

The  
**DISCOVERER**  
September 11, 2011

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF COLUMBUS  
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## WORSHIP SERVICES

*September Theme for All Ages: Hospitality*

**September 18, 2011**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

### **“Hospitality as a Mission”**

*JAM Offering; First Day of Sunday School; Autumnal Equinox Song #73*

**September 25, 2011**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

### **“The Door: Hospitality to Ourselves”**

*October Theme for All Ages: Forgiveness and Reconciliation*

**October 2, 2011**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

### **“Daring to Give Up Being Right”**

► "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, September 14, 2011**

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 6:30p Life Stories
- 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering Team
- 7:00p Memoir Writing group
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Yoga; Personnel Committee
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, September 15, 2011**

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Communications Committee
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Building Your Own Theology

**Friday, September 16, 2011**

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 6:00p Gay/Straight Alliance Family Potluck/Games

**Saturday, September 17, 2011**

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 10:00a Choir Workshop
- 11:00a Sound Team
- 12:00p OMD Multi-Gen Con

**Sunday, September 18, 2011**

- 8:30a Leadership Development Committee
- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:15 Choir Warmup
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Strategic Planning; Coming of Age Orientation
- 3:00p Marilyn Page Memorial Service

**Monday, September 19, 2011**

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; BREAD Team
- 7:00p Administrative Council

**Tuesday, September 20, 2011**

- 9:30p Archives Organizing
- 1:00p Cancer Support (to join, contact [se.schofield@hotmail](mailto:se.schofield@hotmail))
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Sound Techs; Book Bites
- 7:00p Stewardship Committee
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Finance Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011**

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 6:00p Workshop Leaders
- 6:30p Life Stories
- 7:00p Membership Committee; UU Humanists
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

**Thursday, September 22, 2011**

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance

- 11:00a Senior Gathering
- 7:00p Expressive Collage
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal; Healing Journey

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Path to Membership
- 9:00a Small Group Ministry Team
- 10:00a BREAD House Meeting
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class

**Sunday, September 25, 2011**

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:15a Choir Warmup
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 1:00p Small Group Ministry Training
- 1:00p BREAD House Meeting; UU Visual Artists
- 2:00p PFLAG
- 2:30p Ira "Bill" Simons Memorial Service
- 5:00p Covenant Group Facilitator Training
- 6:00p Bridge Group (499-2434)

**Monday, September 26, 2011**

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance

**Tuesday, September 27, 2011**

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group (see September 20)
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Goddesses in Training
- 7:00p Being an Atheist or Agnostic
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, September 28, 2011**

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op (contact [mary.boyd-brown@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:mary.boyd-brown@cvm.osu.edu))
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 6:00p Workshop Leaders
- 6:30p Life Stories
- 7:00p Memoir Writing Group; Board of Trustees
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Yoga
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

*FOCUUS (scott.1148@buckeyemail.osu.edu, ages 18-35) meets Mondays at OSU, 7:30p*  
*ESOL meets at the church on MWF at 9:30a (Friday's class is a Conversation Class)*

**The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, September 25**  
**Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)**  
**6:00p - e-mail articles to [olwfire@yahoo.com](mailto:olwfire@yahoo.com)**

By the time you read this, the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001 will be a thing of the past. Wreaths will have been placed, tears will have been shed, words will have been spoken, and then we will all have gone home. But, as I'm writing this column on the afternoon of the anniversary, I find my thoughts turning again and again to that otherwise beautiful Tuesday morning.

Those of us old enough to remember the day, all remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard the news of the planes striking the towers in New York City. As someone who avoids morning news television at all costs, I heard the news on the radio as I was driving to work. And, as there were rumors that California highways might also be targets, and the church in Livermore was just off Interstate 580, I was the only one to make it in to the office until much later that day. My ex-wife had moved to New York two months before, and was working just a few blocks from the World Trade Center. Amazingly I got through to her partner, who was able to tell me that Jennifer was okay, though it ended up taking her many hours to hike back home to Queens. Many lost loved ones that day, and all of us have our own stories to tell.

