



The Leaf

Nov. / Dec. 08

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

Sunday Services 10 AM

Nov. 2: Richard Venus

Nov. 9: Shelley Newby

**Nov. 16: Union Service
at Eldorado**

Nov. 23: Stephanie Ford

Nov. 30: Derek Parker

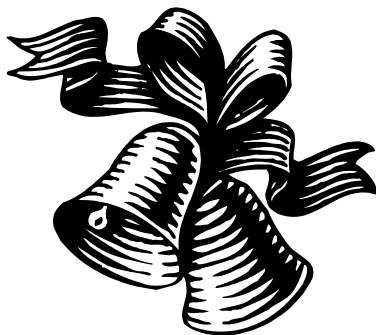
Dec. 7: Richard Venus

**Dec. 14: Cornelia Browne &
Marjorie Bowers**

Dec. 21: Richard Venus

Dec. 28: Kenny Baker

Youth RE & Childcare
start at 10 AM



Richard's Reflections

For television news, I now find myself turning to *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, an award-winning commentator on Comedy Central. I'm not supposed to turn to him for real news, but I find that often, especially in his interviews with authors and public officials, that he is much better informed and asks many better questions than anything that appears on the 6 o'clock so-called news. I have almost completely stopped reading the *Dayton Daily News*, finding it less newsworthy than ever. In addition, it endorsed just about every candidate I am voting against. It amazes me that this paper wants us to support a congressman who has voted 99 percent with George W. Bush, who now has a 22 percent approval rating with the public. I ask, do the paper's editors realize that more of what is is not acceptable? The paper also endorsed the woman who has run on an anti-abortion platform all her life, even to get elected to city council and is now running for a state office. I vote against her because a woman not only has a right to choose about giving birth, but choice is fundamental in honoring her as a person in her own right and not someone controlled by others.

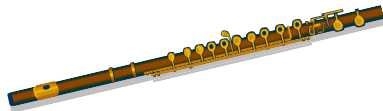
I apologize if this sounds a bit cranky, but I'm in that kind of mood, given where the current administration and financial brokers on Wall Street have taken us with the underlying greed that motivates them. I am grateful to John Weiler, the economics professor who spoke to us at a special lecture in October, for reminding me that the economic times in which we find ourselves are not unique and that we as a country will survive and thrive again, although it may take several years. I worry, however, for those who, in the meantime, will suffer greatly from job loss and loss of income.

Greed is not enough, wrote the economist Robert Heilbroner many years ago in a book of that same name. He was oh so right. I believe the task for Unitarian Universalists is to remind ourselves of this fundamental truth and pass it on to others. It is clear that greed has been the primary mover of our country for more than the Bush years; it is time that what guides us is compassion and justice. May we find it in those we elect in November.

Guest At Your Table

The *Guest at Your Table* Campaign supports the work of the UU Service Committee in its world-wide efforts to support indigenous people's projects, such as clean water and fair government. It is not part of the Unitarian Universalist Association, but an organization that is directly supported by it. The 4X4 collection boxes for your daily contributions will be available in November, as will literature describing this project.

Harvest Sounds



Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 is another big day in the life of First Universalist. That is the day of the eighth annual HARVEST SOUNDS concert, benefiting SafeHaven, Inc., a Mental Health Support Center for adults. The featured artists will be Zeta Chi Flute Ensemble, and The Melody Line Singers. Zeta Chi member Margaret Schryver will join the ensemble as they play a variety of familiar tunes - from classical to early American. Many of you are familiar with The Melody Line Singers, all Darke County women who love what they do and do it well. The vocalists are accompanied by pianist Terri Fryman, who will also be playing a solo of Irish tunes arranged by Lorie Line. HARVEST SOUNDS 2008 will be Margaret's third appearance and Terri's second appearance at our annual fall concert. Following the program, you are invited to meet and greet the artists and enjoy refreshments. Tickets are \$8 and will be available from church members, SafeHaven, and at the door the day of the event.



The Samplers

"The Samplers" is a performance piece written by Cornelia Browne, and is the history of Historic Hopewell Church as told by two young girls, Martha Agnes Ramsey and Sarah Gilmore in 1850. These girls were first cousins and grew up on farms in the Hopewell Community, which is in Israel Township, Preble County, Ohio. This non-technical performance piece is an adaptation of a power-point program given earlier this year for the Oxford Museum Association annual meeting.

