

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Canton  
 2585 Easton Street, NE Canton, Ohio 44721 330.232.5899;  
 330.492.4004; [www.uucantonoh.org](http://www.uucantonoh.org)  
 Sunday Services at 10:30am

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	3	4	5
6 Rev. Beth Marshall YRE Canton Hunger Walk 3-6p	7 NA Mtg 7 – 9p Board Mtg 6:30-8:30p	8	9 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day Rev. Michael Anderson YRE	14 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	15	16 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	17	18	19
20 Jason Twede	21 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	22	23 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	24	25	26
27 Kathie Courtney YRE Holocaust Lecture and Potluck	28 Memorial Day NA Mtg 7 – 9p	29	30 NA Mtg 7 – 9p	31		

## Sunday Services and YRE

**May 6** – Rev. Beth Marshall presents The Goddess Within

Many of us are keenly aware of how the lives and stories of our ancestors live on in us, but how might we find inspiration, courage and the spirit of transformation in the stories of the ancient goddesses? Might elements of them live on in us, in our daughters, our nieces and our sisters?

YRE - Classes for teens and youth taught by Erin DuBois and Marti Livingstone, Dir. of Religious Education.

**May 13** – Rev. Michael Anderson presents Exploring Native Spirituality: An Intro

"Exploring Native Spirituality" is an introduction to Native American wisdom for the non-Native spiritual seeker to begin an appreciation this worldview as allies and for some, to follow as members of the Rainbow Tribe. The connection to the indigenous tribes of Europe, the Celts will be presented.

YRE – Social Justice project for all youth with Adiranne Bastas/Cindy Twede

**May 20** – Jason Twede presents Ignorance is Bliss

Is it better to have knowledge, or to have comfort? While we may not realize it, this is a decision we make all the time. By recognizing how we make these decisions, we can not only discover those areas where we keep ourselves willfully ignorant, but we can also better understand how others form their world view, enabling us to find common ground with them even though our opinions might be divergent.

NO YRE

**May 27** – Kathie Courtney presents TBA

YRE – Quiet activities at the back of the sanctuary.

## Merge Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>,

The usual Merge Sunday Night Meeting has been moved to May 20<sup>th</sup> and will be an end of year picnic at the Zion UCC. Come on down at the regular time, 6p to 8p, for a cookout and games to celebrate the end of a GREAT year!!

## Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Here is a heads up for everybody. Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting has been moved to after service on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Each year we vote on a new slate for board members, honor those who have served the congregation and discuss any other business that the congregation needs to attend to. PLEASE plan on attending!

## Bylaws Amendment Meeting

On July 22nd, the Bylaws Committee will be presenting the Congregation with a new set of bylaws for the UUCGC. Look for a copy of the bylaws to be mailed to you by the end of April. These will be the guidelines that we use for the UUCGC for the future.

Any updates or suggestions for the bylaws can be emailed to [carerespectgrow@gmail.com](mailto:carerespectgrow@gmail.com) for consideration by the committee and presentation to the congregation. Deadline for these updates is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please plan on being there to help us determine the direction of our Beloved Community!



### A Message from Rev. Beth

On this 115<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018, I am watching the lilac bush and clusters of daffodils outside my kitchen window struggle to bloom in the middle of a late season snow. I know deep in my bones that they will finally bloom. Their time will come; I have faith. For me, the determination of those daffodils and lilacs speaks to the persistence and patience I see in Unitarian Universalism, and particularly within the UU Congregation of Greater Canton. Through difficult times and times when things may have felt frozen, there was hard work happening, sometimes behind the scenes. Through it all, energy was flowing, just waiting for the right time to emerge.

I am excited about the work the board and bylaws committee have done this spring to aid in the congregation in functioning more efficiently, and hopefully with less overall stress. Long meetings and lively discussions are often the fertilizer for bigger blooming and growth in the future as they embody a strong commitment for the future, and a willingness to do the necessary hard work.

With so many serious issues to deal with as a people of faith, it is easy to forget that it doesn't always need to be hard work. Let's get the bylaws updated and voted on, complete the pledge campaign successfully and move on to having some fun together.

In faith and hope for days to come,

Rev. Beth



### A Message from the President

Over the next month the UUCGC Board is asking you to be on a vision quest with us. We want you to help us guide your spiritual journey and the direction of the UUCGC. Your feedback on the vision boards will help us visualize together how to prioritize the funds we all contribute to this congregation.

Write on the post-its and add your input on the vision boards at church. Answer: How you want to experience church on Sunday, what type of services move you, and how do you want to make our community and world a better place? Share your ideas and build together the future of the UUCGC.

We know to continue the current services, religious education, music, ministerial supports and community outreach, including hosting Narcotics Anonymous two times per week we need to manager a \$4,800 budget. Currently by board estimates we fall short of this by \$1,000 monthly. We know our mission is a bold one, but the current needs of our community are calling us to be bold. We need to be here and let others know that an open and liberal faith awaits them.

Sincerely,

Lauri Molnar  
UUCGC President

A HUGE  
talents



To those who spent their time and their re-writing our governing bylaws! You took on an enormous task and should be incredibly proud of yourselves!

## Looking Ahead

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – End of year YRE Wrap Up

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – End of Stewardship Campaign

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Annual Congregational Meeting Right after service.

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30p – 8p



## March for Our Lives in Canton

On Saturday, March 24, March for Our Lives, a new teen activist movement, held a rally in downtown Canton. This rally was repeated in multiple cities all over the country and all over the world.



To support our young people in their search for a safer world, some of us met at the UUCGC in the morning for brunch and sign making before heading out to downtown Canton to listen to what the young people had to say.

