

# Administrative Staff Directory

## Contact Us By Mail:

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church  
20401 Hilliard Boulevard, Rocky River, Ohio 44116

## Contact Us By Phone/FAX:

Church: 440-333-2255; FAX: 440-333-2287  
Child Care Center: 440-333-2040; FAX: 440-333-3490

You may reach the following staff members by first dialing the main number and then entering an extension number. Whenever possible, please use an extension when leaving a voicemail. Our staff makes every effort to return their calls within 24 hours, whenever possible.

<b>Church</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Ext.</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Achtziger, Rick	Facilities Manager	127	<a href="mailto:rachtziger@wsuuc.org">rachtziger@wsuuc.org</a>
Arnason, Wayne	Parish Co-Minister	102	<a href="mailto:bergthor@aol.com">bergthor@aol.com</a>
Blazer, David	Director of Music	114	<a href="mailto:dblazer@wsuuc.org">dblazer@wsuuc.org</a>
Carvill-Ziemer, Ellen	Intern Minister	113	<a href="mailto:ecarvillziemer@wsuuc.org">ecarvillziemer@wsuuc.org</a>
Florian, Phil	Youth Ministry	104	<a href="mailto:pflorian@wsuuc.org">pflorian@wsuuc.org</a>
Heck, Kathleen	Membership	107	<a href="mailto:kheck@wsuuc.org">kheck@wsuuc.org</a>
Kieres, Suehana	Finance Manager	101	<a href="mailto:skieres@wsuuc.org">skieres@wsuuc.org</a>
Kircher, Karen	Development Dir.	N/A	<a href="mailto:kkircher@wsuuc.org">kkircher@wsuuc.org</a>
Lydon, Debbie	Administrator	100	<a href="mailto:dlydon@wsuuc.org">dlydon@wsuuc.org</a>
Rolenz, Kathleen	Parish Co-Minister	115	<a href="mailto:krolenz@wsuuc.org">krolenz@wsuuc.org</a>
Ross, Cathy	RE/Office Assistant	105	<a href="mailto:cross@wsuuc.org">cross@wsuuc.org</a>
Strawser, Kathy	Director, Lifespan Faith Development	103	<a href="mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org">kstrawser@wsuuc.org</a>
Schwertle, Joan	Interim Director, Child Care Center	110	<a href="mailto:jschwertle@wschildcare.org">jschwertle@wschildcare.org</a>



## Program Handbook

2011-2012

*A Guide to the Programs, Classes and Opportunities for Service at the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church*

ONE CHURCH  MANY PATHS  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church



**Connect**



**Grow**



**Serve**

These three words describe a process of engagement with West Shore. This booklet uses those words as touchstones—guideposts, for your involvement at West Shore. Whether you are a long-time member, or a first time visitor, or are considering membership, we encourage you to:

## Connect

with your highest values and with others who share them through the worship service and by participating in a small group experience and social activities offered throughout the year.

## Grow

in Wisdom and Compassion by participating in The Path to Spiritual Engagement Program for Adults; or engaging with Children’s Religious Education, known as Lifespan Faith Development. PUURL stands for *Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life*, and it is one path among the many paths towards spiritual maturity offered at West Shore.

## Serve

needs greater than your own by involving yourself in at least one social justice or social action program per year that serves the needs of the Greater Rocky River/Cleveland community; and by providing volunteer service at West Shore at least once a year.

This booklet contains information about how you can **Connect**, **Grow** and **Serve** as part of your involvement with West Shore.

## CARE Covenant

CARE Covenant is West Shore's version of what some churches call a Behavioral Covenant. This covenant is the way that members agree to be in relationship with one another. In order to most authentically live our faith in our relationships with each other, we covenant to **CARE** for each other by acting with:

### Courtesy

Showing kindness, warmth, and patience; Treating others with dignity and sensitivity when in disagreement.

### Acceptance

Affirming the value of physical, life style, perceptual, and religious differences; Agreeing to disagree when unable to reach consensus.

### Respect

Actively acknowledging the contributions of others to the life of the church; Being quick to listen, slow to judge, and willing to negotiate.

### Engagement

Inviting others to participate in opportunities to serve, grow, and heal; Seeking mutual resolution to conflict through clear and sensitive communication.

To be in community is to be in relationship with one another, and occasionally, in conflict. What do you do? A suggested approach for dealing with conflict within the church is:

1. Go directly to that individual and, guided by the above CARE covenant, express your concern honestly, using “I” statements with the intent to listen as well as to be heard.
2. If you feel you cannot approach a person directly, then ask for a friend or a member of the CARE team to go with you to speak to that individual.
3. If you feel you cannot speak to that individual directly, then write the individual a letter or email asking for a meeting with the CARE Team.
4. If none of the above are helpful, try to simply live and let live. The CARE team can only help facilitate, but not mandate a meeting. Not all disagreements may be resolved, but as a church community, the expectations we have of one another are to engage with one another with the hope of coming to a mutually satisfying resolution.

For more information about the CARE Team and Conflict Management process, go to the church website: <http://www.wsuuc.org/members/care-covenant.php>

## Service on Sunday Morning

West Shore UU Church is run by the volunteer efforts of many hands. Below are some volunteer opportunities that make a big difference in the quality and comfort of our Sunday morning service.

