

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

November 2014

Worship

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

Join Our Mailing List!

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

EMPTY BOWLS

We all have to agree this time of year is soup weather. How many of you have already made a pot of soup or chili because the day's weather said to you this is a soup day? Maybe you will make a pot of soup today. I guess that is why the Columbus Parks and Recreation holds their Empty Bowls event during the fall season. Nothing says soup better than a cool fall day.

This year on **Sunday, November 10th** our congregation will be participating in Empty Bowls sponsored by Columbus Parks and Recreation. The proceeds from Empty Bowls go to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. The Mid-Ohio Foodbank provides food for 559 emergency

RevElations!

Last Sunday, we kicked off our campaign "Casper: The Friendly, No-Scares, No-Tricks Pledge Drive for 2015." During this stewardship campaign, we won't threaten your salvation, suggest that financial or spiritual misfortunes await those who don't tithe, or even twist your arm just a little. Instead, our faith in human nature-in your nature-is such that we know that if we simply state our need plainly you will make an appropriate response-this congregation always has. Our congregation is entirely financially self-supporting and independent (we like it that way), so we truly rely on each other. Indeed, when the Stewardship Committee met to discuss this year's strategy-our conversation took an interesting turn. We had thought to maybe do the traditional (and highly effective) fundraising technique of asking individual stewards to visit each family. The positives of such an approach are the personal touch, the chance to check in personally with people on how they are doing and their hopes for their participation in the congregation. But then we thought-why combine that with money? We thought about it, and then made a commitment to have stewards check in with folks -this spring, after the pledge drive is over.

In the meantime, we appreciate your pledge commitment for 2015, which you can complete by using the online form here, or, if you'd like to arrange for a visiting steward or written materials, you can do that by [clicking here](#).

The UUA guide to giving is also included in the above link as an aid in your deliberations. Of course, the amount you give is entirely up to you-but we do ask that you think about making at least a small increase from last year-sometimes people can keep pledges static for a while, which can make it harder for us to keep up year to year.

Thank you so very much for your participation in our congregation-

To Life!

food pantries, soup kitchens, and other agencies throughout central Ohio. They provide over 101,700 meals each day. For every \$1.00 donated, the Mid-Ohio Foodbank is able to provide 3 meals with that one dollar.

Please join your Social Action Committee on Sunday November 10th in making a difference in the fight against hunger through your donation to the Columbus Park & Recreations and Empty Bowls, with proceeds going to the MidOhio Food Bank.

Don't Miss it! Service Auction to be held Sunday, November 23!

The Service Auction will be held **Sunday, November 23** immediately following the service. (Lunch provided). There are lots of exciting offerings - the 2014 auction may prove to be our most exciting auction yet! We have plenty of baked goods and delicious food offerings - what a great way to fill out your Holiday table with homemade delicacies! We also have a wide variety of beautiful handcrafted items and entertaining services and dinner gatherings available this year.

The catalog is available in fellowship hall, or you can check it out online [right here!](#)

And - Good news! We are still accepting offerings to include in a **catalog supplement** - simply fill out the [online form](#) or use a paper copy (available in Fellowship Hall) and place it in the box or hand it to Becca Morse. (Note: The online form is also a great way to let us know that you will be bidding in the auction - simply enter your contact information and we will have a bidding envelope ready to go for you on the morning of the auction!)

Please check out our [Service Auction FAQ](#) for a complete description of our annual event - be sure to save the date and attend! Or, if you are not able to attend the auction, you can have a **proxy bidder** compete for you to try to win your items. With proxy bidding, a designated person

Susan

Notes from the President of the Board

Happy October all!

October has been a busy month for the board. With the ministerial restart last month, the board has been clarifying responsibilities between minister and lay leadership. We made some good progress and I believe we have laid a good foundation going forward.

We have purchased a new sign for Lewis Center Road that will be installed in the near future. Our excellent Building and Grounds committee had to do some repair work to the sign base, so that should be completed soon. In addition, this outstanding committee has repaired the back porch and repaired a large amount of termite damage to Neilsen House garage.

One initiative that we have been working on is asking all of our committee leads to provide charters for their committee. The board accepted several at the last meeting and these will be posted to the website in the near future.

NUUC will also continue to sponsor Claudia at Montana de Luz and we have voted to provide representatives at UU Justice Ohio. Chuck Lynd, Lyn Herron, and Pam Patsch will represent NUUC at UUJO.

It was a great month and looking forward to a happy November.

Happy Halloween all!

Jeff

Thanks from the Board

Every month, it is my privilege to recognize a member that goes above and beyond to make our congregation a special place. Our "Thanks from the Board" this month goes to Dee Burlison. Dee goes above and beyond to routinely provide coffee and snacks for after our social hour after church. Dee, Thank you for all you do.

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

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

will bid for the items you want according to your instructions, including a maximum bid amount on each item. Either you can arrange for a person to handle your bids, or we can designate a person to bid for you. For more information about proxy bidding, contact [Bob Keith](#).

Brown Bag Books

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

Ways and Means

Fair Trade Sales

November 9th!

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.

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- Ongoing endeavors & new opportunities

The idea behind the adult enrichment venture "Mindful Writing II: Writing to Wake the

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

EMPTY BOWLS LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014:

We all have to agree this time of year is soup weather. How many of you have already made a pot of soup or chili because the day's weather said to you this is a soup day? Maybe you will make a pot of soup today. I guess that is why the Columbus Parks and Recreation holds their Empty Bowls event during the fall season. Nothing says soup better than a cool fall day.