Cornelia Browne, speaking the part of Martha Agnes Ramsey, lives in Oxford, Ohio, but lived for many years in Greenville with her husband, Bill, and three sons. She is a former trustee of the Hopewell Church, which is currently celebrating its Bicentennial Year. Historic Hopewell Church and the Hopewell Cemetery are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, thanks to Cornelia and others who are interested in preserving the history of the Oxford area.

Marjorie Bowers, speaking the part of Sarah Gilmore, also lives in Oxford and is the daughter of a Presbyterian minister. Her two sons-in-law are ministers, one of the College Corner, Ohio, Presbyterian Church, and the other of the Vineyard Church in Fishers, Indiana. Both Marjorie and Cornelia have Scotch-Irish Presbyterian ancestry.

For more information about Historic Hopewell Church, you may visit the website www.historichopewell.com.



Upcoming Events at the First Universalist Church of New Madison

Fall cleaning of Church

9 AM Sat., Nov. 1

FISH Offering Sundays

Nov. 2 & Dec. 7

This time of year monetary donations are especially appreciated. Cash is used to pay for items such as milk and eggs. To make a donation bring canned food, cash, or checks on FISH Sunday or mail a check to the church made payable to FISH.

Food and Fellowship

Nov. 2 & Dec. 7

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

Harvest Sounds Concert

3 PM Sun., Nov. 2
Beneficiary SafeHaven

Union Service at Eldorado

10 AM Sun., Nov. 16
Followed by brunch

Board of Directors Meeting

7 PM Tues., Nov. 18
Everyone is welcome.
CHANGED to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. There will be no meeting in December.

Decorate for Christmas

9 AM Sat., Dec. 6

Holiday Party

6 PM Mon., Dec. 8
Potluck & Bingo. Bring \$5 man's or woman's gift. Sign-up sheet at the church.

Mitten Tree

Bring new children's mittens and gloves anytime until the holiday party on Dec. 8.

Special Music

Sun., Dec. 14
Performance Piece "The Samplers"

Cookie Carry-in

Coffee hour, Sun., Dec. 21
Everyone bring cookies

Christmas Eve Service

6 PM Wed., Dec. 24

The above events will take place at the church unless otherwise stated.



Dear Friends,

It's November. We can look forward to fires in the fireplace, joys of the holidays and an active season in our church life. Note everything in this issue of The Leaf. There's a lot going on at First Universalist!

At this time of year, I invite you to reflect on all that our church has contributed to the community again in 2008. We remain an important source of monetary and food donations to F.I.S.H. food bank. Our Community Outreach Fund has made contributions to community organizations and provided a scholarship to an ESR ministerial student. The Harvest Sounds Concert on November 2nd was a great success, with benefits going this year to Safe Haven.

Next year will bring even greater opportunity to help. I'm sure you noticed the Christmas offering envelope. I encourage you to make a special contribution over the holidays. Each contribution helps this very small church do BIG things. Thank you for all that you already contribute in time and funds. And please join us for our traditional family Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Board as well as myself, I wish you all the best in the New Year.

-Fred Meyer

President, Board of Directors

NOV. BIRTHDAYS:

2 Tye McMahan
3 Melissa Buccicone
4 Andy Willis
10 Charles Godsey
13 Janet Baker
13 Marcia Swartz
15 Daniel Willis
23 Ron Staub
25 Christel Brooks
29 Ash Williams



NOV. ANNIVERSARIES:

6 Emerson & Bonnie Behee

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1 Danielle Fritsche
5 Marcia Venus
6 John Price
10 Steven Willis
11 Wilma Rutan
14 Courtney Pulfer
25 Jesus Christ
25 Lloyd Ketring
27 Megan Cass
29 Mark Searls

DEC. ANNIVERSARIES:

8 Charles & Paula Godsey
14 Roberta & Dave Feltman

**Christmas Eve
By Candlelight**

The annual Christmas Eve Service will be Wednesday, December 24 at 6 PM. We will celebrate with special music, caroling, readings, and candlelight to bring the symbol of hope to us in this season.



First Universalist Church
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