### Chalice Lighters

Children who are in the third grade and higher can apply to be accepted into the Chalice Lighters Program. They attend two classes, taught by the ministers and the Director of Lifespan Faith Development, to learn about the history behind the flaming chalice. They then agree to light the chalice as part of the worship service on a rotating basis. Look for these helpers in the worship service each Sunday.

### Flowers

From September to June, members purchase the flower arrangements for the altar table in the sanctuary. They may choose to celebrate or commemorate a person or event in their life. Each contributor is listed in the Order of Service. Contact Mary Lou Pollak or the church office if you would like to purchase a flower arrangement.

### Grocery Certificate & Fair Trade Sales

Everyone at West Shore can serve the church by buying into our Gift Card and Fair Trade Sales. You don't have to volunteer to staff a table in the Rotunda where gift cards or fair trade products are sold. You just have to buy them! These cards are like cash! We sell them at face value and the church gets a percentage of the sale at no cost to you! Volunteers are welcome, but buyers make the difference! Make a grocery or gift card or fair trade coffee purchase a Sunday morning habit!

### Sunday Morning Office Volunteers

Office volunteers are vital to the smooth operations of church on Sunday morning. Training is available and is done on a quarterly basis. Contact the office to volunteer.

### Technical Associates

Tech Associates record the service every Sunday, posting the podcast and/or video recording on the church media site. Tech Associates also assist with the sound system, recording and/or burning CD's, and other technical needs. Contact a minister.

## Table of Contents

### Connect

Sunday Morning Worship.....	4
Visitors and Guests.....	5
The Music Program.....	7
Small Groups (Connection Circles) .....	8
Connecting Through Affinity Groups.....	9

### Grow

Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life (PUURL).....	10
Path to PUURL .....	11
Path to Multicultural Competency .....	14
Path to Spiritual Maturity.....	16
The Wider World .....	17
Introduction to Lifespan Faith Development .....	18

### Serve

Serving needs of the wider community .....	20
Interfaith Justice & Service.....	23
Serving needs within the West Shore Community.....	24
Path to Leadership.....	26
Service in Stewardship .....	28
Service in Pastoral Care .....	29
Service on Sunday Morning.....	30
CARE Covenant.....	31

Staff Contact Information .....	Back Cover
---------------------------------	------------



# Connect

*Connecting through Worship*

## Sunday Morning Worship Times

9:30 & 11:15 a.m. from September 11, 2011 - May 6, 2012  
 10:30 a.m. from May 13 - September 9, 2012

**Monthly Worship Themes** point to qualities of human experience that have larger implications for how we connect with our highest values, grow in wisdom and compassion and serve needs greater than our own. The ministers and worship leaders engage with these themes each month to elicit their larger meaning in our lives. These themes also provide the basis for small group explorations, known as Connection Circles.

## Worship Themes for 2011-2012

September	Connect
October	Awe
November	Conviction
December	Trust
January	Daring
February	Passion
March	Compassion
April	Growth
May	Service

## Special Holiday Season Calendar

**Christmas Eve Services:** Family Service, 5:00 p.m.  
 Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18 & December 25 - One Service 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday, January 1, 2012 - One Service 10:30 a.m.



## Service in Pastoral Care

*"We will care for you, and in turn, you will be asked to care for others."*

### Pastoral Care Team

Doris Matthey, Commissioned Lay Leader

The Pastoral Care Team is an outreach ministry of the church, tending to those who are homebound or in nursing homes, are in the hospital, experiencing loss or who simply need a caring presence. The Team meets quarterly to discuss the needs of West Shore members in a caring, confidential manner.

### The Parish Nurse Program

Martie Travis, Parish Nurse

West Shore is proud to have on staff our parish nurse, Martie Travis, who is available for consultation and blood pressure checks on the first Sunday of the month after the first service or by appointment. Martie also attends Tuesday's Friendship Group and is available to discuss your health concerns. Contact her at 440-331-6829 or by email at martie419@yahoo.com.

### Memorial Receptions

Church volunteers make coffee, tea and other refreshments after the memorial service of church members. Contact Debbie Lydon, Church Administrator, if you would like to help with this important ministry.

### Rites of Passage (Weddings, Memorials, etc.)

One of the benefits of membership is that members of West Shore covenant to be present with and for one another's rites of passage. Weddings and Services of Union are performed for all members without charge, children are dedicated in one of our two annual Child Dedication Sundays (Christmas Eve and Mother's Day), and memorial services celebrating a life well lived are offered for members who leave us through death. West Shore's ministry team also provides these services to the wider community. Contact a member of the ministry team for more information, or visit the church website.



## Service in Stewardship

*"It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations."*

### The Annual Stewardship Campaign

This program raises the funds necessary to pay for the annual operation of the church. Generally held in the spring, the Stewardship Campaign requests pledge predictions for the upcoming year from every member and supporting friend.

### The Finance Committee

This subcommittee of the Board meets monthly to monitor finances and make recommendations to the Board. They recommend a budget to the Board, which is available to all members upon request, and is posted on the bulletin board. West Shore's finances are transparent and accountable.

### The Legacy Society

This group of church members have informed the church that they have made a bequest in their estate to the church. An annual reception and program for members and for people considering joining will be held later this year.

### The Planned Giving Program

Leaders of this group offer advice to members on making a bequest or other planned gift in a way that creates the greatest benefit for the donor and the church.

