
THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

November 14, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 11:00am. Child care is available.

November 14 at 11:00am

"Psalm 23"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This Psalm is read at almost every funeral and memorial service. What does it actually say? What might it mean for us?

November 21 at 11:00am

"34 Million Friends"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

An intergenerational worship experience and a traditional service on Thanksgiving. Short homilies interspersed with music. One of the homilies will be shared by Rev Tracy and Dr. Susan Montauk.

November 28 at 11:00am

"Singing Lessons: The Life and Music of Judy Collins"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This service will explore the lyrics and life of Judy Collins. Ms Collins was a folk singer and political voice of the 60's and her music changed our world. After the death of her only son, by suicide, she became a champion of loss and grief work and also of living an alcohol and drug free life.

December 5 at 11:00 am

"Gifts of the Season"

Join the congregation, young and old, for the first Sunday in celebration of the holiday season. Music, gifts, smiles and fun will delight your spirit. Don't miss the "gift" of being together.

Our Mission: St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for peace and social justice, and celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought.

Interim Minister

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Minister Emerita

the Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Director of

Religious Exploration

Elizabeth Wilson

Caretaker

Tim Johnson

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Summer Office Hours

Tues, Wed and Thurs

7:00am to 1:30pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News Submissions

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m.

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy

Dear Friends,

Generosity. We are entering the time of the year when it is important to be generous. It is, of course, important to be generous all the time, but at Thanksgiving and Christmas we are more focused. Perhaps because it is at this time of year when we examine our good fortune or remember those who are not with us because of distance and/or death.

This year we have several opportunities that our children are leading to encourage our spirit of generosity.

Nov 14th, the pop tops we have been saving will be presented in worship to a representative of Ronald McDonald House. The forum and the Children's Time will be dedicated to this project.

On Nov 21st, the fifth and sixth grade classes are doing a World Service Bazaar. Goods have been brought back from Guatemala, Indonesia, China and Africa. Plus 50 hand-knit scarves and a variety of hand creams made by UU artisans will be for sale. The money made will go to a local, national and global charity researched and selected by our children.

In early December the YRUU and YADA groups will do a sale to raise money for the redecoration of their room. They will sell scarves they have made and some beautiful women's clothes that have been given them. They are also collecting old silk ties. (A donor has agreed to pay \$1 for each tie they collect up to \$150.) They can be spotted and faded ... bring them and put them in the box set aside for TIES.

Besides this, we will give out the UU Service Committee's "Guest at Your Table" boxes on Nov 21st. These boxes are to be put on your tables and each meal you share with your family and friends you are asked to contribute change. The money supports a variety of programs across the world to help people better their life conditions. The boxes will be collected on Jan 9th in worship.

All these occasions are opportunities for you to support our children and to be generous ... buying holiday gifts or contributing towards changing the world, in small but symbolic ways.

We are giving our children the opportunity to do service...Let's help them succeed.

Blessings,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers

cell 847-431-8282, private line at church 513-961-1994, home 513-376-6775 (in case of emergency)
Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

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St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, November 14

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
11:00am YRUU in Krolfifer
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:30pm Friends Luncheon
12:30pm Pathway to Membership
12:30pm REPORTING Collating
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
3:00pm Choral Series Concert -
4:00pm if concert cancels Adult RE
6:00pm Search Committee

Monday, November 15

7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)
7:00pm Immigration Myths (Adult RE)

Tuesday, November 16

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm Speaking Peace (Adult RE)
7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, November 17

6:30pm Board Meeting
6:30pm Goddess Gathering

Thursday, November 18

10:00am Meditation
1:00pm Services For Seniors (Caring Circle)
6:00pm Tai Chi
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 19

7:00am Food For Thought

Saturday, November 20

9:00am Men's Retreat @ Moyer Center
9:30am CPR/RC training
10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators
10:00am Worship Arts Group Committee

Sunday, November 21

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:30pm LDC Leadership Development Council
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
2:00pm John Fine Memorial Service

Sunday, November 21

4:00pm Breaking Free Women of Spirit
6:00pm Search Committee

Tuesday, November 23

10:00am Yoga

Wednesday, November 24

Office Closed (Josie vacation day)

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED
6:00pm Tai Chi

Friday, November 26

OFFICE CLOSED (Holiday)

7:00pm Game Night

Sunday, November 28

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
4:00pm Breaking Free Women of Spirit
(Adult RE)
6:00pm Search Committee

Tuesday, November 30

10:00am Yoga
5:00pm Caring Circle
7:00pm With One Voice (Adult RE)

From the ffice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

Thank you to Emily Hodges for helping to collect information for the people book, and to Rick Prairie for dropping off and picking it up at the printers. Thanks to Kathy Laufman and Mira Rodwan for office coverage on Oct 21 and 22nd.

