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## January 2012

### InTurnings

I often imagine that the months of the year are placed on an analog clock face. The fall season seems like the hands of a clock climbing up through the nine of September towards the twelve of December. January, just to the right of the peak of the clock's arch, is the time to look out around to the rest of the year. It is the time to take stock, make assessments, and fine tune one's direction or to make resolutions.

We have arrived at the top of the clock of my stay with NUUC. Four months have passed and I have learned a lot. We have shared worship together. I have worked with you on projects and committees. I have met with you individually for various reasons. I had the honor of presiding at a memorial service for someone not connected to this community. I have been meeting with a couple who are planning to be married at North in the spring. I have had the amazing opportunity to teach religious education. We have an incredible group of children and youth in the congregation. I was so inspired by the classes I taught that for the first time I understood why one of my colleagues at Starr King School for the Ministry intends to become a Minister of Religious Education.

Over the next six months as we arc down though the winter at the two and three and into the spring at four and five, I will continue to practice the arts of ministry. I will lead worship addressing themes close to my heart. I plan to teach another adult religious education class. I hope to meet with more of you individually and collectively.

As an Intern Minister I am in the unique role of both ministering to you and continuing to learn how to minister, and I rely upon you, my teaching congregation, to help me through this formation. This is a journey we are walking

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## Special Invitation

### Congregational Discussions in January

Join Board President Darlene Tschudy immediately after service in the sanctuary on Jan. 15 or Jan. 29 for informal conversation about the congregation's vision and building expansion plans. For advance questions, please contact Darlene at [dtschudy@insight.rr.com](mailto:dtschudy@insight.rr.com) or 614-668-2531.

## Social Justice

### January 8: Fair Trade Sale

The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale on Sunday, January 8 (held the second Sunday of most months). Plan to purchase your fairly traded coffee, tea and delicious dark chocolate! See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more information ([brandy.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:brandy.montgomery@gmail.com))

together. We are mutually enriched by this relationship. I am deeply grateful for our shared nurturance.

I encourage you to let me know how you experience my ministry. If you feel moved send me an email or we could meet over a cup of tea or coffee to talk.

In faith,  
Rachel  
Intern Minister

## Music Notes

A giant thank you goes out to the musicians who performed during the Christmas Day and New Year's Day worship serviced. Thank you Marty Keith, Darlene Tschudy, Lyn Herron (times two!), and Rebecca Morse.

Choir Members: Full choir rehearsals will resume Sunday, **January 15 at 9:00am**. We will be singing "Freedom, Oh Freedom" for the worship service. Please plan on choir rehearsals every Sunday from January 15 until the end of May.

In the new year, the choir will be bringing back some old favorites and adding new songs to our repertoire. Stay tuned!

Musically yours,  
Marlene Hartzler  
Music Director

## Musings on Opportunity

Perhaps it is the newness of the year, the tearing off of the last page of the old year's calendar or the long, dark evenings that invite reflection on opportunities at this time of year. Often such reflection is a solitary pursuit, but at NUUC we have the privilege of exploring a specific opportunity together this year.

This opportunity comes through our covenantal relationship with and support of our intern minister, Rachel Baker. To this relationship Rachel brings her personal theology, her willingness to be involved in many aspects of congregational life, her openness to try new worship styles and her desire to know who we are as a UU congregation. NUUC's part in this covenant is to support her in her exploration of what it means to be a UU minister. We are supporting her when we attend, with open hearts and open minds, the services she leads, when we welcome her into the life of the congregation - committees, RE classes, social functions - and when we engage with her on a personal level.

The beauty of such a covenantal relationship is that we all benefit from it. Rachel will get to put her theology into practice and to try out her ideas about preaching,

The NUUC Social Action Committee typically meets the first Sunday of the month after service. The next meeting will be on the (special) date of Sunday, January 8, 2012, 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?

## Chili Cook Off

**Sunday, February 5**

It's that time of year, again! Time to heat up Fellowship Hall with chili and friendly competition. Start working on your entry, for either the Meat Category or the Veggie Category. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Judging/tasting begins directly after the service. Winners will be announced at 12:15. Plan to stay and enjoy delicious chili and help with judging even if you don't wish to enter the competition.

## News Bytes



committee work and being part of the intimate moments in people's lives. This internship provides her with practice and confidence to take the next step in service to UU. As a congregation, we have the privilege of helping to form a new UU minister. The experience of helping lead this congregation will be part of who Rachel is as a minister from now on; we will form part of the foundation from which she will step out into her own ministry. We will be connected in a fundamental way to any congregation Rachel serves in the future. Without a doubt, that's a gift that keeps on giving!