I was asked earlier if I was going to participate in the interfaith memorial celebration at the State House. It's actually going on at the time I'm sitting down to write this. I answered the question by saying that I only have so much memorializing in me, and that I'd rather spend my time at the celebration which Columbus' Interfaith Youth are putting on. I want tangible signs of hope these days. Especially so after I've just heard that there were seven shootings in Columbus last night. Seven. Somehow the war on terror seems to have missed facts like that. We have our work cut out for us, friends.

with hope,



Rev. Eric Meter

**CHURCH NEWS**

**HIGHLIGHTS of Board of Trustees Meeting,**

**August 11:**

A *task force* to discuss the question of changing the size of the Board has been recruited by Board Chair, Tim Hooks. They have not yet convened.

**Staff Reports:** *Rev. Meter* and Chaplain Dick Dawson share responsibility for Pastoral Team, but Dick is not able to do the work right now due to his illness. Eric cannot do all of the work that Dick does plus his other responsibilities, so he would like to build the team. • He reported that we have been offered a Chalice Lighter grant to hire a part time chaplain for Campus Ministry. *Rev. Belletini* has now completed three years of using monthly themes, so the themes will now start to repeat,

but with different sermons around them. • He is also aware that, in a few years, a plan will need to be developed for transition away from him being our Senior Minister as he will be preparing for retirement. • He will be gone for several days this year to do initial work on a program that is meant to develop ministers who want to become ministers of large churches.

*Jolinda Stephens* is on various committees at the regional and national level. • She is helping plan for General Assembly (GA), and our youth voted to make their Justice Trip be a trip to our Justice GA. • We will have more pressure to develop our young adult ministry here due to our new involvement in campus ministry. • She plans to add more classes to core curriculum for Adult Enrichment.

• No changes are planned for the curriculum for children and youth this year.

*Brian Hagemann* would like to put in place long term facilities planning, equipment replacing strategies, efficiency planning, and facilities inventory •The repair to the courtyard beam is being delayed until next summer; to be sure we have the right plan and the budget to do it. This will also allow us to do the major construction during the summer, a lower traffic time in the building.

**Personnel:** 1) *Jessica Winters*, our toddler room teacher, has resigned as of Labor Day. 2) We still need youth representation on the Board.

-- Respectfully submitted, Gina Phillips, Secretary

**SUNDAY BREAKFAST** Join us for cooking or eating Sunday breakfast, or for both. Eggs, bacon, tater tots, apples, oatmeal, coffee, and orange juice will be served starting at 8:45am. A requested donation of \$2 for adults, \$1 for children, under 12. FREE for first time visitors.

If feeding people is your thing, please contact Debra (debra.boyd@gmail.com) so she can help you find a spot on the cooking team which arrives at 8:00am to prepare the breakfast. Most team members cook one Sunday a month. We're also looking for someone who can shop every other week or so for the necessary groceries. You will be reimbursed for food, but not time or mileage.

**HEALING JOURNEY** Are you experiencing grief due to the loss of a family member or other loved one, a job loss, or the pain of another unwelcome life transition? If so, the Healing Journey may be for you. Together we share our stories, and learn how much we have in common with others who also know the experience of loss. *The group will meet from 7:30 to 9pm on Thursday nights, September 22 through October 27.* For further information and to register, please call Rev. Eric Meter at 267-4946 x23.

**REFLECTING A DECADE** The art of the *UU Visual Artists* is on display in the Gallery and Worship Center, September 7- October 30.

Join the artists for a reception on **Sunday, September 25, 12:45-2:30**. Hear the artists' stories of their work. AND, at First Friday, October 7, join UU poets and artists for their response to this art (see below).