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

Wow. . .with this delightfully warm weather of late, it's hard to believe the holiday season will soon be upon us! November & December are a time of celebrating many traditions—and this is very true at St. John's! The numerous special worship services sprinkled throughout the next two months make it challenging to maintain continuity with our RE curriculum—so we decided to formally acknowledge that and try a new way of conducting RE classes this holiday season. Most classes will take a break from their regular curriculum during November and December and focus on a service project of their choosing. This will give our kids a great opportunity to live out our UU principles. The congregation will get to see what the kids are working on during the December 5 holiday service. To help keep you organized, here's a partial list of what to expect on Sundays during the upcoming holiday season:

- **November 21:** Multigenerational Thanksgiving service (No RE; infant-toddler care only).
- **November 28:** Regular RE classes.
- **December 5:** "Gifts of the Season" holiday service (No RE; infant-toddler care only).
- **December 12:** Regular RE classes.
- **December 19:** Adult choir holiday choral service (No RE; infant-toddler care; activities available for ages 8 and under in Rosa Parks).

Thank you Ted & Dermot!

On Sunday, Nov. 7, we enjoyed a visit to First Sunday from Ted Chism and his service dog, Dermot. Ted gave a wonderfully charming and very informative talk and Dermot . . . well, he was just plain charming!! The kids (and adults) learned a lot and asked Ted great questions!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to RE Greeters Jan Hay & Melanie Malaviya, to our

November First Sunday helpers—Victoria Frerichs, Connie Prairie, Monica Pellman, and Wendy Waters-Connell; to our YRUU youth and advisers for their hard work in Wells and for their awesome scarf sale (special thanks to Diana Long—aka "Craft Ninja"); and to all the kids and adults who contributed to Trick-or-Treat for Unicef!!

2010-11 RE Registration. Registration forms can be found in each RE classroom, on the RE bulletin board downstairs, and from the DRE.

Important Upcoming RE Dates—

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, November 21:

- World Service Bazaar in Krolfifer during coffee hour (hosted by our 5th-6th grade class).
- Voices of Variety rehearsal, 12:15-12:45 p.m. in Rosa Parks.

Sunday, November 28: Voices of Variety rehearsal, 12:15-12:45 p.m. in Rosa Parks.

Saturday, December 4: Holiday service breakfast/final rehearsal, 8-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 5:

- "Gifts of the Season" holiday service.
- 1st OWL Gathering, 1:00-5:30pm at Heritage UU Church.

Got suggestions? Send me an email

(youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call (961-1940). I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My office hours are Tu/Wed/Thu from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

eNews deadline: Thanksgiving Week

Thanksgiving week the enews deadline will be Monday Nov. 22nd at 5 p.m. - It will be sent out on Tuesday Nov. 23rd

St. John's on FB

129 people follow us on Facebook. Will you make it 130? To find us, don't forget to spell St. John's with the apostrophe! www.facebook.com

St. John's Facebook Team

Opportunities & Invitations

Women's potluck

All women of St John's are invited to a potluck at the home of Nina Tolley at noon Wed., Dec. 1. New members are especially welcome. This will be the time to get to know one another more and also the time to say farewell to our friend, Judy Cirillo, who is leaving for Oregon to be with her family. RSVP is preferred. Carpooling from the church is encouraged.

Nina Tolley
3900 North Cliff Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45220

Bookstore and UUSC Holiday cards

St. John's bookstore will be open for your holiday purchases on 3 Sundays - Nov. 28, Dec. 5, & Dec. 12. We'll have some new books to choose from, including several books on immigration, UU history, and books for children. We also will have a selection of beautiful cards from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), profits of which go toward the same projects that our Guest at Your Table do. Plan to stop by the table in Krolfifer, after the Sunday service.

Adult Religious Education Committee and the Mission Council

Iran - A Land of Contrasts and Surprises

Our press is filled with negative news about Iran. Carol and Dick Fencil visited the country for two weeks this fall and have come back with some different perspectives. There will be two presentations at church in December. The first is for the Men's Group, Sunday evening, Dec. 5. The second will be on Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.. Church members and friends are invited to hear firsthand about their experiences,

the people they met, and their evolving views about this complex, ancient country. This is NOT a travelog (although there will be some pictures of the "tourist" sites) but an attempt to share their journey with others who may be concerned about how the U.S. and Iran relate to each other.

Carol and Dick Fencil

Want to visit our partner church??

