

A photograph of a red brick lighthouse with a yellow light on top, situated on a sandy dune overlooking the ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The title 'NORTHERN LIGHT' is overlaid in a large, black, serif font, with the lighthouse acting as the letter 'I' in 'LIGHT'.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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December 2011

RevElations!

I usually do not make a big deal about Advent--the season which serves as the spiritual preparation for Christmas. Advent celebrations are often a part of churches far more liturgical than ours, and ok, I will admit, I have resisted colonizing even more time and space for Christmas (now what with all the *stuff* hitting the stores by Halloween and well before).

I feel differently this year. There is a special magic to this time of year, as the dark becomes darker and small lights--from distant stars or nearby candles--become all the brighter in contrast. Advent teaches a kind of patience with this situation. Advent is about waiting for a baby to be born into the world, waiting for an incarnate God to appear---nothing much one can do to hurry such a situation along. What is left is to fall in love with the mystery, and the wonder of what already is, and what may yet become. We human beings need not just the feast, but the anticipation and even the doubt that comes with silence and absence; or else we might imagine the world really is only what we make of it.

To Life!

Rev. Susan

InTurnings

The month of December is often a whorl of excitement getting ready for the winter gift-giving holidays. This is the month when we live through the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, and then indirectly celebrate the returning light with Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. This is a time of shopping for presents, finalizing travel plans, lighting candles, and, for many of us,

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Holiday Poinsettias

NUUC will continue its tradition of decorating the sanctuary for the holidays with poinsettias donated by the congregation. Just bring in a poinsettia any Sunday between now and Christmas Eve. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia to the memory of (or in honor of) someone special to you, please fill out a Dedication Form (available on the Greeter's Desk and the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall). Your dedication will be annotated at the Christmas Eve service. (You are welcome to take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Year's Day services.)

Music Notes

decorating a tree.

For me this season is a time of expectation. There is a lot of excitement in the air with many buying presents and making plans. Businesses are advertising sales. The Salvation Army folks are greeting passers by with ringing bells. The sidewalks are lit up with strings of lights wrapped around trees. Children of all ages are squeezing and shaking wrapped boxes wondering what new delight is concealed inside. This is a time of busyness as we focus on completing plans and getting ready. We put off new projects until after the New Year.

Sometimes in this excitement, expectation, and busyness we can forget to take time to reflect on our lives and that which is most important. During this season I try to stop and think about what it means to give gifts at this time of year. In one sense gift giving is the perpetuation of our consumerist culture, but in another, gift giving is an expression of love. On those days when I am not feeling hurried or rushed, shopping for those I love can be almost a meditation on love. Walking along the aisle of REI or Best Buy or a craft fair, a book store, thinking about my friends and family, asking myself, "What would she like? What would he like? What best symbolizes my love for him, my love for her?"

How do you balance the expectation and busyness with time for reflection? Do you light candles at the dinner table? Do you take a moment to notice that which is most important in your lives? What do your gifts celebrate and symbolize?

Winter blessings,
Rachel
Intern Minister

Immigration as a Moral Issue



Several of us recently completed the 6 week UUA class on Immigration as a Moral Issue. We were so moved by what we learned that we felt it was important to share this information with the congregation.

Did You Know?

Here's a look at what music the choir is preparing for worship services during the month of December:

December 4: The choir will be singing "The Light Will Come" with a small ensemble of percussion and guitars.

December 11: We will be bringing back "Christmas Festival," a piece last sung by the NUUC Choir in 2006.

December 18: The choir will be introducing a new Christmas piece: "There Is Faint Music."

Christmas Eve: During our annual carols and lights service, the choir will be reprising two of the above pieces. (Which ones would you like to hear again?)

December 25: Marty Keith and Darlene Tschudy will be playing piano and flute for this special Christmas Day service. Choir members: No rehearsals are scheduled for December 25, January 1 or January 8. Regular rehearsals at 9:00am resume on Sunday, January 15.

