



The Leaf

Feb/Mar 2008

The Newsletter of the First Universalist Church
of New Madison, Ohio, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Services 10 AM

Feb. 3: Richard Venus
Feb. 10: Kris Gang
Feb. 17: Richard Venus
Feb. 24: Chuck Thomas
Mar. 2: John Graham
Mar. 9: Nancy Bowen
Mar. 16: Richard Venus
Mar. 23: Richard Venus
Mar. 30: Richard Venus

Upcoming Events

FISH Offering Sundays

February 3 & March 2

Food and Fellowship

February 3 & March 2

Lunch at Ft. Black Buffet after Sunday services! All are invited.

Workshop

Feb. 10—see page 2 for more information

Union Service with Eldorado

March 16

Followed by brunch

Board of Directors Meetings

Everyone is welcome!

February 26, 7 PM

March 25, 7 PM

Richard's Reflections

I hope we as congregants do not get discouraged because we are a church with only a few members. It would be easy to throw up our hands and say, "Oh, what's the use. There are so few of us. What difference do we make anyway?" But I recall the story of the starfish thrower. A man walking on the beach noticed another man who was picking up starfish washed ashore by the heavy waves and he was tossing them back into the water. The passer-by watched for a while, then he approached the star-thrower and asked, "Isn't that just a waste of time? The star-thrower paused, tossed a star-fish toward the waves, then replied, "Not for that one, it isn't."

And so it is for us. We never know how we might make a difference in another's life, or in the life of the larger community we serve. The FISH contributions make a regular difference for some; children will be enriched by the arts that we helped provide through our fall benefit concert; our gifts through the Guest At Your Table program make food possible for the very hungry, and social justice for others; our scholarship funds and school materials will aid students in Mexico. A word of encouragement or comfort spoken to someone during coffee hour may mean more than you will ever know.

We are a tiny congregation, but size is not what makes us a worthy place. How we are with each other and the larger community is what determines our worth. I thank you for all you give to others by your helping hands, your offerings, your words of support. The First Universalist Church of New Madison has been and is a place that can be justly proud of all it has given. Our task now is to be even more.

Soon we will be asking for your financial support so we can do some much needed repairs on our building, including upgrading and adding handicap accessibility to our bathrooms. I thank you in advance for your generosity.

February Birthdays:

- 8 Sue Searls
- 8 Rachel Bright
- 12 Claire Brooks Williams
- 13 Harley Ketring
- 14 David Cassity
- 15 Bonnie Behee
- 15 Margaret Buccicone
- 18 Nicki Hovater
- 18 Shannon McMahon
- 20 Dolly Lewis
- 24 Wayne Geeting
- 24 Dan Lucas
- 27 Kevin Behee
- 28 Doyle Burns

March Birthdays:

- 1 Mary Behee
- 1 Dede Wissman
- 5 Bea Lawrence
- 6 Kenny Baker
- 16 Marion Moeckel
- 18 Miranda Hamelberg
- 29 Matt Searls
- 31 Deetra Huntington

March Anniversaries:

- 7 Doyle & Jeannette Burns
- 20 Joe & Pat Lipps
- 22 Richard & Nanette Fritsche
- 26 Jeff & Karyl Parks

Our Religious Education Program Is Spruced Up!

Charles and Paula Godsey have given many hours of their time to paint and patch the floor and walls in the basement, creating an area for the dining room tables, crafting coverings for the windows and making the space more inviting for children and adults. Your donations to the church have made new equipment and educational materials possible as well. Thanks to everyone who is helping grow our church.

You can help in one more way: invite your friends to church. Let them experience what is happening among us.

Special Workshop on Growing Our Church Sunday Feb. 10th

In keeping with our emphasis on growing our church, a leader from the Heartland District, Kris Gang, who has been president of the Miami Valley UU Fellowship for the past three years and a member of the Heartland District Board of Trustees, will lead our morning worship then a workshop on how to grow our church will follow. He will help us gather ideas that are based on the needs of New Madison area and will explore with us our potential for growth. Mr. Gang has helped numerous UU congregations with similar programs and he is eager to help us as well. All New Madison Universalist Church members are urged to attend. Fred Meyer will provide lunch.

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