### The Service Auction

West Shore's major fundraiser is its annual Service Auction. Members of the church and the large community donate goods, services, dinners and/or parties. On auction night, members and friends are treated to great food and the chance to bid on items of their choice. It's a fun event that can quickly fill up your social calendar. Typically held in the early spring, it's a great opportunity to meet, greet and support the church all at the same time. Check the *Shorelines* newsletter or the church website for more information about the Service Auction.

## Additional Special Services

**Tenebrae:** A commemoration of the last days of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, Thursday, April 5, 2012

**Seder Dinner:** Saturday Evening, April 7, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

## Visitors & Guests: Making Connections

### Getting to Know Unitarian Universalism (GTKUU)

This 50-minute class is an introduction to the church and to Unitarian Universalism. It is the first step in getting connected with others at the church who are seeking a church community. Generally held the second Sunday of the month, after both services or after the one service (beginning May 13).

#### 2011

September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11

#### 2012

January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10

### Path to Membership

This class introduces you to the benefits and expectations of membership at West Shore. You will be invited to sign the membership book at the end of the class, if you feel ready to do so.

#### 2011

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

#### 2012

Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 10, 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday May 19, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

*Childcare provided for both classes.*

## New Member Celebrations

Held on Sunday mornings at both services, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
November 6, 2011 & February 26, 2012  
June 3, 2012—during the 10:30 a.m. service

## Starting Point: Your UU Journey

Starting Point is our new small group experience that shows how this church can connect you to your highest values and to others who share them; grow in wisdom and compassion through our Many Paths to Spiritual Maturity; and engage you with opportunities to serve needs greater than your own. Newcomers as well as experienced members alike can sign up for one of the three sessions offered during the 2011-2012 church year.

### Fall Session: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 7 - Connect  
Wednesday, September 14 - Grow  
Wednesday, September 21 - Serve

### Winter Session: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 4 - Connect  
Wednesday, January 11 - Grow  
Wednesday, January 18 - Serve

### Spring Session: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 21 - Connect  
Wednesday, March 28 - Grow  
Wednesday, April 4 - Serve

## Connection Fair

The Connection Fair is a bazaar-type party, held after church on **Sunday, October 16**, after both services at 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. The committees and task forces of the church each host a table and provide a snack, as well as information about the work of their committee/group. You are given a free pass to “check them out” to see if their work would be of interest to you.

Gestalt is a study of human patterns, systems and behaviors. When applied to the church system, it is a way of looking at the individual parts of church life in its relationship to the whole. This first of three sessions will provide an overview of Gestalt Principles and then delve into the "Cycle of Experience." Each session will build on the others and serve as prerequisites for first time students and those unfamiliar with Gestalt practices. Watch upcoming *Shorelines* newsletters and the website for other sessions.

## A People So Bold

**Saturday September 10, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, February 4th, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.**

Led by Mary-Jo Maish and Ellen Carvill-Ziemer

This brief introduction to the history, premises, definitions, and disciplines of our congregation's commitment to fighting linked oppressions is essential for everyone who serves on our committees, task forces or working groups. If you have taken diversity or anti-racism training outside West Shore, please attend this workshop to get oriented to West Shore's history, vocabulary, and approach.

## Conflict Management for the Conflict Avoidant

**Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Led by the CARE Team and Rev. Rolenz

What if you could skillfully and gracefully avoid conflict? What is the purpose of a behavioral covenant; and can it be used in the workplace—for families—for personal interactions? Using resources from Gestalt, Appreciative Inquiry and Family Systems, we'll explore how to navigate the often murky waters of conflict with the goal of emotional and spiritual resolution.

## Governance is Not Just for Geeks!

**Saturday, May 5, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Led by Phil Reed, Ohio Meadville District President

This course will explore Policy Governance at West Shore. New Board members and church leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

## The Path to Leadership

### Serving Needs Greater Than Our Own Within the Church Community

*This Path is designed to prepare members to serve in leadership roles within or beyond West Shore by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to offer their gifts.*

The Path to Leadership is a series of courses offered each year to people who are being invited to consider future leadership in the church (on our Board, task forces, committees) or the wider community. The offerings each year vary, but in past years they have involved a rotation that has included Leading Small Groups, Conflict Management and Resolution, Appreciative Inquiry, Policy Governance, and Gestalt for Church. In addition, our Ohio Meadville District and our Central East Regional Group (CERG) of the UUA routinely offer workshops, on-line classes, and webinars focused on issues in church leadership. These classes are for members only. First time registrants will receive priority over those who have taken the classes before.

Participants in the Path to Leadership core courses at West Shore are not charged the usual semester course fee associated with PUURL classes. District offerings usually charge modest fees.

### The Art of Leading Small Groups

**Saturday, November 5, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Led by Suzanne Rusnak

Have you ever found yourself in a small group setting and wished it had been led differently? Did some people dominate the conversation and others didn't say a word? There is an art and skill to facilitating a small group where everyone feels heard and participates equally. Learning the art of small group leadership is a skill that can translate to your work life, home and family life, and certainly within church volunteerism as well.

### Gestalt and the Church - Part 1

**Saturday, September 24, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Led by Cil Knutsen

## The Music Program



Dave Blazer  
Director of Music

The Music Program at West Shore strives for excellence. Whether through the majesty of our Holtkamp organ, experiencing the finely-crafted sounds from the West Shore Choir or enjoying the musical diversity of both instrumental and vocal ensembles, our members routinely praise West Shore's music program for its creativity, innovation and depth.