Musically yours,
Marlene Hartzler, Music Director
marlenemetz@yahoo.com

An Invitation

There are 12 million undocumented immigrants in the US (about 4% of the population). Most come from Mexico, Central America, and South America because of extreme poverty (60% of Mexicans earn less than \$3/day). U.S. trade agreements have resulted in the loss of millions of farms and manufacturing jobs. Since NAFTA was enacted in 1994, 19 million more Mexicans live in poverty. U.S. immigration policy makes it extremely difficult to immigrate legally. Only 5,000 permanent visas are issued each year for unskilled workers and it typically takes over 10 years to obtain one. It can take from 2 to over 20 years for permanent workers to bring their families to the U.S. Our economy is dependent on cheap immigrant labor to fill jobs that many Americans are unwilling to do. With few if any legal rights, immigrants are victims of low wages and poor working conditions. U.S. immigration policy has focused on enforcement without addressing underlying problems. Billions are spent on militarizing the border and deportation, yet the number of undocumented immigrants continues to increase by 500,000 each year. An enforcement only policy has led to a climbing death rate as people are forced to cross the desert, escalating human rights abuses, separation of families, and over a billion dollars spent annually on imprisoning people who often want only to support their families.

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the right of conscience and the democratic process, and social justice and equality. The immigration issue is truly a problem that calls us to act on our faith and principles. In the coming months, information about immigration justice will be provided in the monthly newsletter, on the NUUC Facebook page, in the weekly service bulletins, and as part of some Sunday services. We are also hoping to provide opportunities to learn more through the youth RE program, a movie night to watch and discuss documentaries, a panel discussion, and offering the 6 week class again in the spring. If you are interested in becoming more involved with planning or participating in these activities, please come to the Social Action Committee meeting on December 4th or email Pam Patsch at pgp723@aol.com.

NUUC Blood Drive Sign-ups Needed by December 4

Each week we covenant, **TO SERVE HUMANITY**. Does not the donation of blood represent the ultimate service to humanity? There is no question as to why NUUC sponsors a Red Cross blood drive as part of our social action mission. Because

For some of us the holidays can be challenging times, not because of the presents we feel we need to find or possibly uncomfortable family visits, but because the holidays remind us that someone we love deeply is no longer alive. The old or barely healing wounds of our loss can open up to our deeply felt grief as we remember how we used to celebrate the holidays with our partner, mother, father, child, brother, sister, aunt, or friend.

Because the holidays can be challenging in this way I would like to open a space for those who have lost people they love to come together to be comforted. This one time **holiday grief support group** will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in participating or have questions please feel free to email me at InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com or call me at (740)657-8081, ext. 3. If you would like childcare for this evening, please let me know.

In faith,
Rachel, Intern Minister

Upcoming Events

Fair Trade Sale Set for December

our annual blood drives have always been successful and the need for blood is ongoing, we are going to sponsor blood drives semi-annually. Additionally, we are teaming with the Lewis Center United Methodist Church to have blood drives in this neighborhood four times a year. The UMC will have theirs in the spring and fall and we will have ours summer and winter.

During the holidays the need for blood increases and the number of donations decreases. Our winter blood drive is scheduled for **Monday, December 19 from 2:00p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** When I mentioned this to someone, their response was, "Oh this is such a busy time of year." And that is exactly why we need to fully support this drive now. Let others use that excuse. We need to step up and remember our covenant to serve humanity.

I know that many people wish they could donate blood but because of health issues or not being able to meet the criteria set for donors by the Red Cross, they cannot. It, therefore, is up to those of us who can donate to do so.

The sign up sheet for our drive on the 19th is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you are a donor, and have not donated since October 23, 2011, please sign up by **Sunday December 4**. We want to fill the schedule in the next couple weeks. Then there will be a push to sign up folks at the UMC. We need to schedule early so the Red Cross will know how many donor stations to set up. If you will not be attending church on December 4, you can call John Rodeheffer (740-369-9659) or email jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com to schedule an appointment.

Let's examine our priorities this holiday season and sign up to donate blood.

Holiday Family Project

This year your Social Action Committee is again partnering with the local agency "People In Need of Delaware Co." (PIN). Donations of new gifts (toys, clothing), food, toiletries and money will be accepted through Sunday, December 4 (make checks payable to NUUC and note "Holiday Family" in memo.) Distribution to families by PIN will be on December 11. (Our Nov. and December Loose Change offerings will also benefit PIN). If you have any questions, please contact Lyn Herron at 614-519-5378 or ohiolyn@aol.com . For more information, visit the PIN website at: <http://delawarepeopleinneed.org/holidayclearinghouse10.html>

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The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale on Sunday, December 11 (held the second Sunday of most months). Plan to purchase your fairly traded coffee, tea and delicious dark chocolates—purchase some for Christmas treats! See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more information (brandy.montgomery@gmail.com).

