

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 73, #41, May 8, 2011

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Of COLUMBUS
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WORSHIP SERVICES

May Theme: Community

May 15, 2011 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

“Voices from the Wellspring”

Social Justice Offering

May 22, 2011 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Overlapping Communities”

May 29, 2011 10:00 A.M. (one service only)

Rev. Kathleen Fowler

“ General Assembly: Becoming Progressive and Prophetic in our Faith”

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► "Getting to Know UU" meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge, following each service. Anyone interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and about the First UU Church of Columbus is welcome.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

8:00a UU Food Co-op
 1:00p Archives Organizing
 7:00p Memoir Writing
 7:00p Covenant Group Steering Committee
 7:00p Community and Questing
 7:00p Board meeting: Budget Review
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, May 12, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Expressive Collage; Shinto; RE Council
 7:30p Chalice Choir; Healing Journey

Friday, May 13, 2011

7:30p Menu for the Future; All-Souls Contra Dance

Saturday, May 14, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Parents of Infants & Toddlers; Improv Dance II
 3:00p Settlers 30-Something

Sunday, May 15, 2011

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15/11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
 10:30a/12:15p Spring CommUnity Fair
 10:15a Choir Warmup
 10:30a/12:15p Getting to Know UU
 11:00a Coming of Age
 12:30p Strategic Planning
 1:00p Youth Group; Pastoral Team
 1:00p Prehistoric Goddess Study

Monday, May 16, 2011

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
 7:00p BREAD Team

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

9:30a Archives Organizing
 1:00p Cancer Support Group
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir
 7:00p Zen Meditation;
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir
 7:00p Sound Techs
 7:00p Stewardship Committee
 7:00p Book Bites
 7:30p Finance Committee
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
 7:00p Membership Committee
 7:00p UU Humanists
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, May 19, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Building & Grounds Committee
 7:00p Communications Committee
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal; Healing Journey

Friday, May 20, 2011

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

Saturday, May 21, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation; Computer Swap 'n Drop
 9:00a Path to Membership
 11:00a Sound Team

Sunday, May 22, 2011

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15/11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
 10:15a Choir Warmup
 10:30a/12:45p Getting to Know UU
 11:00a Coming of Age
 1:00p UU Visual Artists
 1:30p Wellspring
 2:00p PFLAG
 6:00p Bridge Group (499-2434)
 7:00p Choir Spring Concert

Monday, May 23, 2011

6:45p GLBT Book Discussion Group
 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

9:30a Archives; Newsletter Folding
 1:00p Cancer Support Group
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir
 7:00p Zen Meditation
 7:00p Being an Atheist or Agnostic
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Goddesses in Training
 7:30p Men's Spirituality
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:30p Life Stories
 7:00p Memoir Writing; Board of Trustees
 7:00p Community and Questing
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

ESOL meets MWF at 9:30a; FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets on Mondays at OSU, 7:30p

**The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, May 22
 Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder
 6:00p - e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com**

The most moving Mother's Day statement I ever read was the text of a sermon by the Rev. Susan Milnor, a colleague then serving a Universalist congregation in Minneapolis. Susan talked about the deep and lasting depression she went through following the very premature birth of her daughter Abigail. It was weeks before she could summon the courage to hold tiny Abigail. During that time the mothering Abigail received was given by nurses and her father, Terry Sweetser, also a UU minister. Susan made an important distinction between mothers and mothering, one I've remembered ever since, as she used her Mother's Day sermon to thank both her husband and near strangers on the hospital staff for giving her daughter the gift of mothering which she was not able to give herself, at first.

So, to all of you who have offered the touch of unconditional love, may you know that the gift of your blessing is received, and welcomed, and that gratitude is yours. In that spirit, let me offer you the lyrics of the late folk singer Stan Roger's song, *Delivery Delayed*:

*How early is "Beginning"? From when is there a soul?
Do we discover living, or, somehow, are we told?
In sudden pain, in empty cold, in blinding light of day
We're given breath, and it takes our breath away.*

*How cruel to unformed fancy, the way in which we come
Overwhelmed by feeling and sudden loss of love
And what price dark confining pain, (the hardest to forgive)
When, all at once, we're called upon to live*

*By giant hand we're taken from the shelter of the womb
That dreaded first horizon, the endless empty room
Where communion is lost forever when a heart first beats alone
Still, it remembers, no matter how it's grown*

*We grow, but grow apart
We live, but more alone.
The more to be, the more to see,
To cry aloud that we are free
To hide our ancient fear of being alone*

*And how we live in darkness, embracing spiteful cold
Refusing any answers, for no man can be told
That Delivery is delayed until at last we're made aware
And first reach for love, to find 'twas always there*

in peace,

Eric

Rev. Eric Meter

◀ ANNUAL MEETING ▶

and Mini-Potluck Lunch!

