thank you goes to Emerson, Evan, and Audrey for their help in counting and wrapping the loose change offering.

Aug 2014 financials for the month show Income of \$11,469 which is \$1,793 under budget. Expenses of \$13,856 are (\$443) higher than budget resulting in expenses exceeding income by (\$2,387). The actual results were not impacted by DRE expense which was paid from restricted funds. DRE Restricted gifts totaled \$4,625 in August, enough to cover 3.44 months of salary and payroll taxes.

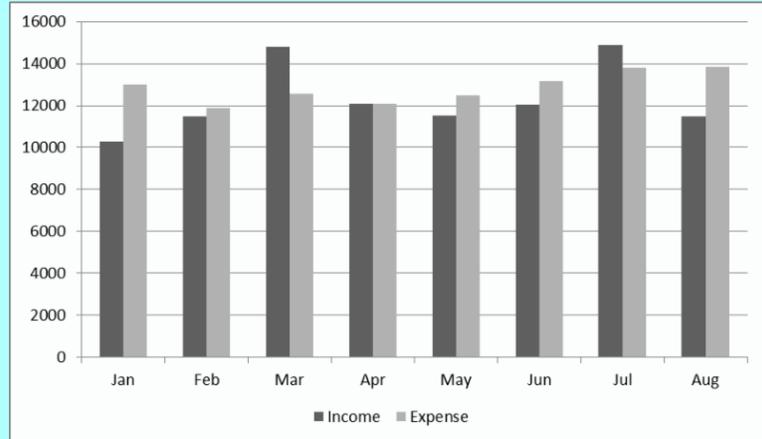
August YTD financials reflect Income of \$98,571 which is \$7,523 lower than budget. Expenses of \$102,855 are \$3,442 better than budget. YTD we have spent (\$4,284) more than our income. Pledge offerings are (\$10,636) less than budget after eight months. Spending has been within budget in most areas, with the following exceptions: Ways and

Ohio Meadville District of the UUA

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Means Committee (\$870), Child Care (\$472), OMD dues (\$266), Custodial supplies (\$162), and UUA dues (\$44).

The graph below shows our income and expenses for the year. We were "OK" in covering our expenses through August, however with Board approval, we "borrowed" from our reserve funds in September to pay our property and liability insurance. We expect to repay our reserves as pledges and other income come in later in the year.



For the Complete Financial Summary for August, [Click here](#)

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Schardt, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

[Click here for the August Board Minutes](#)

[Click here for the September Board Minutes](#)

Leadership Council

[Click here for August Meeting Minutes](#)