We understand our choir as an opportunity for members to learn new skills in choral and vocal technique, and to be exposed to a variety of music—from baroque and classical, to jazz, blues, rock, and music created by contemporary choral composers.

### How to Join the Choir

New singers are always welcome to attend, and no auditions are required. Just make an appointment with the Director of Music, David Blazer, at 440-333-2255 ext. 114 or [dblazer@wsuuc.org](mailto:dblazer@wsuuc.org) so he can warmly welcome you. Rehearsals this fall are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. You can join the choir for a "semester"—typically the Fall Semester leads up to the December Choral Concert, and Spring Semester leads into the Choir Concert held on the Sunday after Mother's Day.

### Music Sundays

Generally held just prior to Christmas and around Mother's Day, the entire worship service is devoted to a major choral work, often with orchestra and musical guests. These services celebrate the power of music and the arts in our lives.

### West Shore's House Band: Free Spirit

Our house band draws on members and friends who play guitar, bass, keyboard, drums and vocals. The Free Spirit Band plays approximately once a month September through May. Contact David Blazer or a minister if you are interested in being part of the ensemble.



## New in 2011-12: Connection Circles

Experienced members will ask: **What's new about Connection Circles?** West Shore has had an active small group ministry for 15 years – once called “Deep UU” and recently called “Connection Circles.” What's new now is the format and flexibility of Connection Circles. If you were once in a Circle or if you've never been in one, this is the year to try it out.

**Why?** Because small groups are at the center of our church life. They are proven in congregations from many faith traditions to be the best way for new and experienced members and church visitors to connect. Studies show that if you don't connect with a small group within the first six months of attending a church for the first time, you are unlikely to stay involved. Connection Circles are “covenant groups” that ask you to make a promise of commitment to the group process.

**Connection Circles are designed to connect you** more deeply to the worship themes taken up each month. Since worship life is the first and most popular point of connection for most people at West Shore, both new and experienced, we invite everyone to use the worship themes as a way of connecting with a monthly spiritual practice.

Everyone who attends the Starting Point groups this year at West Shore will be invited to join a monthly Connection Circle (CC) that will involve advance reading, media viewing, and spiritual practices. This packet will be available three weeks before each session.

Unlike our former CC format, **these groups will be starting up all year**, not just in the fall, and they may continue to meet beyond the initial meeting covenant that they make if they wish to stay together, and/or bring in new people. CC groups can include experienced members who are using the worship themes as a connection to spiritual practice and want to get to know newer people better.

One group will be available for those who enjoyed the deep-listening format without cross talk. Most groups will use the new format with two “halves” of conversation – a first round that uses deep listening, and a second half that allows for more cross talk conversation about the readings, videos, questions and exercises in the spiritual “homework” packet. Contact a minister to volunteer as a facilitator or watch for sign ups for new groups starting in September.

## Nominating Committee Leadership Development

The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are to select a single slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees and a slate of six nominees for the Nominating Committee (three are elected). This committee assists the Board and other committees in seeking qualified, interested church members for specific positions of responsibility.

## Ohio Meadville District (OMD) and Chalice Lighters

OMD is our regional network of UU congregations, and coordinates with three other districts as the Central East Regional Group (CERG). Individual members of West Shore have signed on as OMD Chalice Lighters. They are asked up to four times a year, to contribute at least \$10 to growth initiatives by UU congregations in the region. OMD has an annual meeting on the last weekend in March in St. Clairsville, OH.

## Social Action Grants Panel

At least monthly, the church gives away the Sunday offering to a justice or service project. The Social Action Grants Panel meets quarterly to review requests and make decisions about the organizations to which West Shore wants to contribute our Social Action Offerings.

## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

West Shore supports this UU non-profit doing justice and development projects at home and abroad through social action offerings and the Annual Guest at Your Table Program during the holiday season.

## The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA)

This title refers to our national Association of Congregations, of which West Shore is a part. The UUA's headquarters is located in Boston, MA. Their purpose is to serve member congregations through programs, outreach, curriculum, resources, and social justice services. There are many volunteer and service opportunities within the UUA. Their website is [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

## Serving Needs Greater Than Our Own Within the West Shore Community



Many service roles at West Shore help manage local congregation or denominational needs:

### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the vision and mission of the congregation. They create the ends we seek to fulfill, hold staff accountable to them, and oversee the church's finances. They are elected at the Annual Meeting in June to staggered three-year terms.

### CARE TEAM

The CARE Team addresses issues related to upholding the CARE covenant (see page 31). The CARE covenant describes the way members agree to be in relationship with one another. Members of the CARE Team are appointed by the Board.

### Congregational Polity and Policy Governance

**Congregational Polity** is a style of church organization which was created by our spiritual ancestors in America in the 17th century. All Unitarian Universalist Churches operate under congregational polity, which means we are self-sustaining and are self-governed. **Policy Governance** refers to a particular style of Board governance, created by John and Miriam Carver. Many larger UU churches have adopted Policy Governance, which simply means that a Board's focus is on vision, mission, policy and strategic plans, instead of managing the day-to-day operations of the church.