Please mark your calendar to attend the Annual Meeting on **Sunday, June 12 at noon**. The meeting will follow the 10:00am service and a mini-potluck to keep stomach grumbling to a minimum. Your presence makes a difference and we want your input. **Elections** will be held for 2011-12 Board Members and Leadership Development Committee roles, **budget approval** and **reports** on the health of your church. Bring a little something tasty to eat and we will see you there.

AUCTION 2011 UPDATE Well, we made it, thanks to all of you! Our net proceeds were \$28,240.00. We were budgeted to make \$27,500.00.

We look forward to another exciting Auction in 2012!
-- Jo Anne St. Clair, Auction Co-Chair

NEWS FROM SYC Jan Waters is retiring! She started teaching at our preschool in 1973 and became the director/teacher, serving from 1987 through 2005. She then retired as the director, but remained a teacher in the two-year-old classes through this year.

We are going to miss Jan so much, but she assures me that she will come and volunteer next year and will remain as a consultant for all of us. Jan always made sure the teachers at SYC were keeping the child's perspective as the most important factor when making any decision at SYC. "The child is always at the center" is the mantra.

One of the important contributions Jan has made to SYC is her emphasis on including parents as partners in our work with children. She has always recognized that parents know their children better than we teachers do...they are the experts when it comes to their own child. This is why it's so important that we work together. Also, Jan has made our school much more welcoming to families in general. During her time as director, we started having family breakfasts and lunches, more parent coffees, parent education with our own SYC teachers and the encouragement to include parents in our classroom as much as possible. SYC is a much more welcoming and collaborative place because of Jan...one of the many things we have to thank her for.

She also increased our school's professionalism by working with us to become accredited by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*. She made SYC a nationally recognized program by networking with other early childhood professionals from California, New York and *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*. She encouraged us to do workshops at the national, state and local levels, and she wrote – with several other teachers – and then published, writings in three texts used by teacher's colleges (including

Columbia, Bank Street and Pacific Oaks), two articles in *Parent* magazine and one in *Young Children* magazine.

Jan truly has made SYC what it is today, and we are all dedicated to continuing her legacy. If you would like to write her a note to thank her for how she affected your family or children, we would love to pass it along to her. You can put it in the School for Young Children mailbox in the Volunteer Workroom, or send it as an email to sydirector@firstuucolumbus.org. We will make sure she gets it. – Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director

A VERY SPECIAL OFFER! Seniors, do you have a story to tell? Would you like the story of your life or a special memory/event in your life recorded for posterity? **Wednesday, May 25, Life Stories** comes to First UU.

First UU Youth Ellie Hall and her mother Gail Hall will film you talking about your life. A copy of this recording will be archived at First UU and the first 12 people to sign up will receive a copy of their own to keep or share with a loved one. After that the cost will be \$5.00 to cover the cost of the DVD and DVD case.

The details: call Gail Hall at 614 326-0344 or email her at: mintjuleps@gailsporch.com to set up a date for the recording. The recordings will be filmed in Slowter Lounge on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and should last for about 30–45 minutes. Before your appointment, plan ahead what direction you want your recording to go, and what you want to talk about. Index cards might be helpful. You can choose if you want to talk by yourself, or bring a family member or friend. The recording will start with Gail asking you a couple of general questions to lead you into the event you want to talk about. If you don't have one particular event that you want to discuss, Gail can ask you some questions about where you grew up, what it was like during that time period, how you met your spouse, questions about special friends, family, your children, your career, military service, travel etc. You choose the story you want to tell.

You don't have to have your own reality TV show for your story to be interesting – we want to hear stories that real people lived – real people like you.

Everyone has a story to tell.

