

A photograph of a red lighthouse on a sandy dune overlooking the ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The lighthouse has a yellow light at the top.

# NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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## November 2011

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### RevElations!

Every year we think hard about how to do our annual stewardship pledge drive. What shall be our theme? How many testimonials about the importance of our congregation to people shall we line up? What about a brochure? This year we are doing things way different. I'm thinking of it as a return to a kind of theological minimalism. In our tradition, we assume that people are naturally inclined to generosity and responsibility, and given the avenues to express those qualities, they will do the right thing on their own.

So this year, we won't be sending an individual steward to meet with you unless you would welcome that opportunity (if so, just let me know), or if we don't hear from you in the next two weeks or so. We won't be arranging testimonies (although what better testimony could there be than watching three youth who completed the Coming of Age program join the congregation this Sunday?) This year we are simply asking directly, would you please support our congregation? We are radically trusting that you will find your own way to an appropriate reply. You can fill out the totally online pledge form, as well as access some information on giving, [just click here.](#)

Thanks for everything you do to make our congregation so vibrant.

To Life!

Rev. Susan

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### In-Turnings

One of the great benefits of living in the Nielsen House is the railroad. I have always loved trains. Railroad tracks and trains have been a regular feature in my life. Twice I have lived near the high speed commuter rails around Boston. The subway in Queens and the elevated rail through Brooklyn used to shake

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## Holiday Production Announced

Mark your calendars! NUUC will be presenting "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on December 9 and 10, 8:00 pm. This is a family-friendly (about 45 minutes long) and deeply moving opera in English about a crippled shepherd boy and his mother, living in Judea some 2100 years ago, who are visited one night by the fabled Three Kings following the star over Bethlehem. Beautiful music and an uplifting story!

## Empty Bowls Project

NUUC's annual "Empty Bowls" project will be held this year on Sunday, November 13 immediately after the service. This is one of our most satisfying and meaningful annual events of the year., and one of our most fun! We get to make and eat wonderful soups, support our local Food Banks, and spend time talking with our friends. As in years past, our NUUC youth have joined with others in the community and made bowls for the event.

For a small suggested donation (usually \$10.00), you get to choose and keep one of the many unique bowls specially made for this event, filled with all the hot soup (plus bread) you can eat. We are in need of volunteers to help set up and work at the event

my apartments. Though it no longer runs, once there had been a train in Guinea. I could hear the Amtrak blow its horn as it traveled through Oakland.

When I stand next to the tracks here in Lewis Center and gaze to the north or the south, it is like being in an airport. The world opens to my imagination. I travel all over the land while standing next to the tracks. And I remember the places I have visited.

I don't know if you know this, but the train conductors do not honk the horns in the same way each time they pass through here. Some go HONK, HONK, HONK. Others sing beeEEEp, beeEEEp, beeEEEp. There is the lone hhhooooooooonnnnnnnnc. Some engineers seem to tap out rhythms as they tear through the two intersections, WOOooooop-DOOooooop- DOOooooOOp. I smile as I notice a little bit of human creativity on the long haul. Who are these musicians? These engineers?

Blessings,  
Rachel  
Intern Minister

## Let's Kick It Up A Notch!

Each week we repeat our covenant, "We gather together in love and fellowship to worship and to foster spiritual growth, **TO SERVE HUMANITY**, and to understand ourselves and our universe."

Does not the donation of blood represent 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. Our past annual blood drives have always been so successful that we are going to kick it up a notch or two.

Nationwide the blood supply is at an all time low. The severe weather the country has experienced this year is a huge factor. Not only do hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and wildfires increase the need for blood but they also greatly decrease donations in the areas where these disasters occur. It is up us, in the unaffected areas, to double our efforts. So that is exactly what we are going to do!

We will be teaming with the United Methodist Church on Lewis Center Road to sponsor four blood drives for the year. Many of us donate blood on a regular basis, but few of donate the maximum times (6) per year allowed by the Red Cross. If all donors increased their donations by one per year, the blood deficit would be erased. It makes sense then that we provide more donor opportunities.

The needs of humanity are so great and the requests for us to serve so numerous that we are often overwhelmed. We can't

make one gallon of soup, and/or clean up (and of course, EAT the soup!) Please see the sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall, or contact Tracy Steinbrenner [tracystein@att.net](mailto:tracystein@att.net) or any member of your Social Action Committee.  
Come enjoy delicious soups and conversation with your NUUC friends-for a GREAT cause!