There will be a 10 a.m. adult forum in Krolfifer on Sunday, Nov. 21, which will focus on our partner church. Included will be discussion of a proposed trip to Transylvania sometime in the April to June timeframe, 2011. If you have any interest in a trip to Transylvania, please join us or, if you cannot attend, contact Mary and Tom Darner for more details. We will show slides and answer your questions about life in Transylvania and our partner congregation, the Unitarian Church of Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania.

Mary and Tom Darner, Friends of Szentlaszlo

Learn about membership

Sunday, Nov. 14, there will be a Pathway to Membership meeting in Darwin Room for those interested or considering what is involved in becoming a member.

Those who RSVP'd to Sarah Loar Seibert for this meeting will have lunch paid for by the membership committee. The lunch will be from the Friends of Szentlaszlo Soup and Bread luncheon.

“Creating Together, Connecting With Joy”

Calling all artists and photographers of St. John's! In March and April Haehnle Gallery will come to life with creations by our own talented members. Please contact Sandy Geiser if you would like to contribute 3-4 works to this exhibition. Thank You!

-Sandy Geiser

Gifts of the Season – Sunday, Dec. 5

On Sunday, December 5, the St. John's sanctuary will be filled with first sounds of the holiday season. For many, the holidays are about gift giving and celebrating all of the wonderful people in our lives. We celebrate together as families, friends and as a church.

We stop each year, if only for a minute to experience the wondrous joy and celebration. The Religious Exploration Classes and the Voices of Variety have been preparing gifts of all sorts - service projects and music – what better combination of gifts? Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice - maybe even a combination of all of them- -you can't help but be touched by the warmth of the season and the music!

Gifts are certainly part of all of the celebrations. I know that many of us love opening gifts and buying gifts for one another, but some of the greatest gifts we have are in us all of the time, we just have to be reminded of them. The holiday season is a time to celebrate our gifts and no greater is the gift than that of the imaginative spirit, the simple act of a smile or just being together.

See you on December 5th as we celebrate gifts of the season!

Rachel Kramer, Associate Director of Music

Taste of St. John's Jan. 22

Our annual fundraiser, A Taste of St John's, will be Saturday, Jan. 22, 201, at the church. Members donate dinners, services, handmade items, etc. ... to be auctioned off at the Taste and to be enjoyed by the winning bidders at a later date. Also included this year will be a drawing for a week stay at the South Carolina condominium owned by Jim and Kathryn McDonough. Raffle tickets for this exciting offer start Nov. 14 with the winner picked at the Taste.

Commitments for fabulous items have already been made by Barbara and Richard Hadden, Nina and

Howard Tolley, Carol and Dick Fencl, Kathryn and Jim McDonough, Jim and Sharon Nichols, Joan Lane and Brian Isbel, Chris and Claire Wagner, Peggy Judy and Robert Pawlicki and Gail Scarbrough (in Savannah, GA!) Be creative! Please donate something fun to the Taste. Join the growing number of St John's members and friends who are donating dinners, items and services.

Donation forms are available at church or contact Ann Schuur. Forms are soon to be available at the church website and are due December 19, 2010.

Taste Co-Chairs, Ann Schuur and Jim McDonough

Art Show: November - December

Long time friend and member Amy Burton will present her photo etching art works titled "The Stir of the Wind, Rustles with Every Step" during November and December.

Ohio Death Penalty News

This week St. Johners are encouraged to keep in their thoughts the surviving loved ones of Jessica Lynn Ballew, murdered in Youngstown in 1997 as well as Sidney Cornwell, the condemned killer scheduled for execution Tuesday, Nov. 16, and for his family.

On Sunday Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. Mt. Auburn Presbyterian church on William Howard Taft will hold a day of witness featuring a 45-minute film, "Judgment at Midnight: The Execution of Antonio James," documenting the last day in the life of a man executed in Louisiana. Howard Tolley will join for a follow-up panel discussion that includes sister Alice Gerdeman of IJPC and a local rabbi.

At a Wednesday awards program, Ohioans to Stop Executions announced a plan to place an initiative on the ballot in 2013 to end the death penalty. Sister Helen gave a passionate appeal as part of the recognition program for The Innocence Project, and the legal team that won a commutation for Kevin Keith and the Ohio Public Defender's office.

Howard Tolley, Jr.

Among ourselves

Classes for Adults in November

With One Voice

On Tuesday evening, Nov. 30, Nina Tolley and Ethel Ingalls will lead this class in Krolfifer. Modern day mystics of many faiths discuss their experiences and share their comments on religious intolerance, the way to peace, the essence of love, and the many paths to truth. In addition they each give a message to the world. Please feel free to join us and share your reaction to their messages. We'll meet from 7-8:30 p.m. for this one-session group.