BLOOD DRIVE Please mark your calendars for a Red Cross Blood Drive to be conducted in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, June 4, 10am to 2pm**. Information is available at the Caring Table along with a sign-up sheet for volunteers (we need four) and cookies.

GLTBQ & ALLIES BOOK GROUP We will watch Part II of the movie version of *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner. May 23, 6:45-9:45pm. All are welcome.

Our next regular meeting after that will be held on **Monday, June 27, 7:30-9:30pm**. We will be discussing

the written and movie versions of this Pulitzer prize-winning play.

The book group is open to all, regardless of orientation or gender expression. Contact Caroline Rayner crayner@columbus.rr.com or 447-1167.

FCACO The last informational presentation of the season for the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio will be on **Monday, May 23**, in Room 8, 7:00pm.

We are a non-profit group actively helping people in the Central Ohio area to be wiser when it comes to buying funerals and planning ahead. We have contracts with a local funeral home in Columbus and one in Springfield where our members can receive substantial discounts. Each funeral/cremation package is a fixed price for a fixed service so you know exactly what you'll be paying. Even more important, our contract with these two funeral homes stipulates that they will not try to sell you any other services than what you have contracted for as a member. We do not sell pre-payment plans. We don't sell insurance. We provide you with heaps and heaps of information and we do that free of charge. We are a membership organization that began at this church in 1953. Membership fees (one-time \$40 upon joining) help us pay our rent, phone and printing costs.

Please come to the meeting and learn more about us, or check out our website at www.funeralsohio.org. For information, phone Phyllis Byard 846-2747

FCACO ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (the Memorial Society) will be held **May 14, 2011, 1:00 pm** at the Maple Grove United Methodist Church, corner of Henderson and High Streets. The featured speaker, Robert Hendrix, is a lawyer specializing in Elder Law. He will present several case histories illustrating the need for certain documents as we age. Bring your questions. No reservation is needed if you are attending the presentation only.

To attend the luncheon at 12:00 noon (sandwiches and chips, etc.), please call the FCACO office at 263-4632 so that we may make an accurate headcount for food purchase. We will ask for donations at the door for the luncheon.

GARDENING CLUB will sponsor another All-Church Plant Share, **Sunday, May 22** in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone who brought seeds, seedlings, and plants to the first "Share." Fennel, raspberries, tomatoes, hosts and other delights appeared. For the May 22 encore, feel free to share houseplants as well. This is a friendly "swap" -- no need to bring one to accept one (or more). – Chris Hardin

ANNUAL REPORTS Attention all committee chairs and group leaders: Now is the time to turn in your group's annual report which should contain the group's mission statement, a list of group members, and a summary of the year's accomplishments, activities, and changes. Send reports to Marian Garcia at marian@firstuucolumbus.org, or leave them in her mailbox in the Volunteer Workroom. In order to compile these in time for the Annual Meeting, they must be turned in by **Thursday, May 19**. For more information, please call 267-4946, ext. 21.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES

1) First Annual First UU Computer Fair & Electronic Recycling Swap, Saturday May 21, 8:30am till noon. Bring any old computers, monitors, TVs, stereos...electronic equipment, battery operated gadgets/toys, old printers, cables/wiring, scanners, disk drives, routers, modems, cell phones and even batteries...working or not. See something you like that someone else brought? Take it home! We will recycle what's left! Free!

2) Computer Tune Ups: We will clean up spyware, check for viruses, optimize the system, etc. \$50. Bring PC (no cables/monitors) and, if laptop, bring power cord. Contact Tim Hooks, hookstj@gmail.com or Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org for more information. Same date and time as above.

WHO AM I: AGES 1 TO 100 This summer's art will be self portraits of church members. Make your SELF PORTRAIT based on what you like to do/what you believe/what you look like/what you love. It does not have to look like you (although this is welcomed). This art includes 2-D, 3-D, and words (poetry in large print). All works must be framed with a wire for hanging. This is open to adults and children. One to two pieces per artist. The show will be July 1- August 28. **Take-in dates are Sunday, June 26, 11-12 and Monday, June 27, 5-6 pm.** If you wish to participate please email Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com, 614-447-1223

BOOKBITES Meets **May 17** in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9 pm. We'll continue our *Round the World* reading: discuss a book about India, fiction or nonfiction. Questions: Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

RAFTING Spring is in the air, so you are invited to an all church white water rafting trip!