For purchase information, call Deb Baillieul, 447-1223

**UU POETS UNITE** for our third annual **First Friday Presents Poets and Artists** evening on October 7, at 7:30p.m. in the Worship Center! Poets choose a piece/or pieces from current Art Show, *Reflecting a Decade*. Write a poem and share it on October 7. (Only one poem per poet, please). Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176 or email [jeanniray@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniray@gmail.com) by October 2, with artist and title of art piece, your name and the poem title. Any questions, contact me. October is *Ohio Poetry Month*. Please join us. See you on the 7th. - Jeanni

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY** *Wednesdays at 7:30pm*. Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176; [jeanniray@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniray@gmail.com).

**BOOKBITES** **September 20, 7 - 9pm** in Slowter Lounge. Returning to *Round the World* reading, the new topic is *Russia*.-- Kathleen Boston 262-4025.

**SENIOR GATHERING** *Thursday, September 22, 11 am to 1:15 pm* Again this year, we will have quarterly Senior Gatherings. These gatherings, sponsored by the ministers and the Pastoral Team, provide our older seniors an opportunity to come together for fellowship. There is a short worship service conducted by Mark and Eric and a short program, along with news and discussion about things going on in the church. A lunch is prepared and served by members of the Pastoral Team, and it is free. Rides will be provided if you will let us know you need one.

Mark your calendar for the other Thursday dates:

• **December 1** • **March 22** • **May 24**.

For more information ,contact Dick Dawson, 563-4855, or Carole Wilhelm, 889-1182.

**ATHEIST/AGNOSTIC CIRCLE** We will be hosting a showing of the film *The God Who Wasn't There* on Tuesday, September 27, 7:00pm. All are welcome.

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS** are available now. Stop by the table to see them on Sunday. They are full of 50% off coupons for restaurants, cultural centers, pizza places, cafes, bakeries, gas stations, dry cleaners, and many more places. The cost is \$30, with \$6 of it going to our church's Coming of Age group for their functions. Most of the coupons are good through November 1, 2012. Call Karin Erickson, 834-3988, with questions.

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## BUSINESSCARDSBUSINESSCARDSBUSINESS

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If you have a business card posted on the board located on the wall beyond the restrooms, please be aware that we will be taking down all cards from the card pockets on the last week of September. Starting October 1, you may post your cards again. Your new cards will be marked with the approximate date they are posted, and will be left on the business card board for 90 days from that date. If the board is not full, they will be left indefinitely. When the board is full, the first posted cards will be removed first. Please make sure your card includes an e-mail address and a phone number

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## BUSINESSCARDSBUSINESSCARDSBUSINESS

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**LIFE STORIES** Would you like to have your life history recorded on film? First UU Life Stories, which started as a way for seniors to record their life stories for posterity, is now open to adults, aged 50 and up. First UU Youth Ellie Hall and her mother Gail Hall will film you talking about your life. A copy of this recording will also be archived at First UU. For details: call Gail Hall, 326-0344, or email her at: [mintjuleps@gailsporch.com](mailto:mintjuleps@gailsporch.com) to set up a date for the recording. The recordings should last about 30 minutes. They can be done on an individual basis or with a group of friends or family members.

**PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!** If you had your photo taken last fall, please pick up your copy (one per household) and cross your name off the list.

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## JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

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**FOOD PANTRY** Hard times in Athens County. Last week I called Warren Hadden, number 2 man at Jobs and Family Services in the county. The call went to an answering machine. Last month 47 staff were laid off from an already understaffed county agency. Warren told me that more people are signing up for food stamps every day. More people are coming to the Feed My Sheep pantry every week.

How can you help? They need food: peanut butter and dried pinto beans, spaghetti, sauce, fruits and veggies.

It's time to start bringing winter clothing, blankets etc. Children's books are welcome, two for each food box!