### Music Notes

intergenerational service.  
Choir members: don't forget about the vocal workshop with Traci Aquara at 9:00am on Sunday, November 6. This will be in place of our regular rehearsal, but it is important that everyone be there!  
Here's a peek at the music being prepared for worship services this month:  
November 6: Tenor soloist Tom MacLaughlin will be singing "Where Do I Belong?"  
November 13: In remembrance of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War and Veteran's Day, the men of the choir will sing "Tenting on the Old Campground."  
November 20: At the Thanksgiving Bread Communion, the choir will be singing Sheldon Curry's wonderful arrangement of "Down to the River to Pray."  
November 27: Back by popular demand, the choir will perform "The Light Will Come" for this  
Musically yours,  
Marlene Hartzler, Music Director  
[marlenemetz@yahoo.com](mailto:marlenemetz@yahoo.com)

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do it all, but we can all do something. I confess that I wonder if my efforts in many social action opportunities will make any difference whatsoever. However, when I give blood, I know that I have helped to save a life. What can be better or easier than that?

More details to follow...watch the bulletin board.

John Rodeheffer

NUUC Blood Drive Coordinator

[jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com](mailto:jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com)

### Covenant Groups

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, Nov. 18. The group is facilitated by John Rodeheffer; you may contact him to learn the next session topic at [jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com) or at 740-657-8081, ext 3.

### 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

## Viewing and Reflection--The Color of Fear

November 17, 2011, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

I would like to share a film with you that has helped me to better understand what it means to be a white person in America. I feel that this documentary can help to answer the question, Why is anti-racism work important today? I feel that striving to end oppression is one of the most important actions we can do together as a faith community.

When we learn about the different privileges that we have because of our race, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, and physical abilities, we are better equipped to reach towards ending oppression. We learn to become allies in the struggle towards living out our first principle, to affirm and promote the inherent dignity of every person.

Plot Summary from the Internet Movie Database:

Eight North American men, two African American, two Latinos, two Asian American and two Caucasian were gathered by director Lee Mun Wah, for a dialog about the state of race relations in America as seen through their eyes. The exchanges are sometimes dramatic, and put in plain light the pain caused by racism in North America.

If you intend to participate please add your name to the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall, call me at 740-657-8081, or email at [internministernuuc@gmail.com](mailto:internministernuuc@gmail.com) so that I can arrange seating. Please indicate if you will need childcare.

In faith,  
Rachel Baker, Intern Minister

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 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](http://www.ohiomeadville.org)).

### Volunteers Wanted!

**Refreshments:** 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. The process is easy--all you have to do is follow instructions that are already posted in the kitchen on where everything is and how to make coffee. 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!) We are currently scheduling through October--see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for available dates, or please contact Teri Cornell at [imuuteri@yahoo.com](mailto:imuuteri@yahoo.com) or 614-891-59.

### Holiday Family Project

The holidays will soon be upon us, and some families are finding it hard to make ends meet. Without our help, these families may face a bleak holiday season. Your Social Action Committee is putting the final touches on this year's annual NUUC Holiday Family project. Watch the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, the Sunday bulletins, and the December issue of "Northern Light" for more details about how you can help (our November and December "Loose Change" offerings have been earmarked for this year's project). In the

### Upcoming Events

#### Annual Baked Goods Auction

The Annual Baked Goods Auction will be held Sunday, November 20th after service in Fellowship Hall. Break out your favorite recipes for this fun event. Please have your items at church by about 10:20 that morning. Bidding sheets will be provided and we will be asking for an appropriate starting bid. Bidding will start immediately after the service and end promptly at 12:00. For questions, contact Social Chair Jan Bourke at [jdb135@wowway.com](mailto:jdb135@wowway.com)

#### Fair Trade Sale Set

for November 13

"The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale on Sunday, November 13 (held the second Sunday of most months). Plan to purchase your fairly traded coffee, tea and delicious dark chocolates-just in time for Thanksgiving company! See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more information

([brandy.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto: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.

meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Lyn Herron of the Social Action Committee at [OhioLyn@aol.com](mailto:OhioLyn@aol.com).

#### Invitation from Social Action Committee

The next meeting of the NUUC Social Action Committee will be on Sunday, November 6, 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](mailto:tracystein@att.net) for questions or to reconfirm the next meeting date. Won't you join us?

## Treasurer's Report

### Treasurer's Report for September 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 September, 2011:

	Actual \$ Received and Paid	Budget (Planned Receipts and Payments)
September, 2011		
2011 Pledge Offerings	9,278	12,419
Non-Pledge Offerings	1,613	0
Rental Revenue	100	900
Ways and Means-Fundraising	1,753	353
Total Income	12,744	13,672
Total Expenses	17,330	13,672
Year-to-Date		
2010 Pledge Offerings	4,665	0
2011 Pledge Offerings	101,456	111,767
Non-Pledge Offerings	8,752	0
Rental Revenue	5,296	8,100
Ways and Means-Fundraising	2,516	3,176
Total Income	122,685	123,043
Total Expenses	122,334	123,043

Respectfully Submitted,  
Koralleen Stavish

### News Bytes



### **NUUC Directory Updates due by Nov. 6**

The next update of the NUUC Directory of Members and Friends will be distributed by mid-November. To ensure the most up-to-date copy is distributed, please notify Jeri if your address, phone, or e-mail information needs updating. In order to meet the printing deadline, updates should be sent no later than Sunday, November 6 to Jeri Dill at [nuucdill@aol.com](mailto:nuucdill@aol.com) or call her at 740-657-8081, ext. 1.