We will be rafting the Gauley and New River in West Virginia. We will leave the church at 10:00 AM on May 28 for our 3 1/2 hour drive to the Class VI site for platform tent camping. We will raft on Sunday and return to Columbus on Monday. The cost will be about

\$120.00 per person. Fee covers rafting and lodging. Meals will be on your own, except Sunday lunch and dinner and Monday breakfast. There are many options for non rafters. Families are welcome but children need to be over 12 for rafting. Child care is the responsibility of parents. For more information- check the website www.classVI.com, or talk to Chuck Wolfe, 337-9620, or Pat Larson, 268-7670.

CAMPING at Delaware State Park Friday, June 17-Sunday, June 19 - Join other UU families and friends for weekend of camping - tent or trailer. Enjoy communal meals, hiking, swimming or just relaxing. About \$32 if you share a site. Find us on Facebook: First UU Columbus Camping or contact Patricia Boughton, patkap@wowway.com or 860-1164.

KROGER REWARDS HELP SUPPORT FIRST UU Register your card during May. If you have a Kroger rewards card, you are able to help the church at no cost. You will still retain all your credits, points, and fuel perks. In addition, Kroger will send a quarterly check to the congregation.

Please stop by the table in Fellowship Hall if you do not already have a Kroger Card. We have instructions on how to register your card indicating First UU as your community rewards sponsor.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AT FIRST UU How can our congregation show true hospitality to visitors? It is said that a congregation has seven minutes to welcome a first time visitor, specifically at the end of the service. It is the person sitting closest to a visitor who is our model of "true hospitality." If someone near you at the end of the service is unfamiliar, or, more obviously, wearing a visitor's name tag, what can you do? Introduce yourself. Ask what brought them here today, what are they seeking? If this is a return visit, what have they found? Then listen, deeply with a holy curiosity that reveals the love and acceptance we have found here.

- Susan Williams

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesday at 7:30pm
May 11 - Mothers (all); May 18 - Marian Clover and her poetry; May 25 - Talking Circle
-- Jeanni Ray, 985-6176

HAL WALKER CONCERT May 21, 2011 at 8:00pm. All Souls UU Church, 25 Church Street, Bellville, OH , (419) 886-3497. Many of you know Hal from his 15 years at Summer Institute. He is the director of music at the UU Church of Kent and a leader of worship in UU churches throughout our district. Hal makes his living as a visiting musician in schools throughout Ohio.

We here at First UU will have an opportunity to see Hal up close and personal on August 6 and 7, but if you would like a preview – come to the concert in Bellville!

SOCIAL JUSTICE



SOMETHING NEW...YOUR INPUT NEEDED

At First UU, justice work is undergoing a major transformation with the proposed **Justice Action Ministry (JAM)**, a multi-generational, multi-racial, and often musical, celebration of the work of justice. We're jammin'!

We are starting with proposed changes to the church Standing Rules. These are available on the church website (firstuucolumbus.org), and will be posted on the bulletin board in the Window Hallway in addition to the printing below. Please provide your feedback on these changes, or the JAM effort, to any of the *Jam Transformation Team* (David Maywhoor, Rich Humenick, Tim Hooks and Ray Nandyal). The changes will be voted on by the Board of Trustees.

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. quoting Amos, *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (April 1963)

The following is the proposed JAM section of the First UU Standing Rules:

We attract others to our faith movement by actively and publicly modeling our principles and Mission Statement. Our spiritual lives are inseparable from the struggle for equal access to food, clean air and water, housing, education, employment, health care, and legal defense as well as respect for the rights of women, people of color, immigrants, religious minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered humanity. This is based on our belief in inherent worth and dignity of every human being and in the interdependent web of life.

Toward this end, the Justice Action Ministry (JAM) is organized to be a ministry of the entire church body. For purposes of church governance, it will be treated as a committee.

JAM

- is the unified work of the Board of Trustees, committees, youth, choir members and musicians, covenant groups and staff of First UU, and
- will boldly engage the justice issues of the day and will provide church members ample opportunities for public witness of their faith.