And your empty aluminum cans are sold to buy food.  
-- Jacques Angelino



**BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) House/Listening Meetings:** Plan to attend one of BREAD's "House" meetings to connect with other First UUs and, most importantly, to help BREAD give a voice to those who have no voice. How? By sharing your concerns about our Central Ohio community. These concerns and those voiced by the other BREAD congregations will be voted down to one new problem for BREAD to address. Sign up for one of these important meetings in Fellowship Hall following services or by contacting the facilitator of the meeting you will attend.

- **Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** (refreshments at 9:50 a.m.), First UU – Room 6, Bob Rice, Host/Facilitator (313-7158)
- **Sunday, September 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** (refreshments at 12:50 p.m.), First UU–Conference Room, Chris Collins, Host/Facilitator (932-0980)
- **Sunday, October 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** (refreshments at 5:50 p.m.), First UU–Library/Conference Room, Bill Miller & Madelon Timmons, Host/Facilitators (766-9422)
- **Sunday, October 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** (refreshments at 5:50 p.m.), First UU–Rooms A and B, Wesley Thompson, Host/Facilitator (517-9070)
- **Sunday, October 16, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** (refreshments at 12:50 p.m.), First UU–Room 6, Alice Rathburn, Host/Facilitator (563-0536)
- **Wednesday, October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** (refreshments at 6:50 p.m.), First UU–Library/Conference Room, Bill Miller & Madelon Timmons, Host/Facilitators (766-9422)

For childcare, please notify the host/facilitator or Alice Rathburn at least one week prior to the meeting.

**BREAD Investment Drive:** Thanks to First UU's most recent BREAD investors–Jan Fleming, Kathleen and Joe Fowler, and Jane and John Reisman. Our congregation is helping to make a difference in the well-being of our Central Ohio community with investments of **\$7,690 so far**. Donations to BREAD by members and friends of its member congregations improve its ability to become less dependent on time-limited grants. BREAD is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible corporation, tax ID number 31-1467082. For more information: Alice Rathburn, [alice37@insight.rr.com](mailto:alice37@insight.rr.com), 895-2109, 563-0536, or [www.breadcolumbus.org](http://www.breadcolumbus.org).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** Along with the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, we will be hosting an **Issues Forum** at the church on Thursday, October 6, 2011. The informal "meet and greet" will start at 6:30pm and the forum begins at 7:00pm. WOSU's Ann Fisher will be the moderator. Don't miss it! There are some interesting issues on the November 8 ballot.

**Help** is needed for refreshments and other tasks. Please call Cathy Elkins, 267-5884, to volunteer.

► **TASTE JAM!** Your help is needed. Give just two hours of your time. Assist in cooking for Faith Mission. Come to the church at noon till 2 pm on **Friday, September 16**. Half of the regular group is on vacation and your participation will be greatly appreciated. All skill levels welcome. Contact Susan Vierow at First UU office (267-4946) or e-mail [office@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:office@firstuucolumbus.org).

Cooking for Faith Mission on the first and third Friday of each month has been a part of our Justice Action Ministry (formerly called Social Action) for many years. Those at the mission really enjoy and appreciate a "home" cooked meal of chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans – with cake for dessert. Hope you can join us on September 16. Thanks.

**IMMIGRATION POLICIES** The Phoenix General Assembly next year will focus on the injustice and cruelty of our nation's immigration policies. The Ohio-Meadville District has launched a program to help youth and young adults wishing to attend, but lacking necessary resources to be there. The **Phoenix Witness Project** seeks pledges from members of congregations to support OMD's commitment to full participation in this "Justice Assembly." Please pick up a form from the church office and make your pledge (it will be requested in two installments).

Steve Palm-Houser is coordinating First UU's Immigration projects and programs. [steve.palmhouser@gmail.com](mailto:steve.palmhouser@gmail.com) or (614) 397-3051].