### Committee on Ministry

The purpose of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is to evaluate and interpret the strength and well-being of the ministry at West Shore. The COM also provides feedback and support to the ministry team. The COM meets quarterly and consists of a member of the Board and two others recommended by the Board of Trustees.

## Connecting Through Affinity Groups

Affinity groups are critical to making connections in the church. Small groups at West Shore include our committees and task forces, but also many **affinity groups organized around common interests**:

**Book Discussion Groups.** Book discussion groups happen often at West Shore. They are open to anyone. Information can be found on the website and in *Shorelines*, the church newsletter.

**The Craft Ministry.** The Craft Ministry meets monthly on the **first Tuesday night, at 7:00 p.m.** to knit, stitch or crochet. They create prayer shawls given to the Pastoral Care Team to deliver to members in need; they also create baby blankets given to infants and children at their Child Dedication Ceremony.

**Extended Families.** Extended families are gatherings of women, men and children who commit to meeting with each other regularly for social activities, outings and support. Each family sets its own boundaries and process for inviting new people. Visit the church website for more information about extended families.

**The Friendship Group.** The Friendship Group is a gathering of mostly retired members and friends who meet **every Tuesday at noon** for a brown bag lunch. **Every third Tuesday**, they share a potluck meal. Everyone is welcome to attend. See you at lunch!

**A Gathering of Men.** This group of retired men meets twice monthly on the **first and third Monday nights of the month, at 7:30 p.m.**, for conversation and support.

**The Lunch Bunch.** The Lunch Bunch meets after the second service on the **fourth Sunday of each month**. A reminder announcement is published in the West Shore Weekly found in the Order of Service.

**Second Saturday Suppers.** Second Saturday suppers are small gatherings of church members and invited guests who join together for a meal on a **Saturday night, beginning in January through June**.

**Thanksgiving Potluck at the Church.** Organized by volunteers, people gather on Thanksgiving Day for a shared meal.



# Grow

***Growing in Wisdom & Compassion,  
on the Many Paths that are  
possible to explore in a free church.***

***What does it mean to “Practice a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life”? The answer to this question is the “PUURL” of great price we seek at West Shore.***

Our adult religious education programs include *Many Paths to Spiritual Maturity*, which include “growing in wisdom and compassion.” The chart below outlines them. ***Two of the four paths require a greater commitment of time and are only open to members of the church.***

<b>Path to Practicing a UU Religious Life</b> (See Page 12)	<b>Path to Multicultural Competency</b> (See Page 14)	<b>Path to Spiritual Maturity</b> (See Page 16)	<b>Path to Leadership</b> (See Page 26)
<b>No pre-requisites:</b> PUURL classes can be taken or taught by all	<b>No pre-requisites:</b> All are encouraged to take these classes	BYOT or Spiritual Autobiography required prior to Spiritual Maturity	Must be a church member
After completing Starting Point, try:  Building Your own Theology (BYOT) OR Engage in the PUURL course curriculum OR Volunteer to teach a PUURL class or Volunteer in our high quality Religious Education/Youth Program	A Class on Class  A People so Bold  Catalyst Training Weekend October 2011 in Columbus  Additional Training on Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural Competency (to be announced)	Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography class offered by Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Winter 2012  Spiritual Maturity class offered by Rev. Wayne Arnason, Winter 2012	Complete all four classes offered each year.  Small Group Facilitation 101  Gestalt & The Church  People so Bold Anti-Racism Training  Managing Conflict  Church Governance

## Interfaith Justice & Service: Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) InterAct Cleveland

Our Church is a proud dues-paying member of two interfaith organizations working on social justice and service:

- Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC)
- Interact Cleveland

GCC is a faith-based community organizing network affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation’s oldest community organizing network. GCC’s first public meeting, held June 6, 2011, drew 2,000 people, including sixty West Shore members.

GCC’s work focuses in five action areas that were chosen at a democratically organized issues assembly. They include Education, Jobs, Health Care, Criminal Justice, and Sustainable Food/Sustainable Environment. In 2011-12, these action areas are being further defined into specific goals, issues and actions. Most of these action areas will have working groups within West Shore, and there are regularly announced meetings of West Shore’s GCC Core Team, where GCC activists compare notes and plan strategies. GCC has a web site at [greatercleveland-congregations.org](http://greatercleveland-congregations.org). Watch your *Shorelines* newsletter or *West Shore Weekly* for meeting announcements.

Interact Cleveland operates the Homeless Stand Down program, food pantries, and an Interfaith Youth Service Corps. West Shore member Bob Nemcek currently serves on the Interact Board and we routinely have youth participating in the Youth Service Corps. Volunteer opportunities associated with Interact programs are routinely announced in *Shorelines*.



### Microcredit Loan Program in Haiti

West Shore sponsors two revolving-loan banks supporting small business enterprises run by economically disadvantaged women in Haiti. We raise funds for new banks organized through FINCA.

### New Orleans Service Trip

West Shore members have led two trips to New Orleans to assist with the rebuilding of New Orleans neighborhoods, churches and homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the Federal levees. We work with the Center for Ethical Living based at First UU Church of New Orleans, where the dormitory housing is located. Cost is about \$400. The 2012 New Orleans Service Trip is planned for **Easter vacation week leaving Good Friday, April 6, and returning Sunday, April 15.** Registration begins September 15.