Congregational Meeting Dec. 18

Your Board of Trustees is calling for a congregational meeting after service on Dec. 18 for the purpose of approving a budget for 2012. Sitter service will be extended until 12:15pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24

We will hold our traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm. (The church will also be open for Sunday worship at our regular time of 10:30 am on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.) These services will all be family-friendly, and the nursery will be unstaffed on December 24, 25 and January 1.

News Bytes

Open Invitation from Social Action Committee

The next meeting of the NUUC Social Action Committee will be on Sunday, December 4, after service in the vestibule off the sanctuary. For more information, please feel free to attend a committee meeting or talk to any member of your Social Action Committee. Contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at tracystein@att.net for questions or to reconfirm the next meeting date. Won't you join us?

Friday Covenant Group Meets

NUUC Covenant Groups Covenant groups are small groups that meet monthly and encourage you to explore significant questions and experience community through deep intentional listening and discussion. Covenant groups of 6 to 10 people meet for 2 hours monthly from October through June. Meetings are guided by a facilitator and follow a simple format focusing on a specific topic. The format of the meetings helps participants set aside daily distractions, reflect on their lives and beliefs, and make meaningful connections with one another.

Currently a group is meeting on the third Friday of the month at 10:00am in the vestibule of the church. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 16. The group is facilitated by John Rodeheffer; you may contact him to learn the next session topic at jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com

You can join a covenant group at any time. In fact, covenant groups are structured to easily add new members throughout the program year. If you are interested, contact Intern Minister Rachel Baker at InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com or at 740-657-8081, ext 3.

Refreshment Help Requested

One NUUC tradition that carries on week to week is coffee, cookies, and conversation after services. A very special thank you to all of you who have taken a turn at setting up and clean-up after our weekly refreshment tasks this year.

Could you spare a bit of time some Sunday to help? The process is easy—all you have to do is follow instructions that are already



NUUC Directory

The Winter update of the NUUC Directory of Members and Friends is scheduled for distribution by the first of December. Distribution is being done primarily by e-mail in order to save printing and postage. However, if you prefer, you can receive a paper copy of the directory at any time upon request. To make a request, please contact Jeri Dill in the office at nuucjdill@aol.com or call her at 740-657-8081, ext. 1 (please advise whether you are able to pick it up at church to save postage or you need it mailed to you.)

To ensure the directory and church records are kept up-to-date, please notify Jeri if your address, phone, or e-mail information needs updating.

Interested in Membership?

If you would like to learn more about UU or join the congregation, watch for the next "Orientation to our Congregation" session. Join Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie and a Membership Committee representative as they explain

posted in the kitchen on where everything is and how to make coffee (if you don't know how). And then clean up after and put things back. Everything is provided for you. (But, feel free to try out a new cookie recipe or bring a dessert left from a meeting or family function!)

This is the perfect opportunity to work as a couple, or grab a friend to help. If everyone took a turn, no one would have to do it every week. And it's fun! We are currently scheduling through February 2012-see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for available date. For questions, please contact Jan Bourke at jdb135@wowway.com or Teri Cornell at imuuteri@yahoo.com.

Phoenix Witness Project



Have you seen a button that looks like this? Maybe in yellow or maybe in white? What does it mean? Who is it for? and most important, how can I get one? The Phoenix Witness Project is the response of the Ohio Meadville District to the current legislation in Arizona (Senate Bill 1070 now being mimicked by Georgia, Utah and other states) that substantially impacts the civil rights of anyone who cannot pass for a white Midwesterner. In 2010, rather than follow many organizations and impose economic boycotts and pull out of planned conventions in response to SB1070, the 2010 General Assembly, working with the Arizona UU congregations, determined that instead of a boycott, we as a movement will go and bear witness, we will go and do justice, we will reach out into the community to live our values and take a stand on the side of love. So instead of a General Assembly in 2012 in Phoenix, we will have a Justice Assembly.