A writing by an anonymous author, found in our hymnal, sums up this opportunity nicely:

"May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations, and inspired to bring our gifts of love and service to the altar of humanity. May we know once again that we are not isolated beings but connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe, to this community and to each other." And - may we be grateful for this opportunity to be of service to Rachel, our congregation and the wider UU community.

The Internship Committee:

Allison Fagan, Chairperson

Chris Jones-Leavy

Jan Bourke

John Rodeheffer

Kyle Yaggi

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## Immigration as a Moral Issue

Having survived the hectic holiday season, many of us are now playing catch-up with our daily lives. In the face of so many demands, why is the immigration issue deserving of our attention, time, and energy?

All religious teachings have a common message: We are one. We are connected. We are all in this together. The first UU principle is the commitment to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every being.

Undocumented immigration is an immense problem driven by economic need and U.S. businesses' voracious need for cheap labor. This has created an under-class of residents who are refused the dignity and civil protections that come with citizenship. Immigration is a complex and multifaceted issue with no easy answers. Most Americans can agree that this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Breaking up poor working families does not feel like justice, equity, and compassion in action. Refusing minimal health services to children is not how we should treat members of our human family. Police forces that profile brown people does not feel like breaking down the walls that divide us. Building an impenetrable fence across hundreds of miles of border does

### **NUUC Directory**

The winter/spring 2012 update of the NUUC Directory of Members and Friends will be delivered to your mailboxes soon! 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](mailto: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 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](mailto:RevRitchie@aol.com) or 740-657-8081, ext. 2. Babysitter service available upon advance request.

### **Thanks for your Faithful Giving**

Your faithful and consistent giving is so appreciated and necessary to staying on budget. Remember: you can always mail

not feel neighborly. There must be a better way. The UUA has joined other people of faith and conscience in support of just and comprehensive immigration reform and an immediate stop to enforcement actions that separate families and create a climate of fear and repression. UU's have always affirmed human diversity and shared a commitment to social justice.

To learn more about the stories of those whose lives are impacted by this issue, visit [www.myimmigrationstory.com](http://www.myimmigrationstory.com) and [www.standingonthesideoflove.org/immigrants](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/immigrants). Look for more information on the NUUC Facebook page, monthly newsletters, and the service bulletin. If you are interested in becoming more involved with planning or participating in upcoming activities, please come to the Social Action Committee meeting on January 8 or email Pam Patsch at [pgp723@aol.com](mailto:pgp723@aol.com).

## **Board of Trustee's Report**

*"We are an inclusive community of seekers pursuing deeper meaning through the process of spiritual engagement, learning, reasoning, and action." ~the Mission of NUUC*

The Board meeting was held on December 10. The meeting opened with lighting the chalice and reciting the mission of the church. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted; then we turned our attention to the 2012 budget.

The Board discussed how to cover the approximate \$5K deficit, including fundraising opportunities within and outside the church, increasing building rental opportunities, chalice lighter grants, and sponsorship of music. Because the expenses to maintain and run the church are our responsibility the Board decided to bring the budget to the congregation as is and ask the congregation to solve the deficit. The Board acknowledged that if the congregation was unable to raise the needed \$5K the difference could be covered by the capital.

Due to initial feedback from the congregation, including questions of financial feasibility in the current economy, the Board decided to postpone the congregational vote on the building expansion capital campaign for one month. The Board decided to gather further information from the congregation regarding the mission, needs, growth of the congregation, and finances. The board will host large-group and small-group conversations and offer an online survey (see the special invitation in this newsletter) to develop a clear vision of the needs and desires of the congregation.

in an offering or pledge check, even if your schedule keeps you away from services. Just mail it to: NUUC, Attn: JGD, P. O. Box 541, Lewis Center, OH 43035 (please note the postal service will NOT deliver to our physical address, so be sure to use the post office box address).

Annual statements for the 2011 tax year (for giving through December 31, 2011) will be mailed out by the end of January 2012. If you have any questions about your 2011 or 2012 planned giving or other pledging matters, feel free to call the church office at 740-657-8081 and talk to Rev. Ritchie  
([RevRitchie@aol.com](mailto:RevRitchie@aol.com))  
or Jeri Dill ([nuucidill@aol.com](mailto:nuucidill@aol.com)).