### Partner Church in Bagyon, Transylvania

The ancient Hungarian-speaking kingdom of Transylvania, (now part of Romania), is home to the oldest Unitarian movement in the western world. West Shore is proud to be a partner church with a Unitarian church in Bagyon, Transylvania, Romania. For the last several years a team of West Shore members has traveled to Transylvania to lead a summer camp for the young people in our partner village.

### Queer & Allies

In the 1980's, West Shore voted to become a "Welcoming Congregation," which means that the congregation made a decision to support and encourage gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons as full members of the community. The Queer and Allies Group usually meets on the **third Friday of the month, at 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.** for a program and/or discussion around issues that affect the BGLT community both at West Shore and in the larger Cleveland area. Check the *Shorelines* newsletter or the website for exact times. West Shore has always had a significant turnout at the Gay Pride Parade in June.

### West Shore Allies Against Human Trafficking

The group's mission is to educate the congregation about the circumstances and realities of human trafficking with the goal of its eventual eradication. The group generally meets on the **first Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.** Check the *Shorelines* newsletter or the website for information about their events and activities.

**W**est Shore's religious philosophy is that the search to lead a life of meaning and purpose never ends. Human beings are programmed from birth to constantly learn, grow and deepen. Our "Many Paths" program is designed to help you on your spiritual journey, regardless of where you are on the path. From a newcomer to West Shore or Unitarian Universalism, to a long-time member seeking greater depth and involvement, the Paths Program has something for you.

**Path to Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life (PUURL)** invites members into deeper spiritual inquiry and provides opportunities for building and identifying their own theological beliefs and identity through classes, spiritual practices and study groups. This path is referred to as PUURL: Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life.

**Path to Multicultural Competency** is designed to help our members become culturally competent allies in the fight against racism and oppression.

**The Path to Spiritual Maturity** is designed to offer experienced Unitarian Universalists the tools, the practices and the commitments that can sustain a lifelong engagement in liberal religious living.



**The Path to Leadership** is designed to prepare committed members to serve as leaders in the church by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to offer their gifts of leadership to the church community or develop skills to help in other parts of their lives.

### From the Ministers

Is it possible to achieve "Spiritual Maturity?" We think it is. We think that regular, sustained spiritual practice is the most important component of becoming spiritually mature human beings, and that our job as your parish co-ministers, is to help you engage with that practice. We hope that you take advantage of the rich opportunities offered here at West Shore. ~Reverends Wayne Arnason & Kathleen Rolenz

# The Path to Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life

*is designed to invite members into deeper spiritual inquiry by building and identifying their own theological beliefs and identity through classes, spiritual practices and study groups. This Path is open to everyone, members and seekers alike.*



Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life (PUURL) is West Shore's Adult Religious Education Program. As one part of the "Many Paths" program, PUURL offers a recurring core of classes and many one-time offerings that engage the four basic quadrants of life where

we find meaning and purpose: Mind, Body, Heart and Spirit. Each one of the PUURL classes usually falls into one of these four quadrants; and we attempt to program for all four quadrants throughout the year. We hope that you consider taking at least one course in each of the four quadrants over a year or two.

Teaching is also a learning process! Members and friends can propose an idea for a PUURL class that they would teach. Teaching in our Religious Education program for children and youth has been a huge spiritual growth experience for most of our experienced members.

## PUURL Program Fees

The PUURL Program classes are open to anyone, members and seekers alike. There is a **participation fee of \$10 for church members and \$20 for seekers**, payable at the beginning of both the fall and the winter/spring semesters through the church office. All fees will support future programming and provide scholarships for those who cannot afford it. Fees are paid via an honor system; place your fee in the Adult Programs box which is found either in the church office or will be brought to the first class by the instructor. **Free childcare is generally provided for classes if there are a minimum of four children** whose parents request childcare at least a week in advance of the first class.

The PUURL brochure, including one-time and recurring classes, is mailed electronically and published on the website. Paper copies can be found in the pamphlet rack. Additional classes/workshops are offered and publicized throughout the year, via email, the *West Shore Weekly* in Sunday's Order of Service and in the pamphlet rack.

**The Social Action Committee (SAC)** has long been a mainstay of West Shore's service and justice work. We are looking this year at how they might function differently as a Social Action Council, bringing together project leaders. As 2011-12 begins, the SAC functions as a management and leadership group for a variety of projects and programs: 1) The Social Action Documentary Film Series, held on the second Saturday, has raised awareness of issues like immigration reform, PTSD and other veterans' concerns, environmental justice, labor issues, and healthy eating 2) programs that help the homeless 3) information tables and speakers on various political issues 4) education tutoring and service, helping low income school children with school supplies and uniforms 5) hunger action and providing food to families that are in need either by donating food or by volunteering at the Cleveland Foodbank. Gloria Bemer chairs the SAC. The committee meets **the first Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.**

## Food Bank Volunteers

Since 2000, West Shore members help pack food at the Food Bank. Announcements about signups are in the *Shorelines* newsletter and the Order of Service.

## Give Cleveland Credit Domestic MicroCredit Loans

Initiated by West Shore members and now spun off into a separate 501(c)3 with a Board, Give Cleveland Credit seeks donors and clients to support entrepreneurial small businesses in low income areas.

## Green Sanctuary

In 2010, West Shore was granted Green Sanctuary Accreditation, which means West Shore was recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association for its environmental work both inside and outside the church walls. The Green Sanctuary Committee has met monthly to work on both educational and social action projects relating to environmental stewardship. Currently, the Committee is discerning its direction for 2011-12. Check the church website for updates.