To be effective, Justice Assembly must be more than a General Assembly with a different name. To that end, the OMD Board has made a commitment to substantially increase our District's participations in Justice Assembly through the Phoenix Witness Project.

With the Phoenix Witness Project, we are going to congregations

the denomination's (and our congregation's) history and the meaning of membership. If you would like to join the congregation after or prior to the next scheduled Orientation, please contact Rev. Ritchie RevRitchie@aol.com or 740-657-8081, ext. 2. Babysitter service available upon advance request.

NUUC Has Gone "Green"

Thanks to the help of the Building and Grounds Committee, we now have the opportunity to recycle glass, plastic (#1 & #2), aluminum, and paper/cardboard. Please look for the correct bins to place the items to be recycled. They are located in the kitchen off Fellowship Hall. While helping the planet, we may even be able to make money from recycling our pop cans! Please contact Cathy Rodeheffer with any questions (614-370-5202).

Projects for the Homeless

Cold weather is just around the corner... please remember the "Share" health kit and sleeping bag projects which benefit the homeless in the vicinity of Delaware Co.

As Donna Imel of Share told us last month, the Health Kit items are so greatly needed. There are

large and small throughout the district with a simple request; we are asking for a pledge from each congregant, that we will collect and use as grants and scholarships to help people get to Phoenix in 2012. In particular, since Justice Assembly will be a pivotal moment in the history of our faith, we must insure that our youths and young adults can freely participate and live out the values we preach from every pulpit in our District every Sunday.

So we will go as a district to Phoenix; to bear witness, to speak with love to hate, to speak justice to intolerance, to live our faith, to stand on the side of love. We ask you to pledge and to attend Justice Assembly for the same reason we do any justice work, to show that love, that is the doctrine of our faith, does not, and can not, stop at our church's front door. If you wish to help the Phoenix Witness Project, please see our page on the Ohio Meadville District website (www.ohiomeadville.org).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for October 2011

Outlined below is a summary of the financial report presented to members of your Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for the month of October, 2011:

	Actual \$ Received and Paid	Budget (Planned Receipts and Payment s)
October, 2011		
2011 Pledge Offerings	8,735	12,419
Non-Pledge Offerings	786	0
Rental Revenue	146	900
Ways and Means- Fundraising	817	353
	10,48	
Total Income	4	13,672
	14,96	
Total Expenses	3	13,672

virtually no public facilities for a homeless person to take a shower in the areas where the Health Kits are delivered. Imagine how nice it is to have your own items (towel, washcloth, soap, razor, toothbrush & paste, comb, deodorant, etc.). Many will simply have to use the small sink in a bathroom....some wash up in the local rivers.

You can view a list of the most-needed items on the "Share Card" found at the website at www.shareyourbest.us For the winter months, please consider adding Men's socks. (women wear men's socks because they are warmer).

Share is always in need of supplies to make more sleeping bags - please donate your used but clean bedding and towels. For additional details, visit the website at www.shareyourbest.us

For info about these projects or other ways you can help, please contact Donna Imel at Share at donna@shareyourbest.us (177 N. Union St., Delaware, OH 43015) or contact our NUUC coordinator Lynn Foreman sbgmacb@hotmail.com or 740-513-4876.

Shop for NUUC

The Delaware County Community Market is a fascinating new venture in downtown Delaware. A year-round, non-profit market, you can shop there for groceries, handmade foods

	Year- to-Date	
2010 Pledge Offerings	4,665	0
2011 Pledge Offerings	110,191	124,185
Non-Pledge Offerings	9,538	0
Rental Revenue	5,442	9,000
Ways and Means- Fundraising	3,333	3,529
	133,169	136,714
Total Income	69	
	137,132	
Total Expenses	32	136,714

Respectfully Submitted,
Koralleen Stavish

Thank yous are in order!

Empty Bowls

The NUUC annual "Empty Bowls" soup fundraiser held Sunday Nov. 13 raised \$675.00 to benefit local area food banks - well done, NUUC!

Annual Baked Goods Auction a Success!