Responsibilities. The responsibilities of JAM include:

1. At the Annual Meeting every other year, present a slate of six justice areas (for example, anti-poverty, immigration reform, women's rights including reproductive choice, criminal justice system reform, and so on) out of which the congregation will select four to focus on during the following two years. The focus will allow us to pool our resources better and is not intended to affect church members' support for justice issues that fall outside these four justice areas.
2. JAM leadership will consist of two co-chairs and four JAM coordinators, each representing the four justice areas selected by the congregation.
3. Create and maintain a JAM volunteer database that will allow us to contact church members interested in congregation-selected justice areas.
4. Review proposals and select social justice projects proposed by church members or friends that require financial resources or volunteer support.
5. Disburse funds contributed by church members and from other sources to support social justice projects of the church. Funds received in support of JAM will be accepted through the normal approved receipt process.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: JAM is charged with promoting and publicizing the work of the UUSC. It has the responsibility of raising funds for the UUSC, using materials as the UUSC may offer. It shall not conduct any sort of general solicitation within the congregation without specific approval of the Board of Trustees.

COLUMBUS PRIDE WEEKEND Mark your calendars! On June 18 First UU along with North UU and Ohio Meadville district groups will march with other groups of faith, service and fun to celebrate Pride Week in Columbus. Watch your newsletter for more details. Car pooling from church will be available. Sign up at the GSA table. Contact Bob Rice, (bricejr@gmail.com) for more information



On Monday, May 2, over **2,900** people gathered at Veterans Memorial to press community leaders to **STOP Wasting Money and STOP Wasting Lives**. Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) **First Unitarian Universalists and their guests** were there, *even though* it was a rainy night and the Vets Memorial parking lot was filled by 6:30 p.m. **(If you were at the BREAD Nehemiah Action and did not turn in a ticket or could not find parking and left, please inform Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, 563-0536, or alice37@insight.rr.com, or any other member of First UU's BREAD Team** to help us plan for May 7, 2012.)

Because of the large number of attendees, we won some tremendous commitments from various public leaders:

- Municipal Court Judge Paul Herbert agreed to work with BREAD to develop a plan to conduct pre-sentence screening for the **30,000** criminal cases seen by the Court every year so that Judges can give more appropriate sentences;
- Public Defender Yeura Venters and County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien will work with BREAD to identify and get implemented best practices that can be used to decrease incarceration for juvenile offenders;
- Steve Wermuth committed the Ohio Department of Health to work with BREAD to convene hospital CEO's to develop a plan to redirect the thousands of people with chronic conditions who use the ER instead of getting continuous care;
- Columbus City Schools superintendent Gene Harris will "do everything (she) can" to double the investment of the schools in the KEY anti-truancy program; and
- County Treasurer Ed Leonard will do "everything in (his) power to establish a Land Bank by November.
- Together, these actions will benefit tens of thousands of people in Central Ohio directly and all of us indirectly. Because of the largest turnout ever at a Nehemiah Action, BREAD...Rises!

Best wishes to: **Barb Fredin** and **Bill Fiorini** and to Ben Baillieul (son of **Tom and Deb Baillieul**) and Kim Carvey. Both ceremonies took place at the church on April 30.

We wish **Art Holdford** and **Patricia Liddle** well as they make a life time commitment to care for each other.

Happy 90th birthday to **Jean Werts** (May 6).

On May 10, we will celebrate **Rev. Mark Belletini's** call, 13 years ago, to become our senior minister.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Mesler-Evans** who reports she "has landed" a summer job teaching music in Palm Harbor, Florida starting in June.

Congratulations to Ryan Conroy, son of **Carol Jones Hughes** who was recently awarded his Executive MBA from the University of Florida. Ryan grew up at First UU and is an alumnus of SYC.

Congratulations are also in order for **Claire Bauza**. A retrospective of Claire's 50 years of Art Making will be showcased at the Jung Association of Central Ohio JungHaus from May 21 through July 2.

Ramona Palm-Hauser has graduated with a degree in Equine Business from Midway College in Kentucky. She is moving back to Columbus the week of May 8-14. Congratulations and welcome home.

We are both happy and sad to announce that **Gretchen Faulstich** is leaving May 11 for a new job with Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services. We will truly miss her.

We send our thanks to **Bob Gordon** and **Steve Kraynak** for all they have done for our congregation. We wish them the best on their move to Tucson on May 13.

