

Community Forums Discussions That Matter

All Are Welcome!

**Sundays: 9:30 am-10:45 am
in Fellowship Hall**



January 17 County Government Initiatives: What's Coming in 2016?

The New Year is here! All are invited to a community discussion on strategic priorities in county government for job growth and opportunity, fairness and equity in government programs and quality of life issues that affect us all. Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive, and previous Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.



January 24 Facing the Inevitable with Open Eyes

How has succession planning changed in recent years? Are wills, trusts, inheritance laws, taxes, probate and power of attorney the same as they've always been? What are your family's current goals for succession planning and charitable giving? Tom Anderson, Chairman, Wealth Management,

First Merit Bank, in conversation with Jim Mackey, Partner, Walter Haverfield Law Firm.



January 31 College Investment: Is It Worth It?

Is college a risky investment? First career jobs and wages vary widely. Only 40% of full time students graduate within four years. The average college debt is \$35,000 for 4 years. Is college preparing students for remunerative careers?



Moderator: Thomas Matthews, Executive Director, CWRU Career Center. Panelists: Bill Morgan, Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs, CSU and JT Neuffer, Director, Employer Relations, Cuyahoga Community College.



February 7 Reflections on the Cleveland Orchestra: Strategy, Growth and the Future

The Cleveland Orchestra has reached new listeners locally and with long term residencies in Miami and Europe. By incorporating opera, ballet, movies, neighborhood concerts into programming, they have gained new audiences. How has this been accomplished? Gary Hanson, Executive Director (recently retired), Cleveland Orchestra and Interim Director, Cleveland Institute of Music.



February 21 The Demise of 9-5 Work and the Rise of the Sharing Economy

Part-time, temporary, and freelance work account for 1/3 of US jobs. What are the consequences? Companies like Uber provide limited work hours and flexibility but often lack benefits, overtime or retirement programs. What impact does this have on upward mobility, retirement or healthcare? Jenny Hawkins, Visiting CWRU Assistant Professor of Economics.



February 28 Medicaid Expansion, Politics and Cost: How Are We Affected?

The single largest insurer in the country, the 50 year old Medicaid program insures one in every four Ohioans. What are the pros and cons, politically, of protecting the 2014 Medicaid Expansion? The Center for Community Solutions provides research for public policy decisions on a wide variety of human service programs. John Corlett, President and Executive Director, Center for Community Solutions and former Ohio Medicaid Director.



March 6 European Union and Immigration: High Stakes - What's the Future?

Is the European Union as strong as it once was, given the challenges of immigration? What effect will European immigration problems have on US immigration policy with thousands of Middle Eastern citizens coming to the US? What are the current US requirements for immigration? Moderator: Margaret Wong, Senior Managing Partner, Margaret Wong and Associates.



Panelists: Steven Hook, Professor, Political Science, KSU, and David Goldberg, Professor, Labor and Immigration History, CSU.



March 20
**The Cleveland Consent Decree,
 Community Safety, and
 Suburban Neighborhoods**



What is the level of cooperation between Cleveland and suburban police departments regarding basic elements of the U.S. Department of Justice consent decree? Many of the decisions affect community safety policies throughout the county. What can congregations do, specifically, to help insure resident safety in their own communities? James Hardiman, Esq., Chair, Citizens for Safe and Fair Communities and Vice-President, NAACP in conversation with Dr. Yvonne Conner, Member, Greater Cleveland Congregation's Criminal Justice Team.



April 3
**Real Estate: Frank Talk on
 Sales, Housing Issues and the
 Future**

What's really happening with foreclosures and property values throughout Cuyahoga County communities, including inner ring suburbs? How is Zillo impacting home sales? Are land banks and proactive demolition of foreclosed homes effective in maintaining real estate values? Jim Rokakis, Director, Thriving Communities Institute and Vice President, Western Reserve Land Conservancy.



April 17
**Climate Change and Poverty:
 Who's Accountable?**



What are Cuyahoga County and Cleveland doing to minimize the impact of climate change? How are lower income citizens specifically affected? Can urban farms, home weatherization, tree planting and climate action workshops reduce carbon dioxide emissions meaningfully? Mike Foley, Director, Cuyahoga County Director of Sustainability, in conversation with Kim Foreman, Director, Environmental Health Watch.



April 24
**Muslim Families in NEO:
 An Awakening Conversation**



How do local Muslim families handle or counteract the reporting on activities associated with violent extremists here and abroad? Is progress being made locally on cultural and religious discrimination against Muslims in employment, education, travel, or law enforcement? Moderator: Julia Shearson, Director, Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Ohio), Cleveland Chapter. Panelists: Akrum Jamal, President, Islamic Center of Cleveland and Sarah Mohammed, Vice-President, Muslim Student Association, CSU.

**To Receive YouTube
 Videos of Community Forums**

Contact Sarah Megenhardt,
 Director, Community Relations
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Sundays at 9:30 am

**Coffee, Conversation
 and Community**



January - April 2016
**First Unitarian Church
 of Cleveland**

A Series of Discussions
 on Important Issues that
 Impact our Lives

ALL ARE INVITED

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