You can find more pictures of our day on the UUCGC website at <http://www.uucantonoh.org/> on the Beloved Community page.



Thank you so much, Karen P., for putting us in touch with Gili and Uri Hershkovitz and for letting us know about the Holocaust Remembrance Service!



## Holocaust ARE Lecture

On Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, the UUCGC will be hosting two Israeli emissaries, or Shlichim, to lead a lecture on the Holocaust from a personal and national perspective.

From the Jewish Agency website: Each year, The Jewish Agency for Israel sends between 1,500 and 1,750 Israeli emissaries – Shlichim – around the world to strengthen Jewish identity and connection to Israel. These Shlichim are selected from more than 10,000 applicants and represent the best of Israel.

Gili and Uri Hershkovitz are two such emissaries that have been with Beit Ha'am on 30<sup>th</sup> Street for the past several months and we are fortunate to have them.

The presentation will start around noon after a potluck lunch. Please plan on attending this special service.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Ariana and Andrew P. on the death of their Yia Yia Gloria in early April.

## Gardening in the UUCGC Backyard

Are you looking for a place to put a garden for the summer? Well, have we got a place for you! The UUCGC has two raised beds at the west side of the parking lot and they need plants! We would love to see that space grow and live and the kids sure love watering on a Sunday! We also have compost, or Melissa Reahm has compost. Just ask her. She has enough for whatever you need!

## Looking for Board Members

There is still time to let us know that YOU want to participate in the governance of the UUCGC! These next few years are going to be exciting, so join us in leading the UUCGC into the future!

If you are interested, please contact Kathie Courtney at [kathie@4th.com](mailto:kathie@4th.com) or contact any member of the current board to help you decide.

We would love to see YOU participate!

## Holocaust Remembrance Service



Members of our community attended the annual Holocaust Remembrance Service with the Canton Jewish Community. Erica Gold, a child survivor from Hungary, was the guest speaker. We joined the Rabbis and Hazzan in prayers for the six million Jews, and the additional millions, slaughtered during the Holocaust.



Another thank you to Karen P. for being our clean up person! With a smile, no less!

## Social Justice Meeting

It's time to map out our Community Outreach and Social Justice agenda for the next four to six months. Come join us after church on May 6<sup>th</sup> to make decisions and activate your passion to help your community with your fellow UUCGC friends.

## 2018 Stewardship Campaign

In the next few weeks, the UUCGC is looking for its members and friends to pledge their support to the work of our Beloved Community. In so many ways, we work together for the betterment of each other and the betterment of the community. But to continue to do our work, we need financial support.

Our president, Lauri Molnar, has outlined a Vision Quest for all of us in her Letter from the President this month.

Lauri presented the board's budget for the next year and it is included on the website and here.



Thank you Lauri M. and Bob D. for starting off our 2018 Stewardship Campaign! 2018 is going to be a GREAT YEAR!

## Mission Based Budget Forecast 2018/2019

70% Spiritual Development	\$3,360/month (minister, services, RE, music, etc.)
20% Beloved Community	\$960/month (mortgage, UUA dues, util., activities)
10% Social Justice	\$480/month (community outreach, donations, staff)

Our mission, as determined above, will cost \$4800/month. What

Please take some time and determine if you can help the UUCGC by pledging your financial support for the next year.

## New Members at the UUCGC in April



In early April we were honored to welcome three new members to the Beloved Community at the UUCGC.

Len Cooper is an associate professor in the communication department at Mount Union in Alliance. He is originally from Cuyahoga Falls, but currently lives in North Canton with his 11 year-old son, Gabriel. Len said joining the UUCGC is appealing because the people here seem genuine and try to live their lives close to their beliefs, which include gratitude, social justice, peace, love and acceptance. Len considers himself a more Earth-centered person, but not religious in the traditional sense. He told us that the lack of a dogmatic spirituality in UU-ism is appealing, and he loves that we take wisdom from many places, including different religions, science and nature. Len says that he would like to put his experience and education to work helping with social justice issues and in other areas as needed.

Susan Fernandez is a retired medical lab tech and has been married for 43 years. She and her husband have lived in the Canton area for the last 22 years. They have two grown sons and one granddaughter. Susan was a religion/church sceptic in her early years as a child saying that she questioned those magical mysteries and that following something because it was the way it was always done just didn't seem right. She is joining the UUCGC because she no longer works the second shift and she wants to join a community of like-minded people. She is very interested in social justice and rallied with us downtown during the March for Our Lives in a handmade yellow scarf and hat that were the envy of many.

Karen Phillippi grew up in the Catholic Church, attended Catholic school K through college and probably would have been a "Nun on the Bus" if it hadn't been for smoking and sex, not necessarily in that order. Karen has always been drawn to the mystical aspects of spirituality and has cartwheeled from Catholicism to Paganism with brief forays into atheism over the years. She met her husband while she was a Fair Housing Advocate and they have been married for 31 years. Both Karen and John have a strong commitment to social justice. She was drawn to the UUCGC by our commitment to social justice and by our open and liberal attitude.

We are so happy to welcome each of you to our Beloved Community!



### **UUCGC Board**

**President** Lauri Molnar

**Vice President** Kathie Courtney

**Secretary** Jon Kicken

**Treasurer** TBD

**At Large** Diane B

**At Large** Bob Dubois

**At Large** Melissa Reahm

**Minister** Rev. Beth Marshall

**Commissioned Lay Minister** Deb Kotte

**Director Religious Education** Marti Livingstone

**Director of Music** Brittini Roach, M.A