Thanks to all who contributed delicious home-baked goods (and those who bid on them) at the Annual **Baked Goods Auction** held after the service on Sunday, Nov. 20 - we raised \$235! (A special thank-you to Jan Bourke and the Social Committee for their organization of the fund-raiser!)

Loose Change Update

Your Social Action Committee will continue its 2011 "Loose Change" project by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on Sunday, December 11, as it has on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years.

The Loose Change collections for November and December will benefit our annual Holiday Family project, see article elsewhere in this issue for more details about the People In

and other items, and household goods, and then direct 20% of the profits to your favorite non-profit. (Yes, NUUC is on the list of nonprofits to choose from!) The market is open 7 days a week (10-6 weekdays and 10-4 weekends). For more information, go to www.dccmc.com.

Reminder: Renew your Kroger Plus Cards

Our Kroger rewards continue to add up...we recently received a Rewards check in the amount of \$105.72 - way to go, NUUC shoppers! If you haven't already registered (or renewed) your Kroger Plus card with the Community Rewards program, please consider designating NUUC as your recipient. Individual participation must be renewed annually, so be sure you have updated your record. If you haven't registered or need to update your participation: Go to <http://www.kroger.com> and select Kroger Community Rewards at the bottom of the page. You'll need your account information or your Plus card number to complete the registration. It is a little cumbersome, but the sooner you do it the sooner your purchases start counting toward another nice donation from Kroger. (Should you need it, our NUUC Nonprofit Organization Number is 84869).

Need agency of Delaware County. The "Out of Darkness" project will receive our January 2012 proceeds.

Deserving recipients of our monthly Loose Change collections are always under discussion. For questions regarding the "Loose Change" project or to suggest a recipient, contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at tracystein@att.net or any member of your Social Action Committee.

2011 Loose Change Collection Recap

Month Collected	\$ Amount	Donated to:	Total
January	\$ 167.00	Red Lake Nation Project	\$167.00
February	\$ 117.95	UUSC (GAYT Project)	
March	\$161.92	" "	\$279.87
April	\$ 87.48	No More Deaths	\$ 87.48
May	\$ 82.02	Act Out Delaware	\$ 83.02
June	\$67.40	Red Lake Nation	\$ 67.40
July	\$78.85	School Supply Drive	
August	\$37.69	" " "	\$116.54
September	\$145.51	Montana de Luz	\$145.51
October	\$ 52.64	CROP Walk	\$ 52.64
November	\$ 89.68	People In Need of Delaware Co.	

Montana de Luz News

Here are a couple of items regarding Montana de Luz (recipient of our Loose Change collection for the month of September; an orphanage for HIV positive children in Honduras). For questions, see NUUC member Erika Shell Castro ecastro@montanadeluz.org

Please join us on Thursday, December 1 at "Light of the World," an opportunity to share what's happening on top of the "mountain of light" and be inspired by those who are shining lights on behalf of the precious children in the care of **Montana de Luz**. Please join us for an evening of free hors d'oeuvres, beverages and stories of celebration and sharing!

Thursday, December 1 (World AIDS Day) 7:00--8:30pm at Our Lady of Victory Church 1559 Roxbury Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43212

Please RSVP to info@montanadeluz.org or call 614-848-8077.

You will be offered the opportunity to pledge your support for the children. However, this is a **free**, no pressure, no obligation event.

Christmas cards are for sale benefiting Montana de Luz on the table in Fellowship Hall. By purchasing these cards you are helping to provide basic necessities to the children in our care. Ten cards for only \$5. Cash or checks accepted!

**Living Arrangement
Available**

Retired teacher and therapist eager to share her spacious condo with a UU. Located just west of Westerville, off Sharon Woods Blvd. Besides a bedroom-sitting room and bath, sharing includes use of kitchen and dining area, laundry, and garage. In addition there are two patios, a pool, and tennis courts available. Utilities except for phone are included. Condo is wired for cable and internet. \$550 per month. Call Laura Tobias Adams at 614-891-5482.

Can You Help?

Intern Minister Rachel Baker and her partner, Andrew, are considering buying a washing machine and dryer in order to do their laundry. They are wondering if you happen to have a used washer or dryer that you would be willing to sell to them. Please contact Rachel at InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com.

Join Our Mailing List!

