



July 2006

The Leaf

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

Sunday Services 10 AM

July 2: Richard Venus

July 9: Shelley Newby

July 16: Richard Venus

July 23: John Vehre

July 30: Jim Gish

Youth RE & Childcare
start at 10 AM

Upcoming Events

FISH Offering Sundays
July 2

Pet Show

Tuesday, July 4th, 9 AM
in front of Tri-Village School

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

July 16, after the service

Church Postcards

Looking for a gift
to give someone or
pretty postcard to
send? The Church
had postcards



made of its stained glass win-
dows. Packets of 12 postcards
are \$5 and can be purchased
after services, at the congrega-
tional meeting, or by emailing
info@uuchurchnm.org.

Richard's Reflections

A truism of small churches is that everyone matters, every-
one counts, and everyone works hard to make it a welcoming, spiri-
tual place. One of the very special attributes of the New Madison
church is its sense of community. Central to my understanding of
Unitarian Universalist worship and organization is the primary
place of connection to each other. There are many jokes about the
importance of the coffee pot to UU's and there is, as there is in
most humor, a certain amount of truth to it. Our gathering together
after worship is vitally important to our lives and our spirit for it is
a time for renewing our connections to one another.

This however, can be a two-edged sword. Our pleasure in
greeting and being with each other can sometimes lead us to ex-
clude those who are visitors or new to our community. To wit I add
that while most of you reading this are already overworked and
tired, this church needs your continuing efforts to help it be a reli-
gious home for those in search of religious truth and that we find
ways to welcome those who may be searching for a spiritual home
and those who do not yet know we exist.

Therefore, I ask that you please make a special effort to wel-
come the stranger among us and to reach out to friends and ac-
quaintances who might find here the religious place for which they
have been searching.

Harvest Sounds

Summer is here, so fall cannot be far behind! The Concert
Committee is busy planning First Universalist's sixth benefit con-
cert, which will be on a Sunday afternoon in early November.

Proceeds from this event will go to a non-profit organization
which provides help to residents of Darke County.

The performers will be talented musicians who are pleased
and eager to donate their time and talents for this worthy cause.

The committee is pleased to hear your suggestions, ideas and
comments regarding the concerts. Dede, Paula and Roberta wel-
come your thoughts and appreciate your help with this very impor-
tant church project.

Watch *The Leaf* for more exciting news and information
about HARVEST SOUNDS.

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

2 Pat Lipps
2 Barbara Hamelberg
9 Leo Williams
13 Chris Price
17 Roberta Feltman
20 Janet Cassity
22 Nanette Fritsche
29 Emerson Behee
31 Dick Brooks



JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

3 Wayne & Mary Evelyn
Geeting

Annual Meeting on July 16th

I encourage all members and associate members to attend the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, July 16th. The meeting is held immediately following services. With a church year from July 1st to June 30th, the annual meeting marks a new church year. We can compare the meeting to New Year's Day in that it's time to take stock and to determine what resolutions to make for the upcoming twelve months.

The agenda includes committee reports, membership status, financial status, and a review of action items from the fall planning conference. We will discuss priorities for the upcoming year, along with the proposed 2006-2007 budget. As always, the church will elect officers and members of the Board of Directors. Two board members have fulfilled their three-year terms; their board seats are open for nominations. Offices of president, treasurer, and secretary are elected annually. Claire Brooks Williams has chosen not to run for re-election as secretary. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles, please see Roberta Feltman or me.

Hope to see you and hear from you on July 16th!

Christel

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