Distribution will be primarily by e-mail in order to save printing and postage. However, if you prefer, you can receive an electronic or paper copy of the directory at any time upon request; please contact Jeri, noting whether you want to receive via e-mail or receive a printed copy (please advise whether you are able to pick it up at church to save postage or you need it mailed to you.)

### **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 the denomination's (and our congregation's) history and the meaning of membership. A New Member Recognition was held on Sunday, Oct. 30. If you would like to join the congregation after or prior to the next scheduled Orientation, please contact Rev. Ritchie [RevRitchie@aol.com](mailto:RevRitchie@aol.com) or 740-657-8081, ext. 2. Babysitter service available upon advance request.

Projects for the  
Homeless

## **Thank yous are in order!**

### **Thanks for Helping with the Mowing at NUUC**

For this mowing season, we again handled the mowing ourselves at NUUC. Our coordinated mowing efforts went quite well and saved a lot of money. We estimate we saved \$2,400 by not contracting out the mowing. To mow the grounds around the church and Nielsen House, the Building and Grounds Committee members took turns mowing each week except for one or two weeks each month, which was handled by a volunteer from the congregation.

At this time, we would like to thank the congregational volunteers for their efforts to fill out the mowing schedule. Specifically, a big thank you goes to the following congregational volunteers for mowing once or twice during the summer:

Brad Dana  
Yvonne Clippinger  
Steve Conley (twice)  
Neil Kirby  
Tawnya Hagan (twice)  
Sue Fredrick (twice)

For 3 weeks each month, 3 members of the B & G Committee took turns mowing and weed trimming. We give a hearty thank you to these committee members for their efforts each month:

John Rodeheffer  
Roger Orwick  
Bob Keith

Also, we give a great big thank you to B&G Committee member Gary Rusk for his work mowing the large field at the rear of our property plus west of the parking lot. Gary volunteered to handle mowing the fields for the entire mowing season, which really enhanced the appearance of our property.

Since our volunteer mowing approach worked so well, we plan to continue this approach next mowing season. Watch for more information on our mowing plans as Spring approaches.

### **Donation Thank Yous**

A recent donation to NUUC got us thinking about other donations we've received this year. Donations are one of several ways to support the church, and we think that we should recognize people for their donations. We give a big THANK YOU to all the following people who made donations. At the beginning of the mowing season, we found that our riding mower needed to be replaced. We located a nice mower on Craigslist, and it was purchased by Gary and Ruth Rusk and donated to the church.

In the late summer when our student intern, Rachel Baker, was moving into the sparsely furnished Nielsen House, people came forward with many donations as follows:

A queen-size bed was donated by Steve and Diane Conley.  
Jan Bourke donated a dresser and desk.

A love seat and reading chair were donated by Joan Van Becelaere.  
Becca and Nathan Morse donated end tables.

A nice stove was donated by our administrative assistant, Jeri Dill

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 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](http://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](http://www.shareyourbest.us)

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

and her husband David.

In addition, our grand piano now has a custom piano cover to protect it from the sun and other hazards. The piano cover was provided at wholesale cost by Bryan and Marlene Hartzler.

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## Loose Change Update

Your Social Action Committee will continue its "Loose Change" project in 2011 by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years. The Loose Change collection for October (\$52.64) was earmarked to benefit the Delaware Co. CROP Walk (see info elsewhere in this newsletter about the Walk and how you can help). Other upcoming beneficiaries of our "Loose Change" efforts include: our annual Holiday Family project (November & December); and Out of Darkness (January 2012). Additional 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](mailto:tracystein@att.net) or any member of your Social Action Committee.

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## Board Minutes

NUUC Board meeting Oct. 2011

Attendees: Darlene Tschudy, Gary Rusk, Marty Keith, Laura Howe, Nina Webb- Lawton, Marty Keith, Susan Ritchie, Rachel Baker, Koralleen Stavish

Guest: Jeff Hill

Absent: Mary Ann Wojton, Kim Poderys, Nathan Morse

\*Susan gave a brief overview of the way the stewardship campaign will be organized.

\*Brief discussion of the meeting held with the architect and a reminder of the October 18 meeting

\*The congregational meeting will be held October 30 to show the architectural options for the building expansion and to discuss costs and the implications of various choices.

\*Darlene will ask David Petras to look at the architect's agreement and post his recommendations. Board will conduct an email vote on approving the agreement after the October 18 meeting with the architect.

\*Jeff led a session on developing a vision statement and a statement of values for the board for use in deliberations about policies and actions as the congregation moves forward. Jeff will provide a summary and feedback document after reviewing all notes and comments.

you can shop there for groceries, handmade foods 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](http://www.dccmc.com).

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).