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

Three times a year (in summer, at Christmas and Easter) West Shore hosts families without homes in the building for a week. We ask fifty volunteers to help with food and overnight companionship each time we host.



## Serve

***Serving Needs Greater Than Our Own Within the Wider Community***



*Service Trip to New Orleans, Spring 2010*

**A Year of Experimentation and Discernment** is underway in West Shore’s approach to Social Action and Community Service. As a result of our Leap of Faith research in 2010—2011, we have challenged our activists to bring greater focus and accountability to our justice work by identifying at least five committed people who will present their program or project for congregational affirmation at the June 2012 Annual Meeting. We have sorted our service and justice work into categories, some that would require congregational affirmation and others that are monthly projects or singular annual events. The listing in this program handbook does not reflect these categories or require that each program or group have identified leaders and five identified members.

## Building Your Own Theology

This is a “beginner’s mind” group that invites engagement with basic theological questions: Who or what is God? What happens after we die? What are my obligations to other human beings? What is religious community? Lifespan Faith Development Director Kathy Strawser leads this class on **six Wednesdays, September 28, October 5, 12, 26, and November 2, 9, at 7 p.m.** (*This class is a requirement for the Spiritual Maturity classes.*)

## Current Theological Identity Groups

**UU Christian Fellowship.** The UU Christian Fellowship meets to study liberal Christianity through a Unitarian Universalist lens. It gathers the **first Thursday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.** Each year the group picks the area of study. Led by Rev. Kathleen Rolenz and members of West Shore. You do not have to consider yourself a Christian to attend.

**HAFA (Humanists, Atheists, Free-Thinkers, Agnostics)** The HAFA group is a gathering of members of West Shore who discuss a variety of topics as viewed through the lens of humanism, atheism or agnosticism. All free thinkers are welcome. HAFA meets the **second Thursday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.**

**UU Buddhist Meditation Group.** A meditation group called the *River Rocks Sangha* meets **every Friday at 8:00 a.m.** for forty-five minutes of sitting and walking meditation, in two segments, followed by discussion. Leader: Rev. Wayne Arnason, or other members of the Sangha. Several other sitting groups from various Buddhist traditions rent space and offer practice at West Shore. Check the church bulletin board for more information about community meditation groups.



## Morning Forum, Engaging the Mind

Morning Forum returns on occasional Sundays this year with programs suggested by church members featuring speakers and experts on topics of interest to West Shore members from both the larger community and from inside the church. Morning Forum will be held at least monthly. Check the *Shorelines* newsletter or the website for the most up-to-date information and list of speakers.

## The Path to Multicultural Competency

*is designed to help our members become culturally competent and committed allies in the fight against racism and oppression.*



At the 2008 Annual Meeting, West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church voted to become an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive, Multicultural Institution (ARAOMC). How do we move towards this challenging goal? The first steps on the path are ongoing education about the issues of race, racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism.

To this end, each year West Shore offers at least one of a sequence of three classes that form a core curriculum. We encourage

our members to engage with this path by taking each of these classes over time, and by attending weekend training workshops such as Jubilee World, offered at West Shore or other congregational sites within the Ohio-Meadville District.

**The Inclusivity Ministry** offers educational and service programs that engage our members in understanding linked oppressions.

**The Diversity Change Team** is a Board-appointed task force that coaches and monitors the progress that West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church is making as an institution on working towards becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive and multicultural congregation.

## A People so Bold

Mary-Jo Maish and Ellen Carvill-Ziemer

Saturday, September 10, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 4, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

This brief introduction to the history, premises, definitions, and disciplines of our congregation's commitment to fighting linked oppres-

A registration form may be accessed and completed on-line. For further information, contact Kathy Strawser, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, at 440-333-2255 ext. 103 or at [kstrawser@wsuuc.org](mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org).

**Junior Choir** is directed by Joe Schafer and rehearses on Sunday mornings in the Chapel from **September through April at 10:40 a.m. sharp!** The choir is open to children, kindergarten and up. They sing for Sunday Services several times a year. Music reflects UU traditions and encourages children to affirm and articulate their beliefs. Junior Choir is part of the Religious Education Program. Joe also leads the combined intergenerational choir. Speak with Joe Schafer or Kathy Strawser to enroll a child or children.

## Youth Ministry at West Shore



**Phil Florian**  
Youth Coordinator

Our high school age youth, historically known as "Junior Church," have two choices for Sunday morning participation. They can go to the 9:30 class which uses a curriculum and is led by a team of adult advisors. If they come at 11:15, youth can either attend the service or volunteer in any number of ways to help with other Sunday morning activities.

High School Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, once or twice monthly. Youth and their adult advisors meet for potluck, conversation, art, films, games and planning future outings. The group includes youth who attend the Sunday morning class, as well as those who do not.

Our youth, including our middle school teens, have a strong commitment to social justice, helping to host the Interfaith Hospitality Network and raising awareness and funds to address homelessness with their homegrown "Homeless on Hilliard" each winter. Youth Ministry Coordinator Phil Florian coordinates these UU and interfaith service opportunities. Please contact Phil at 440-333-2255, ext. 104 or at [pflorian@wsuuc.org](mailto:pflorian@wsuuc.org).