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HOLIDAY FAMILY:

This year we have chosen Montana de Luz for our holiday giving. Montana de Luz is a faith based organization in rural Central Honduras that provides a home for over 30 children affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition to donating the Loose Change Offering in November and December, you can also give to the children of MdL with a gift or donation. Here is some additional information:

[for Holiday Sponsorship levels, click here](#)
[for Holiday Sponsorships, click here](#)
[for the Montana de Luz wish list, click here](#)

On November 9th, Erika Shell Castro (NUUC member and director of MdL) will make a special announcement during the service to share more about Montana de Luz and how we can make a difference in the life of a child through our gifts. We will have a small tree in the sanctuary with snowflake ornaments that will list a specific item you can give. The children especially enjoy craft supplies for activities such as cross stitch, jewelry making, or lanyards. Personal care products such as lotion, cologne, body wash, nail polish, and hair bands or clips make great stocking stuffers. Items do not need to be wrapped. You can put gifts in gift bags, but do not wrap them since items must go through customs. Stocking Stuffers can be put in see through nylon gift bags with a drawstring.

Please bring gift items to church **by November 23rd** to make sure they can be delivered by the service team that leaves in early December. Check donations with MdL Xmas on the memo line can be made through December 14th. Contact Erika if you have questions at erika@montanadeluz.org. See the 3 lists attached to the newsletter.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING:

Soul" is that the practice of writing can lead to enhanced spirituality. The journals and poems shared at the October

27 session certainly evidenced spiritual thought, showing that a "sense of grace" can come in various forms: appreciation of beauty, awe, affirmation, or realization of the strength of a bond. The topic, the "musing," for November is Hospitality, partly in honor of Thanksgiving. In a broad sense, hospitality means being open, making space for other people just as they are, and accepting their generosity as well. When have you felt especially welcomed...or not? When have you acknowledged the sacred connections among us all? Have ideas? Please feel free to give this writing group a try and come to the November 24 session, 6:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall. See Marty Keith for details.

Also-good news! This winter Rev. Susan Ritchie will be offering two new opportunities for adult religious education. After a Sunday service she will provide guidelines for putting together and delivering lay services. This session should be of help to anyone who would like to be a lay speaker at some point. Her other class will be "NUUC 101," an orientation not only for new members but also for those of us who would like to know more about our Unitarian Universalist congregation.

In addition, Susan's course about UU theology, "What Moves Us," continues. People attending these sessions have learned about the beliefs of Universalist Hosea Ballou, Unitarian William Ellery Channing, and James Luther Adams. The next class, November 6, will explore the philosophy of a Unitarian Universalist minister of our own time, William F. Schultz. "What Moves Us" classes meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm.

Ohio Meadville District of the UUA

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

We collect the Loose Change Offering on the second Sunday of each month. Our November and December Loose Change Offering will be donated to our Holiday Family, Montana de Luz.

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. Check out our newest book, **Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy** by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE BULLETIN BOARD:

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

NEXT SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING:

November 2nd at 11:45 am. At our November and December meetings, we will be brainstorming ideas for SAC activities in 2015. Please join us or email Pam Patsch at pgp723@aol.com if you have suggestions. New members are always welcome.

Treasurer's Report of September 2014 Results October 27, 2014

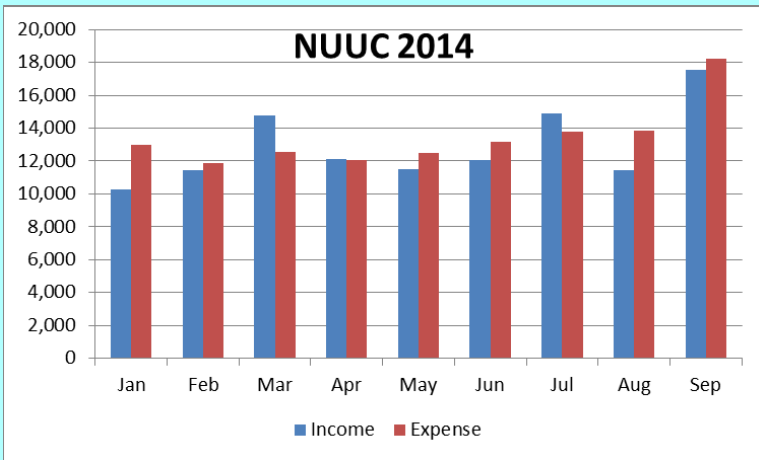
Highlights of September financial transactions: We "borrowed" \$4,000 from reserves to ensure timely payment of our property and liability insurance; and Pledges continue to fall short of Budget, (\$1,536); overall a fair month although expenses exceeded income by (\$895). DRE Restricted gifts YTD total \$6,575, enough to cover the DRE of salary and payroll taxes for this year.

September YTD financials reflect Income of \$115,905 which is \$3,450 lower than budget. Expenses of \$121,084 are (\$1,441) over budget. YTD we have spent (\$5,179) more than our income. Pledge offerings are (\$12,172) less than budget after nine months. (Note: \$4,900 of 2014 Pledges were recognized as income in 2013 and were part of the "surplus" reserved for 2014 projects) Spending has been within budget in most areas, with the following exceptions:

Ways and Means Committee (\$862), Child Care (\$543), OMD dues (\$305), and UUA dues (\$106). Other differences are mainly due to timing.

An invoice for parking lot stone, \$1,446 was paid from reserves, one of the 2014 "surplus" projects established last year.

Here is our updated Income and Expense chart for 2014. We are looking forward to paying back the funds borrowed from reserves.



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

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Schardt, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

[Click here for the October Board Minutes \(draft, not yet approved\)](#)