Services for Seniors

If you are over the age of 55 or if you have family, friends, or neighbors who are living in Hamilton County and who are in that age group, you need to be aware of what services are available by the Council on Aging.

We all have needs as we age, and too often we find about the resources available well after our daily lives are affected. The Caring Circle will present this workshop (see related article in this newsletter). This is offered on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 18, from 1-3 p.m. in Krolfifer.

Adult RE Committee

HOME. As we age, that's where we all want to stay for as long as we can.

But when you or a loved one needs help, sorting through all the options can be confusing. You can get the right answers from your Area Agency on Aging. In our area, that's Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA).

For nearly 40 years, COA has provided compassionate, expert service to older adults, their caregivers and their families. Programs and services include free or low-cost home care, home-delivered meals, transportation, home modification, caregiver support, access to unbiased information and resources, help with long-term care planning, and more.

Join us for an informative presentation about Council on Aging's programs and services, Thursday, Nov. 18, at 1 p.m. in Krolfifer Hall. For more information about Council on Aging, call (513) 721-1025 or visit www.help4seniors.org. Please do join us.

Caring Circle

John Fine Memorial

Volunteers and refreshments are needed for John Fine's memorial service at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov 21. We need greeters, ushers, helpers in the kitchen and clean-up crew. We have several sweets left over in the freezer but we need additional savory items, fruits and fresh vegetables and dip, etc. If you can help with any of these please get in touch with Nina.

**POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DECORATE THE SANCTUARY
YOUR FLOWER(S) CAN BE TAKEN HOME AFTER THE
SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

See deadline to order**

**POINSETTIAS WILL BE PURCHASED FROM
OSTERBROCKS**

RED

WHITE

6" \$9 QTY_____

6" \$9 QTY_____

7" \$15 QTY_____

7" \$15 QTY_____

8" \$22 QTY_____

8" \$22 QTY_____

NAME_____PHONE_____

IN MEMORY OF/CELEBRATION OF

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN'S UNITARIAN CHURCH
MARK MEMO LINE POINSETTIAS**

**** !!!!!!!!!DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28TH!!!!!!!**

Sunday Morning Forums

Our thanks to Prasanna Malaviya for a great presentation about Diwali. We each have things we can share from our faith and our experiences that can expand our understanding. We hope you will consider what you might share in a forum.

The forums for the next **three** Sundays are:

Nov. 21 - The Unitarians of Transylvania Today - Tom Darner will show slides of life in our partner church village of Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania. We will discuss the trip by St. John's members to Transylvania next Spring. Come and learn more about this opportunity.

Nov. 28 - Self-Realization Ethics - We all at some time ask the question, what are we here for? Paul Bowen suggests that, plausibly, that is determined by what we are. Self Realization Ethics has a foundation in observation and study, without the need of supernatural lawgivers. Have our ethics developed from our observation and study? What do you think? Join the discussion.

Dec 5 - Speaking Peace - How do we transform the images that we create of our "enemies", those who provoke in us strong feelings of frustration and anger? Such feelings benefit neither us nor them. Can we learn how to connect with these groups on a universal human level and how do we do that? Maria Yunker will lead this discussion.

-Ethel Ingalls

Snow Shovelers Needed

Would you like to help make St. John's a safer place during the cold weather months? Join the snow shoveling crew. Contact Pete Asman for details. Thank you!

A Season of Song for the Voices of Variety: Gifts of the Season

Under the direction of Rachel Kramer, associate director of music the Voices of Variety continue rehearsals on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the Rosa Parks Room. The 30-minute rehearsals are open to ALL RE students ages kindergarten through 8th grade. The Voices of Variety will prepare their holiday service music each Sunday from September – November with a final rehearsal and breakfast on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 8 a.m. The performance will be Sunday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m. Please join the Voices of Variety now in their 13th season! Questions? Call Rachel Kramer.

-Rachel Kramer

“World Service Bazaar” Nov. 21

The first ever “World Service Bazaar,” sponsored by our 5th-6th grade class, will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21, in Krolfifer during coffee hour. With help from Rev. Denise Tracy and her traveling friends, there will be wonderful items available for purchase from many regions around the world—including Africa, China, Indonesia and Guatemala. The kids and their teachers have worked really hard on this project—researching and selecting local, national and global charities that will benefit from this sale, preparing advertising materials, and organizing sale procedures. Since Nov. 21st is the Sunday before Thanksgiving, you may be able to do a lot of your holiday shopping in Krolfifer! Remember, in the season of giving, you will have a chance to enjoy yourself while helping others, too! (Note: We expect this sale could draw quite a crowd given the wonderful and unique items available. We ask for your patience with our 10-12 year olds—remember, this is a learning experience for them!)