



# The Leaf

February 2006

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

## Sunday Services 10 AM

**Feb. 5: Richard Venus**

**Feb. 12: Debra Bright**

**Feb. 19: Richard Venus**

**Feb. 26: Roland Marcus**

Childcare starts at 9:50 AM

## Upcoming Events

### First Thursday Theological Society

February 2, 7:30 PM

March 2, 7:30 PM

Advance reading is available at the church or on the Upcoming Events page at [www.uuchurchnm.org](http://www.uuchurchnm.org)

### FISH Offering Sundays

February 5 & March 5

Items frequently ask for:

\*Toilet Paper

\*Diapers

\*Baby food - no glass jars

\*Canned Fruit and Vegetables

\*Canned soup

\*Boxed Macaroni and Cheese

\*Money donated to F.I.S.H. is used to supplement utility and prescriptions drug expenses.

### Board of Directors Meetings

Everyone is welcome!

February 28, 7 PM

March 28, 7 PM

## Richard's Reflections

We Unitarian Universalists regularly refer to ourselves as liberal religious people. The word liberal, however, has taken on many pejorative as well as positive associations. The following are guideposts for what I consider fundamental to being a liberal religious congregation.

We UU's are:

- Liberal not in the political sense, but as the classic definition has it: broad minded, tolerant, generous, and allowing intellectual freedom.
- Promoters of social justice.
- Open to other religious faiths/traditions.
- Welcoming to all.
- Guided by a spirit of love.
- Directed by the notion of the worth and dignity of every person.
- Not satisfied with easy answers/the questions are important.
- Not a creedal church, but a doing church.
- Unique. Few churches are as open or as willing to seek the truth wherever it leads.
- Supporters of the institutional church of which we are members.
- Caretakers of the earth and the wider community.

UU's can be rightly proud of our history in which we have sought to live these values which set us apart as a church. Of course we do not do them perfectly. They are guides for our way of being and we continually strive to make them part of our lives.

Thank you for helping create and live these values as part of our community.

## Guest At Your Table Donations

We are proud to report the church raised \$723.92 for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through the Guest At Your Table fundraiser. This is the primary source of fundraising for

the UUSC. The UUSC is an independent human rights organization whose work is grounded in UU principles. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

## **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 McMahan  
20 Dolly Lewis  
24 Wayne Geeting  
24 Dan Lucas  
27 Kevin Behee  
28 Doyle Burns

*(There are no Feb. Anniversaries.)*

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info@uuchurchnm.org**

## **New Mission Statement**

First Universalist Church is pleased to share the church's new mission statement:

We are an inclusive, nurturing church community that empowers individuals of all ages to

- celebrate life's diversities
- explore spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth
- live our commitment to social justice by applying ethical solutions to local and world problems.

At the December church planning conference, creating an updated church mission statement was named as one of three key church action items. Conference participants felt it was critical to have a brief, meaningful, action-oriented mission. The updated mission is intended to provide a compass as the church moves forward.

The new statement grew from a draft prepared by the Mission Task Force. Input came in while the draft mission statement was posted in church for three Sundays and also via email. As a result the mission statement above took its final form. Thanks to all who participated.

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New website & Email:  
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