# Lifespan Faith Development

## For Children and Youth

Our religious education program for children and youth is described in the RE Prospectus available on the pamphlet rack. The most important lessons are not those that can be written down in books—they must be lived into life.



**Kathy Strawser**  
Director of Lifespan  
Faith Development

**West Shore's religious education program** fosters an atmosphere for spiritual and life lessons in which individuals and their decisions are respected. We nurture religious exploration and ethical decision-making through structured curriculum, worship, discussion and community service. We provide opportunities for meaningful relationships with other church members and with our wider community.

Parents are asked to register children for one of the two identical class sessions available, at 9:30 or 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir is offered at 10:40 (sharp!) between these sessions. Routine switching between these

sessions is not possible, and can only be arranged in advance with the Director and class teachers. West Shore does background checks on all volunteers and enforces Safe Congregation policies that ensure adults care for and teach children in pairs.

The elements of our program are a formal age-graded curriculum covering traditional religious themes and significant life issues such as human sexuality, regular Children's Chapels and monthly Intergenerational worship, personal reflection and prayer, classroom study and crafts, fellowship through Junior Choir and Youth activities, social responsibility projects, community action and leadership opportunities. Our website includes a "Frequently Asked Questions" section to learn more specific information about our religious education programming.

sions is essential for everyone who serves on our committees, task forces or working groups. If you have taken diversity or anti-racism training outside West Shore, please attend this workshop to get oriented to West Shore's history, vocabulary and approach.

### A Class on Class

Kim Stanuch, Laura DiRienzo, Ellen Carvill-Ziemer  
Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, at 7:00 p.m.

Four-week interactive exploration of the different skills and values necessary for survival in the different economic classes of the United States. We will be using (and critiquing) Ruby Payne's work to gain a deeper understanding about the socio-economic sources of people's values and behaviors.

### Catalyst Training Weekend

Friday & Saturday, October 14-15, 2011, in Columbus, Ohio

Catalyst Project is committed to anti-racist work with the goal of deepening anti-racist commitment in white communities and building multiracial movements for liberation. Catalyst programs prioritize leadership development, supporting grassroots organizations and multiracial alliance building.

Open to all—leaders, adults, youth, young adults, clergy, directors of religious education and more. Register on-line at [www.omduua.org](http://www.omduua.org) or sign up at the church office.



### Additional Anti-Racism Training

As this booklet goes to print, the Inclusivity Team and the Ministerial Staff/LFD team are working to secure speakers and additional trainings for the Winter & Spring 2012 Semester. Watch *Shorelines* or the West Shore Weekly bulletin for more opportunities to grow in multicultural competency.

## The Path to Spiritual Maturity

is designed to offer experienced Unitarian Universalists the tools, the practices and the commitments to sustain a lifelong engagement in religious living. These classes are for members only. The Spiritual Maturity class requires that participants have already taken a Building Your Own Theology Course or the Spiritual Autobiography class.

### Spiritual Maturity

Eight Thursdays

January 5 - February 23, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Rev. Wayne Arnason



What does it mean to grow spiritually? What are the practices and qualities of a spiritually mature person. The "Spiritual Maturity" class is open to church members with at least two years of active involvement at West Shore or other UU churches, and experience with our "Building Your Own Theology" class or "Spiritual Autobiography" class. This class is an eight-week commitment led by Rev. Arnason, beginning Thursday, January 5 - February 23, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Weekly spiritual practice assignments are part of this course.

### Spiritual Autobiography: Writing the Story of Your Life

Five Wednesdays, January 25 - February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz

Where have you been? Where are you now? Where are you going? This is your chance to sharpen your memories, write your autobiography, and frame it with the language of theological insight. Learn more about the meaning and purpose of your life and share your story with others through this exploration of guided autobiography. Weekly writing assignments are a required part of the class. (*This is a pre-requisite class for Spiritual Maturity.*)

## The Wider World

### Opportunities to Grow in Cross Cultural Wisdom & Understanding

#### Conexión Octubre (October Connections)

West Shore is flinging open its doors in October to celebrate the Latino/Latina culture in the Greater Cleveland area. Although the details of the month's program are still underway, here is a sample of the plans for October 2011:

- Art Show featuring the work of local Latino/Latina artists
- Puerto Rican Dinner
- Sunday Morning Forum on local, national or international issues
- Social Action Film (to be announced in September)
- Sunday Morning focus on Latino/Latina concerns
- Invitations open to all members to visit local restaurants together
- West Shore's All-Church Annual Day of the Dead Celebration!

More information available in the September issue of *Shorelines*.

#### The Impossible Dream? Middle East Peace

Our co-ministers' fall Sabbatical includes a month in Israel and Palestine. We plan to frame their trip with some special programs.

**Middle East Justice** with Dr. Warren Clark  
Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace  
Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Clark is a career diplomat who brings unique insight into why the resolution of the conflict in Israel and Palestine seems intractable, and what congregations can do to help.

**Children of Abraham** with Revs. Arnason & Rolenz  
Thursdays, March 8, 15 & 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

Our co-ministers are spending Fall 2011 studying the relationship between the three great Abrahamic traditions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. After their time in Spain, Israel/Palestine and Turkey, they will bring back new insights, resources and challenges to share with the congregation. All are invited to attend this provocative and engaging conversation.