### 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).

### Shop for NUUC

The **Delaware County Community Market** is a fascinating venture in downtown Delaware. A year-

## Treasurer's Report

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

	Actual \$ Received and Paid	Budget (Planned Receipts and Payments)
<b>November, 2011</b>		
2011 Pledge Offerings	12,440	12,419
Non-Pledge Offerings	964	0
Rental Revenue	130	900
Ways and Means-Fundraising	229	353
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,763</b>	<b>13,672</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,049</b>	<b>13,672</b>
<b>Year-to-Date</b>		
2010 Pledge Offerings	4,665	0
2011 Pledge Offerings	122,630	136,603
Non-Pledge Offerings	10,502	0
Rental Revenue	5,572	9,900
Ways and Means-Fundraising	3,562	3,882
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>146,931</b>	<b>150,386</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>149,341</b>	<b>150,386</b>

## Religious Education Volunteers Needed

In January we celebrate the beginning of the calendar year. It is also the time when our religious education classes begin the spring session. As we begin this season we'd like to invite members and friends of the congregation to help teach our children's religious education classes. Passing on our liberal religious values to our children is one of the most important things we can do. And it is fun too! Would you like to teach or assist the religious education classes this spring? Specifically, we are looking for:

**One assistant or teacher for pre-school age class**

**One assistant for the youth**

**Three assistants for the 6 - 11 year olds**

round, non-profit market, 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).

**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).

You may view more details about our Children's RE program by visiting the site at <http://nuuc.org/education/youth-classes>.

We'd like to express our deep gratitude to the lead teachers and assistants who have been sharing their Sundays with the children and youth of this congregation. Your generosity is building the future of Unitarian Universalism!

If you are interested please contact Rev. Susan Ritchie at [RevRitchie@aol.com](mailto:RevRitchie@aol.com) or Intern Minister Rachel Baker at [internministernuuc@gmail.com](mailto:internministernuuc@gmail.com).

Thank you for all that you do!

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## NUUC Hosts OMD Social Justice Workshop

NUUC will be hosting the Ohio-Meadville District's workshop, "Innovations in Social Justice," on Saturday, February 4, 2012, a day-long workshop to explore a variety of congregational models of advocacy and action. Participants will have the opportunity to network with Unitarian Universalists from around the district. For more information and to register, see the Events page of [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org). If you would like to help host the event, please contact our Intern Minister Rachel Baker at [InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com](mailto:InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com).

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## NUUC Co-sponsoring Freedom to Love, Freedom to Marry Celebration

NUUC is co-sponsoring "Freedom to Love, Freedom to Marry," an Interfaith Rededication and Solidarity Celebration at First Unitarian Universalist Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12.

This celebration will allow all couples who have made a lifetime commitment to each other, either publicly or privately, with benefit of legal standing or not, whether straight or same-sex, to publicly reaffirm and rededicate the vows that bind them together in a loving relationship. Individuals are also invited and welcome to participate to demonstrate their support and solidarity.

Please plan to join in, and invite others as well. The church is located at 93 W. Weisheimer Road, Columbus. For additional information, contact Martha Filipic at [tonymartha@columbus.rr.com](mailto:tonymartha@columbus.rr.com) or event organizers Bob Rice (614-313-7158) or Ray Nandyal (614-594-3230) or [UUGSAevent@gmail.com](mailto:UUGSAevent@gmail.com).

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## 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 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](mailto:jdb135@wowway.com) or Teri Cornell at [imuuteri@yahoo.com](mailto:imuuteri@yahoo.com).

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## "Loose Change" Project Update

NUUC's total Loose Change giving for 2011 was \$1,267.14! Thank you!

Your Social Action Committee will continue its "Loose Change" project into 2012 by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on Sunday, January 8, as it has on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years.

The "Out of Darkness" project will receive our January 2012 proceeds. (Watch for details regarding this project in upcoming Orders of Service or contact Lyn Herron at [ohiolyn@aol.com](mailto:ohiolyn@aol.com) ).

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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## Holiday Family Project

This year your Social Action Committee again partnered with the local agency "People In Need of Delaware Co." (PIN) to provide gifts (toys and clothing), food, toiletries and money to families in need of a little holiday cheer and assistance. Donations were collected at NUUC through early December, and PIN made distributions to the families on December 11.

Our Nov. and December Loose Change offerings were also earmarked to benefit PIN. Including designated giving in

the offering, NUUC donated a total of \$587.68 in cash to the project! A special thank you to NUUC coordinator Lyn Herron for overseeing NUUC's participation in the project. For more information about PIN, visit <http://delawarepeopleinneed.org/holidayclearinghouse10.html>.

## SHARE Project

Cold weather is upon us... please remember the "Share" health kit and sleeping bag projects which benefit the homeless in the vicinity of Delaware Co. and into Franklin Co.

The SHARE 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, wet wipes, 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.

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.

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