



# The Leaf

February 2007

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

## Sunday Services 10 AM

**Feb. 4: Richard Venus**

**Feb. 11: Christel Brooks**

**Feb. 18: Richard Venus**  
**“Science and Reason and Religious Truth”**

**Feb. 25: Shellie Newby**

Childcare starts at 9:50 AM

## Upcoming Events

### **First Thursday Theological Society**

February 1, 7 PM

March 1, 7 PM

### **FISH Offering Sundays**

February 4 & March 4

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 27, 7 PM

March 27, 7 PM

## Richard's Reflections

“The winters will drive you crazy until you learn to get out into them,” notes Quaker writer Parker Palmer. “Here (he lives in Minnesota) people spend good money on warm clothing,” he continues, “so that they can get outdoors and avoid the ‘cabin fever’ that comes from huddling fearfully by the fire during the hard-frozen months. If you live here long, you learn that a daily walk into the winter world will fortify the spirit by taking you boldly to the very heart of the season you fear.

This Ohio winter has hardly been of the bitter cold of which Dr. Palmer writes. However, he adds, “Our inward winters take many forms--failure, betrayal, depression, death. But every one of them, in my experience, yields to the same advice: “The winters will drive you crazy until you learn to get out into them.” Until we enter boldly into the fears we most want to avoid, those fears will dominate our lives. When we walk directly into them--protected from frostbite by the warm garb of friendship or inner discipline or spiritual guidance—we can learn what they have to teach us. Then we discover once again that the cycle of the seasons is trustworthy and life-giving, even in the most dismaying season of all.”

I have been thinking about Dr. Parker's words as we approach our pledge drive and the church's call for us all to give generously so it may continue its important work. It is in church where we find the “warm garb of friendship, inner discipline and spiritual guidance” that he recommends.

There are days when I ask “what are we good for anyway?” and it is then I recall the warm garb that is central to the New Madison UU congregation. It is the warm garb that encourages, strengthens, informs, guides, and protects us from those fears we want to avoid. It a place where we can find healing and growth, support and direction for our lives. This church needs your support so it will continue to offer the warm garb we cherish and need.

**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

*(There are no Feb. Anniversaries.)*

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**Suggestions & Help Requested**

The 2007 Harvest Sounds Fall Benefit Concert may seem far off, but it is time to start planning.

If you have an idea for a beneficiary please share your idea with Dede, Roberta, or Paula. The criteria for a beneficiary is it must be a non-profit that services a broad spectrum of Darke County residents.

Anyone interested in helping plan, prepare, or staff the concert please volunteer to Dede, Roberta, or Paula.



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