



The Leaf

Mar / Apr 2007

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

Sunday Services 10 AM

Mar. 4: Richard Venus

Mar. 11: Mike Short

Mar. 18: Richard Venus

Mar. 25: Ray Michel

Apr 1: Richard Venus

Apr 8: Richard Venus

Apr 15: John Graham

Apr 22: Richard Venus

Apr 29: Leslie Woodward

Youth RE & Childcare
start at 10 AM

Upcoming Events

**First Thursday Theological
Society**

March 1, 7 PM

April 5, 7 PM

FISH Offering Sundays

March 4 & April 1

Board of Directors Meetings

Everyone is welcome!

March 27, 7 PM

April 24, 7 PM

Union Service with Eldorado

April 1

Pitch-in brunch following service

Richard's Reflections

What are we all about anyway?

I ask this question of myself and of our gathered congregation here in New Madison. We are a tiny gathering by most church standards. As best I can tell, over the past 10 or more years our membership has either held steady or in decline. On a recent Sunday morning, I asked, Why do we give so much time, energy, and money keeping this place alive and well? I then answered by own question by suggesting that we are here to do three things: to celebrate life, to be in community with each other and to serve the world. I would argue these things are religious or spiritual values that we hold whether we are humanist, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, God-fearing, or atheist.

We celebrate life by lifting up all that life is, in words and hymns and prayers. We offer our responses to the pain, the joy and the possibilities life brings. We are in community as we share our stories with each other, drink coffee with each other, and offer a word of comfort, dance for joy or create art, and music, and holy silence. We offer our vision of the sacred, the meaningful, as we sit and stand and work together. While we will never answer all the cries for help we hear, we will and do serve the world by building Habitat houses, and feeding the hungry, and caring for the sick and infirmed.

These matters are central to who we are as a congregation. One of the ways the Board of Trustees is suggesting we live out these things is to become more involved in the life of our community. To that end, the Board is holding a special meeting to discuss how we might become of greater service in Darke County and the larger community we serve. This will include how we use some of the funds from our savings. I encourage all who are interested in the future of our church to be a part of this discussion, which will occur following the worship service **Sunday, March 18**. Please come with your ideas and suggestions so we can make fully informed and truly representative decisions.

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Shea Huntington
- 5 Mike Buccicone
- 10 Rich Fritsche
- 17 Jon Ketring
- 22 Gretchen Price
- 28 Mary Evelyn Geeting



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