We send healing thoughts to **Jane Larson** who had a second surgery on her big toe and is in a non-walking cast for at least three more weeks.

We wish a speedy recovery to **Gretchen Curtis** who had knee replacement surgery and is resting at home.

GRADUATING? Please tell us if someone in your family is graduating this year. Caring Cards will be prepared, signed by the congregation, and sent to the graduate. Either fill out a *Joys and Sorrows* form found on First UU web site at firstuucolumbus.org) or contact Jane Reisman at jnreisman@aol.com.



WORDS ON MUSIC

by Tony McDonald, Music Director

One of the great aspects of our choral program is the tradition, established by Les Kleen, of performing two separate, complete concerts in the course of the year. It is a testimony to the program's commitment and quality that we can do this every year. One concert is, of course, the Holiday Concert in December, and the other is the Spring Concert, like the one coming up on **Sunday, May 22 at 7:00 pm**. Please note the unusual starting time of 7:00 pm, due to a scheduling conflict.

Sometimes we take the opportunity in the spring to present a large important choral work, but sometimes we go for the lighter, more fun pops style. This year it's the latter, with our show: ***Make Love, Not War – Music of the 60's and 70's***. All four choirs, Peace Pals, Rising Voices, Spirit of life and Chalice, will be on hand to help us take a trip back to some exciting, even revolutionary, times.

Peace Pals will present a short musical by Jill and Michael Gallina entitled ***Let's Pass It On!*** It consists of five songs that "encourage students to pass on good deeds, thereby promoting positive feelings that will, in turn, make the world a happier place." Rising Voices will sing a Beatles Medley and join with Spirit of Life on 59th Street Bridge Song ("Feeling Groovy")/Happiness. Spirit of Life will go on to sing Happy Together, Turn, Turn, Turn, and a medley of You've Got a Friend/Bridge Over Troubled Waters. Chalice will do Big Yellow Taxi, Sweet Judy Blue Eyes, Leavin' On a Jet Plane, What the World Needs Now Is Love and Don't Stop (thinking about tomorrow). Choirs will join together to sing Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine and Blowin' In the Wind.

A lot of the music for the concert has been arranged by the members of the music staff, who will get together to sing a Peter, Paul and Mary set. There will also be a duet of April Come She Will. Many numbers will be accompanied by acoustic guitars, bass and drums, along with Nathan on piano.

There will be a reception afterwards, also part of the tradition. **Please join us!!**



"Help us be the always hopeful gardeners of the spirit who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth as without light nothing flowers."

This favorite quote by May Sarton has been running through my mind a lot lately as I fill the tiny bed my landlord created for me with colorful flowers and a few edibles. It's great to be gardening again. To get dirt on my hands. To be filled with the gardeners' faith as defined by Paul in his letter to the Hebrews. Gardeners are always working with the "substance of things hoped for." We see the three-foot plant in the tiny seed and the graceful fennel in the ugly tuber. And we learn quickly that, though the potential exists in the tiny seed, it usually takes a lot more than luck for the plant to come to flower.

Gardeners learn many other things. We learn the absolute necessity of darkness. We learn that careful planning doesn't always bring what we hoped for. We learn that one person's weeds are another's salad. We learn that garden volunteers add a charm we couldn't achieve through adherence to landscaping principles. And, we learn the importance of both a time for very hard work and a time for sitting in the garden doing absolutely nothing but enjoying it.

Hope you are taking that time for enjoyment.

Jolinda

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education, dre@firstuucolumbus.org, office hours Monday-Thursday afternoons and by appointment

Religious Education

JUSTICE SUNDAY, May 15

1) Connect with Nature as a Family: *Justice Sundays for PreK/K at 10:30 am*

We end the year with the second of two nature experiences for the combined 9:15 and 11 am Sunday School sessions at 10:30 at Battelle Darby Creek Natural Play Area. The parents and children will explore the woods and creek together. The natural play area runs along Big Darby Creek and can be accessed from the Indian Ridge parking lot. The MetroPark is at 1775 Darby Creek Drive, Galloway, OH

Directions: From I-270, take the West Broad Street (U.S. 40) exit west. Go about 5 miles on Broad Street and turn left on Darby Creek Drive. Main entrance is about 3 miles on the right.