**SPAN** Statewide single payer legislation has been introduced to the General Assembly under HB 287 and SB 112. Please write to support them. An on-line radio program featuring expert guests will debut on September 15, 8:30 pm, and continue monthly every 3rd Thursday. Listen and call in questions at [WCANradio.com](http://WCANradio.com)

**YWCA FAMILY CENTER 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Taco and Brownie Dinner** We got the e-mail, "Expect to feed 230 people." Well, I don't know that we fed 230 people, but it was close to it. Our cheerful crew of volunteers came through again. I cannot say enough about how much I appreciate the individuals who give of themselves every month. They are quite a classy bunch!

The gracious and elegant Candyce Walchevsky did the shopping. Sherri and Cariann Stubbs (one of the most reliable mother/daughter teams I know), Jan Voelker (welcome back, Jan), all prepared, cooked and served dinner. Rachel Holbert (with her pretty new hairstyle) served. Holly Borghese, Connie and Chris Ionow win gold medals for dishwashing.

Our volunteers know that we provide a valuable and appreciated service once a month. If you are interested in joining our team, please email me at [mccutcheonccathy@yahoo.com](mailto:mccutcheonccathy@yahoo.com). We will gladly welcome you. Very Gratefully yours, Cathy

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### CARING CORNER

Best wishes to **Jim Hodnett** and to **Judy Kleen**. Both have recently retired from Ohio State University. Congratulations to **Joe and Courtney Pierce** on the birth of Apollo Brayden on August 24; and to **Barry Keenan**, whose book, Neo-Confucian Self-Cultivation, was recently published.

Best wishes to **Sandy McNabb and Betsy Godwin**. Evonne McNabb and family announce Sandy and Betsy were married at the DesMoines, IA UU Church.

A speedy recovery to **Kay Fisher**, who had a partial knee replacement; to **Nancy Morr**, who had total knee replacement; to **Barry Keenan**, who had surgery on his ankle; and to **Karen Torvik** who had carpal tunnel surgery for her wrist on Thursday.

Our sympathy to the family of **Marilyn Page** who died on Saturday, September 3. Her memorial service will be at the church, *Sunday, September 18, at 3 pm*. Our condolences to the family of former member **Teri Li**, who died in Milwaukee following a bone marrow transplant to treat leukemia; and to the family of former member **Sherry Bidwell** on her recent death.

**INVITATION Karen Thimmes** invites us all to her Annual Birthday Open House at 1085 Trentwood Road. (near Kenny and Fishinger) on **Saturday, September 17, 3-9pm**. Optional potluck; some food and beverages provided. No gifts please, but consider a food donation for the Mineral Ohio food pantry (through First UU). Open mike, 5-7pm. Questions? 457-0409.

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### CARE AND SHARE TIME BANK

**CSTB Potluck – Friday, 16 September 6:00 PM – at Simply Living** Care and Share Time Bank Monthly Potlucks start up again Friday, 16 September at 6:00 PM at Simply Living Offices: 2350 Indianola Ave. Over 50 services now offered! Save money, make new friends, build our community. Sign up ahead of time at: <http://community.timebanks.org/jointb.php?gid=510>, or we'll do it with you that evening. You'll earn two time credits (good for an hour of service each from any members) for attending. Questions? Call Michael Greenman – 614-898-5825.

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**All**  
[www.1stuuSundaySchool.blogspot.com](http://www.1stuuSundaySchool.blogspot.com)  
**Ages**

[www.firstuuparent.blogspot.com](http://www.firstuuparent.blogspot.com)

**Faith**  
for  
**Development**

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I've just returned from **Better Together**, an event in remembrance of 9/11 created by the interfaith group I AM Youth (Interfaith Action Movement of Youth). It was just about two years ago that the Unitarian Universalist Association selected Lauri and her daughter Sami Nandyal for special training in leading interfaith youth events based on the work of Ibo Patel. They had a homework assignment - to organize an interfaith service project. With typical Nandyal over-achiever fervor, they put together an entire organization. Lauri and Sami pulled in Allegra and Susan Roscigno and Zerqa Abid. And soon they had their first project and more youth than they had dreamed of.

The service tonight was moving in many places. What impressed me the most was the evidence of strategy and tactics that were used to bring in more faith youth groups and win great allies. I AM Youth is on the brink of becoming a powerful force in Columbus for peace. A powerful force for change and renewal. I hope that Lauri, Sami, Susan and Allegra are basking in the glow. They have accomplished so much.

Lauri has taken a position in Cincinnati and while we will see her a lot of Sundays, she will not have the same level of involvement as she has had in the past. Although Lauri, as is typical for her, remained very much in the background tonight, I reflected again and again on what a wonderful tribute to her work with youth in Columbus. It looks like what she started will continue and will change the lives of many.

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious education  
[jolindast@gmail.com](mailto:jolindast@gmail.com)

### **Sunday School begins on September 18. Register NOW!**

We have difficulty preparing for your children when we don't know they are coming. For infants through 5th grade use this link: <http://bit.ly/nPvWgx>. For 6th grade and up use <http://bit.ly/ghlWFR>. The youth form is completed by the youth with only a few questions at the end for parents. The form for younger kids asks for feedback from last year primarily from the kids.

### **Our Whole Lives Sexuality Classes**

**1st Grade** – The 11am class begins on 9/18; the 9:00am class begins on 1/8/12. Parent and child orientation on 9/18.  
**5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade** is offered at 9:00am and begins 1/8/12.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** Begins on 9/18 and is year-long. Parent Orientation was held 9/11. Contact Cynthia Dillard.  
[cynthia.dillard6@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.dillard6@gmail.com)

**High School** Begins 9/18 at 11am.

All classes require informed consent. Classes are closed after the first meeting.

### **Multi-Cultural Family Kick-off Event on Friday, September 23, 6 to 9pm**

Potluck - bring your favorite cultural dish to share. Then share your ideas and vision for this updated version of an older much-loved group. Childcare available, if needed. Please RSVP to Ka Wa Berman. [ka\\_wa\\_berman@yahoo.com](mailto:ka_wa_berman@yahoo.com).

**The Enlightened Hippogriffs**, the Columbus chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance, is a group for everyone of any age who is a Harry Potter fan, and wants to work for justice and hone the magic of their creativity to make the world a better place. It meets the 2nd Sunday of each month, although a change in meeting time is contemplated. Contact Lynne Bieber [lynnebieber@gmail.com](mailto:lynnebieber@gmail.com).

**Building Your Own Theology** third Thursday, starting September 15, 7:30pm. Join Rev. Kathleen Fowler to reflect on your religious experiences and knowledge, as well as the writings of Unitarians, Universalists and Unitarian Universalists, within a community of seekers. The process of study, reflection, discussion, and credo-writing guides participants in examining and articulating their own and the community's theology.

**Community and Questioning**, (starting October 6. 7:00p) Please register at the AEP Table on Sunday or online at <http://bit.ly/pUgluL>. Provides a small group experience, focusing on spiritual practice of deep listening. Each individual is invited to share personal reflections on religious themes, such as the meaning of story and scripture, how we know what we know, loss and death, what it means to be alive, as well as the ups and downs of their daily lives.

**Anti-Racism for Collective Liberation Workshop** October 15 and 16. First UU hosts this district workshop Friday evening and all day Saturday. Join UU leaders from around the district to build community, learn ways to challenge racism, and build vibrant multi-racial movement for justice. The link for registration is: <http://bit.ly/pvpIVA>. Led by Chris Crass and Ari Clemenzi of the Catalyst Project that provided the training in non-violent action for those protesting SB 1070 in Arizona.

**Mark Your Calendar for Immigration As a Moral Issue** Six Thursday evenings at 6 pm, starting October 13. Pick up takeout, brown bag it, or stave off hunger with the nibbles, and explore both the factual and moral sides of immigration.

*Our new blog at [Firstuufamilies.wordpress.com](http://Firstuufamilies.wordpress.com) provides more detailed Sunday School and family news.*

## OMD Chalice Lighters Program

Have you heard the good news that First UU was awarded a Chalice Lighters grant for a campus chaplain? The grant will be used to help with our four-year program to support the Fellowship of Campus Unitarian Universalists (FOCUUS) at the Ohio State University, and eventually other UU campus ministries in the Columbus area. FOCUUS has been meeting weekly as an official OSU student organization. There are more than 30 young adults on the communication list with several non-student young adults attending the Monday night meetings. First UU ministers and the Director of Religious Education have been providing professional support for worship, covenant groups and other programming when their schedules allow. This is an exciting area of growth for our church, and your generosity in becoming a Chalice Lighter directly impacts how much FOCUUS will receive.

Besides contributing to this FOCUUS ministry at First UU, you have the opportunity to support Unitarian Universalism in a larger way that goes beyond the walls of this congregation. Each congregation that has received a Chalice Lighters grant in the past has been equally excited about the change possible for them. In these times of cultural anxiety, we need to let our light shine to speak the message of liberal religion loudly and clearly. A very important way in which we let our light shine is by participating in the Ohio-Meadville District Chalice Lighters program.

An OMD Chalice Lighter is an *individual* who pledges to respond with a \$10 contribution when the call comes to help a congregation in our district. There is a maximum of four “calls” per year. Consequently, the Chalice Lighter commitment for each year is \$40 to help our OMD congregations grow and thrive. Of course, Chalice Lighters are encouraged to give more if they are inspired by the project named in the call, but \$10 per call is the requested minimum commitment.

Some past Chalice Lighter Grant recipients have been:

- UU Fellowship of Morgantown, WV received a grant to jump start their Campus Ministry Program at West Virginia University.
- UU Congregation of the Ohio Valley received a grant to expand their fellowship hall space in their building.
- First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh received a grant to support the new multicultural outreach ministries.
- Smithton UU Congregation received a grant to purchase multi-media equipment for use in their outreach, campus ministry, and adult RE.
- Northwest Cluster of UU churches received a grant to do marketing and outreach through public radio and Google ads.
- Olmstead UU church received a grant to partially fund waterproofing their basement and removing mold from their basement rooms.
- UU Fellowship of Athens received a grant to rebuild their entrance way and deck and regrade their parking lot to make it ADA compliant.
- All Souls UU Congregation received a grant to hire their first minister in their history.

I am the new Chalice Lighters Rep for First UU for the OMD and I will be making announcements in the near future, seeking new Chalice Lighters participants. Forms can also be downloaded from [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org) under the heading “forms.” As of this spring, only 5% of our congregants are Chalice Lighters, but I am hoping to increase this number to at least 35%.

--Rev. Kathleen Fowler



## General Assembly 2011

I only had two days at GA '11 but I loved being there, and especially loved the music.

Here are a few things that caught my attention and I thought might have some application to our church.

Singing hymns· Of course it was incredible to sing hymns with thousands of people, but what was best was the back-up band that played with all the hymns. Piano, bass and drums, and sometimes guitar – all lent a richness of sound to the singing. It would be interesting to explore this kind of format, especially for our 9:15 service, where singing can be a little thin. How much more confident might we feel if there were more sound in the room? It would also give a different kind of atmosphere to that service, which some folks might like.

Also, singing was just from the words (at GA the words were on the jumbotron). What I loved about the screen was that people were looking up instead of having their heads buried in their books. It was like the Beatles sing-along, where people were all having a shared musical experience. Some of us don't read music, and I'd love us to have a choice that is less intimidating than reading music.

Many people there knew the hymns we did, but many others did not, which got me to thinking how nice it would be to do new hymns more often. Might it be possible to do hymns in conjunction with our monthly themes, so we do a hymn 2-3 times during the month and people actually get to know it?

Also, there apparently is a hymn descant book, which I could not find in the GA bookstore, but should be available online. It would be lovely to use the soloist at the early service or folks at the later service to play or sing the descant lines. I did buy for myself a book called "Let Joy Fill your Heart – Songs for Singing Meditation volume 1" which has some lovely songs in it.

There was also something amazing about the way they did music in the Sunday service. I'm not sure exactly what it was but there was a terrific flow and it seemed the music was an integral part of the service. I'm wondering if there isn't a way to include more music in everything we do as a congregation. It's a lovely spiritual unifier!

At the Plenary Sessions – the governance meetings, which are run somewhat like our congregational meetings - there was always music. Music to start, singing during breaks, or whenever we needed a change of pace. It gave a spiritual foundation to the work.

I am extremely grateful to the Leadership Development Committee for making it possible for me to attend GA. I loved deepening my connection to the faith I was born into, and gaining a more national perspective on our faith.

Lea Pearson

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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

Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator

Jennifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher

Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

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So the Water Ceremony is over, but I am still thinking about water. I had a leak in my tub serious enough to be concerned about the waste. My friend Jimmy said he could fix it. He did fix it, but because the problem presented complexities he didn't expect (torch and soldering), my water had to be turned off for four days.

I now understand in a more visceral way the focused work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee this year...namely, water, safe water, as a right for everyone. During the four days, I had no toilet use, shower use, sink use, washer usage or tap water. I had to go elsewhere to shower, and plan toilet trips with skill and foresight. I had to watch dishes pile to the ceiling, dirty clothes pile even higher and watch my whole environment go to hell in just a matter of days. (I had no time for a Laundromat...my work schedule had already begun).

You might want to check out the UUSC website (just put it into Google and you'll get there).

I've been giving money to various AIDS walks and rides that friends are participating in recently. (I have some very fit friends, I'll tell you that. Riding 500 miles on a bike makes my knees creek just thinking of it.) I am still amazed at how much fundraising – fundraising to cover necessary responses to real human conditions – still has to be done this way. Nothing against walking or bike riding...all for both of them, in fact. I just find it odd. It's like holding a ride or walk to raise money to pay for a necessary bridge across a river. But nevertheless, I give gladly.

My son is on vacation this week so I hope to spend some lengthier time with him. After I figure out how to deal with a mouse problem in my building that just leaked into my pantry. I was kept up all night twice last week by mice rustling the cellophane bag holding my steel cut oatmeal, and other grains. My pantry is now spread out all over my loft as I figure out what to do. Ah well. There are so many different sides to our UU image of the "interdependent web of life," no?

*Mark*

Rev. Mark Belletini

**The Inner Flame** part of a much longer *Poem of Hospitality* by Antoine Cassar 2009

Merħba (Welcome)  
welcome, come on in  
έλα, έλα  
vítej v mojı vesnici  
come, come,  
don't be shy  
me llamo Carlos,  
Зоя,  
Aucán,  
pleased to meet you  
welcome to the forest,  
to the city, to the coast,  
to the veldt  
have you travelled long?  
god sent you my friend,  
you brought the sun with you  
welcome to our kampung  
don't be scared, that's just  
the sound of the birds  
pecking on the iron roof  
children, children,  
look what they brought you!  
coloured pencils  
these flowers smell nice!  
look who's here,

how are you?  
benvingut, benvinguda  
come, I have something  
I'd like you to try  
Welcome to the homes of the world.  
Take a seat  
come, make yourself at home  
welcome to the  
multitude  
sit here by the fireplace,  
it's nice and warm  
je vous offre du thé?  
have a piece, go on,  
don't be shy  
I'm from the town,  
from the village,  
from the other side of the sea  
mapan erakutsiko al didazu?  
I'm from there, from here,  
  
from far, from near  
welcome to the open meadow  
welcome to our ger,  
with the door facing south  
kao esta sumena hao?  
stay with us a little longer,  
dinner will soon be ready  
our house is small  
yet as big as a world