Indian Ridge Prairie: 2705 Darby Creek Drive, Galloway, OH 43119. Continue south on Darby Creek Drive past the main park entrance about one mile. Entrance is on the right, just south of Alkire Road.

2) Immigration is the focus

Elementary Group Learns About DREAMers, young people who were brought to this country by their parents who either didn't have documentation or who have lost their documentation. Most were brought to the U.S. as small children and have little connection with their parents' home countries. Many are outstanding students and community workers. They find as they get ready to graduate from high school that they have little future in the U.S. They can get student loans and often must pay the highest tuition rates. Jobs are very difficult to find and don't have much of a future and they always must fear being stopped. The Elementary Group will learn more about their lives first-hand.

Middle and High School Get Out the Word About Legal Rights The youth will gather to prepare *Know Your Rights* pocket cards for distribution to immigrants. The UUA and the National Day Laborer's Organizing Network and few other groups sued the administration to release documents about deportations. Those records showed that, contrary to what the administration has ordered field immigration enforcement agents to do, more than one quarter of all deportations are of people who have no criminal records. In Franklin County it is much worse. More than one half of all deportees have no criminal records. This is being accomplished by raiding apartment buildings and worksites. These pocket cards will provide practical information about how to deal with police and ICE agents.

May 22, 2011: End of Year Sunday School Party Games, treats and fun.

May 29, 10am - Summer Sundays begin with Summer coordinator Cindy Dillard. One session, one worship service at 10 begins then.

Adult Enrichment Programs

Improv Dance - Saturday, May 14, 11:00am. Please join us for free, creative movement to Broadway, soft-pop, and classical music! No registration necessary. Questions, call Barbara 390-9083.

Prehistoric Goddess. May 15, 1:00pm. We'll watch a Canadian Film Board video, *Goddess Remembered*. Please join us. Preregister at 433-0363.

Walking in Nature Fridays at 9:20am. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at Highbanks Metro Park on North High Street. Contact: Erica Scurr at escurr@juno.com, or 740-549-1518.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS Saturday May 14, from 11 AM to 1PM.

There will be no June meeting, so hope to see you at the upcoming May 14 gathering. Contact Nancy Powlick for more information at 451-4045 or lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

When you throw something away, where is AWAY? We give little thought to the environmental damage our lifestyles cause - for example, the discarded plastics that are decimating sea life around the world. That is why it is so important that we adhere to the mantra REDUCE (as in buying less and buying smarter), REUSE, and RECYCLE - in that order of priority. (A sustainable living tip from your Green Team)

I will be in Detroit by the time you read this, spelling my sister and spending the day with my mother. I will be staying with an old college friend and his partner. Gregg is very active in the Birmingham UU church, and their house is very close to the nursing home where my mother is right now.

I had all kinds of things I wanted to write about, but somehow, as the sun bids me outdoors and on my way to Michigan, I can't seem to remember what they are. I did mention to Alice Rathburn, also from Detroit, that she might want to look up the website for "Detroit Disassembled." Google it. It was an exhibit at the Akron Museum, and the photos are nothing less than astonishing. It will give you a bit of an idea about how my birth city has fallen on hard times, and let you see part of what I see when I am there.

Remember, we go back to a single service on the Memorial Day weekend, the May 29 at 10A.M.

By the way, GLBTQ Lobby Day is coming up on May 18, 2011 when you can talk to your state legislator about GLBTQ issues, no matter your orientation, gender, age etc. Open to all. Training available (contact Robert Ziegler – robert.ziegler@columbus.rr.com). I know it's midweek, and not convenient for some, but I hope that at least some church folk can be there since we are the UU congregation closest to the center of government in Ohio.

See you when I get back.



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame from Rabindranath Tagore 1940

(Tagore was part of a Hindu group associated with Unitarianism, namely, the Brahma Somaj)

People argue that in the assembly of creation
the ugly and the beautiful have equal recognition.
There exists no guard to bar either of them from entrance.
I, as a poet, know no arguments.
I see this universe, billions of stars and planets
that carry grace and grandeur,
a melody unhindered,
and I see in the sky a grand shining rose,
its millions of petals unfolded.

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Pianist

Marian Garcia, Office Administrator
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Rich Humenick, Chair, Board of Trustees
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Jessica Winters, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor
