

The
DISCOVERER
September 25, 2011

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit 131

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

93 West Weisheimer Rd. Columbus OH 43214

phone: 614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924

email: Office@FirstUUColumbus.org

web <http://www.FirstUUColumbus.org>

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

WORSHIP SERVICES

October Theme for All Ages: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

October 2, 2011

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Daring to Give Up Being Right”

October 9, 2011

Sorry, no information available at publication time.

October 16, 2011

Chaplain Dick Dawson

“ Living is Becoming”

Dick Dawson will be reinstated as First UU's Chaplain.

► "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 28, 2011

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

Thursday, September 29, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal; Healing Journey

Saturday, October 1, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:30a Egg Decorating Class

Sunday, October 2, 2011

- 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 Youth Group
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry
- 1:00p Garden Club; Labyrinths
- 6:00p BREAD House Meeting

Monday, October 3, 2011

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; Program Council

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

- 9:30p Archives Organizing
- 10:00 Artists Way Extension
- 1:00p Cancer Support (to join, contact se.schofield@hotmail)
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Caring Committee; Justice Action Ministry
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:35p Worship Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

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

Thursday, October 6, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 6:30p Issues Forum
- 7:00p Community and Questing
- 7:00p Learning to Knit & Crochet
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Friday, October 7, 2011

- 9:30a ESOL Conversation Class
- 12p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 6:30p First Friday Potluck
- 7:30p UU Artists & Poets

Saturday, October 8, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 10:00a Chalice Choir Retreat
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class
- 11:00a Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Sunday, October 9, 2011

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Enlightened Hippogriffs; Sunday Forum
- 1:00p Green Team
- 1:00p Wellspring
- 6:00p BREAD House Meeting
- 7:30p Journey of the Universe

Monday, October 10, 2011

- 6:30p BREAD House Meeting
- 7:00p Adult Enrichment Committee
- 7:00p Executive Committee; UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group; Library Team
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Feminism 3.0; Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Social Committee; This Month in Science
- 7:00p UU Animal Ministry; Wellspring
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

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

***FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets Tuesdays at OSU, 7:30p
ESOL meets MWF at 9:30a (F: Conversation Class)***

**The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, October 9,
Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com**

LINKS

I have a plug to make this time around, but to do so there's a story I have to tell first.

The other night I went to hear Lucy Kaplansky perform with John Gorka and Eliza Gilkyson. During the intermission I noticed that Lucy had a CD for sale of her singing her father's songs and I bought it without a second thought.

Years ago a friend introduced me to Lucy's music and made sure we didn't miss her concert when she was next in town. The high point of the concert was her father coming on stage while Lucy took a short break. While she has long lived in New York City, her father was a retired math professor from the University of California, and while math was his vocation, Irving Kaplansky also loved to play piano and write songs of a mathematical nature. So after he played piano while his daughter, a psychologist turned singer/songwriter, had her break, Lucy joined him on stage and they sang his funny math songs. It was charming and lovely, a tribute and a gift of love all at the same time. This was in the autumn of 2000. Irving died in 2006 at the age of 89.

It was only when I returned home the other night that I noticed that their performance that night had been recorded and I now held a copy of it in my hands. This was more of a gift than I had known.

Next month it will be 20 years since my father died, so the emotions that welled up when I listened to Irving and Lucy were mixed with more personal reflections as well.

What I want to lift up to you is to seriously consider a gift that Gail and Ellie Hall are extending to members of our religious community. As has been advertised in the last few issues of this newsletter, the mother and daughter team are recording life stories of those who would like to make a gift of those stories to their families. You may think that your stories are not really the stuff of legends, let alone the basis of a gift to the next generations. Well, Irving Kaplansky's *A Song About Pi* didn't win any awards either. But it remains a treasure all the same. Your own stories are no less gifts of love.

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

USHERS NEEDED for the 9:15 AM celebration on Sundays. If you are willing to be an usher, please e-mail Earl Wurdlow at earlword@yahoo.com. Thanks.

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 at 267-4946 x23.

MEN'S SPIRITUALITY First UU Church has two Men's Spirituality groups. They explore, in a non-threatening, spiritually enriching environment, what it means to be male in the 21st century. These are not "drop-in" groups. It's an ongoing journey, based on trust and confidentiality. A typical group is 7-10 members who meet on a regular basis. Currently there are a couple of potential openings. To learn more, call Greg Houston, (614) 562-7779

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS The next meeting is on **Saturday, October 8 from 11am to 1pm.** . Bagels and drinks will be available. Contact Nancy Powlick for more information at 451-4045. lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

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 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.

BOOKBITES We will meet October 18 in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9 pm. To continue our reading around the world, the new topic is “**The Balkans.**” Call Kathleen Boston 262-4025 with questions

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.

All Soles Contra Dance
Friday, October 14 / Fellowship Hall
Teaching Session at 7:30/ Dancing 8:00-10:30
Cost \$7 (\$4 for ages 12-24); Free childcare*
<p>All are welcome! Sponsored by the Social Committee, this monthly contra dance features prompting by a caller and always live music. No experience required. No need to bring your own partner (most of us don't!). October dance welcomes great Louisville caller Susan Moffett, with local legends Sandy Jones on fiddle and John Sherman on guitar. Sandy and John just performed at Dublin Irish Festival. All Soles dances are intergenerational – young families are encouraged to try it. *For the very youngest, childcare is now provided by Jenifer Bojanowski, First UU Toddler Room teacher and SYC teacher! More about contra dance: http://firstuucolumbus.org/AllSoles</p>

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. The books are available on Sundays after church services. Call Karin Erickson, 834-3988, with questions.

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.

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 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.

LABYRINTHS If you have a curiosity about labyrinths, join us for one or all sessions to introduce labyrinths, and walk a few in the Columbus area. We will meet after the 11am service, so bring your own snack or lunch. Then, we will carpool to two or three labyrinths to experience walking them. Labyrinths are an ancient symbol found in all cultures and have become a wonderful spiritual practice. Join us Sunday, October 2 and/or Sunday, October 16, 12:30 -3pm. Optional third opportunity to walk the outdoor labyrinth at Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center in Blacklick will be Friday, October 22, 7-8:30 pm. \$5 donation to Shepherd's Corner is requested. Call Tina Thonnings for details: 614-436-2902 or email ktgratitude@yahoo.com.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

NO MORE DEATHS An appeal to our congregation a few weeks ago for much-needed help for *No More Deaths* (NMD), a UU Tucson church-supported migrant rescue group that works along the Mexico-US border led to a 40 lb shipment last week being sent to Tucson!

Our thanks to all who brought the following goods to the church office: 25 new and used “Back-Pack School Bags” and 88 pairs of heavy socks. The back-packs are used by the NMD volunteers to carry gallon bottles of water into the wilderness to be left for migrants crossing the dangerous Sonoran Desert. These often provide lifesaving relief to thirsty men, women and children. The socks provide protection to injured and blistered feet treated by NMD medical personnel Your support for this program will provide real and meaningful aid to many people who are merely seeking a better life and instead often find suffering or even death in an unforgiving desert. We, as UUs, are making a difference in this unfortunate situation. Follow our immigration program progress over the next few months as we move forward to the Phoenix “Justice Assembly” in June of 2012!

FOOD PANTRY Hard times in Athens County. 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

FAIR TRADE MINISTRY The Fair Trade Table is open for business every third Sunday after both services! On **October 16**, come and savor the taste of our newest product: fairly traded olive oil from Palestine! We'll also have coffees (ground and whole bean), chocolate bars, teas, almonds, and cocoa. We need volunteers! If interested in helping out, please contact Barbara Taylor at firstuufairtrade@gmail.com. Thanks for your support of small farmers, sustainability, and economic justice!

GSA NEWS The First UU Gay Straight Alliance is ramping up!

►Join the GSA Standing on the Side of Love AIDS Walk team on October 8. Register on-line:

http://arcoh.convio.net/site/TR/Events/General?fr_id=1050&pg=entry&s_regas= or by contacting Annie Kiser, annie.kiser@gmail.com, for more information.

►Donate to the GSA SSL AIDS Walk team. Come to the GSA table in Fellowship Hall next Sunday to make a donation.

►The GSA is organizing a community-wide **Rededication and Solidarity Ceremony** on Saturday, November 5. This ceremony to give same- and opposite gender couples an opportunity to rededicate their life commitment to one another and stand in solidarity supporting all people to love and marry without restriction. Contact Bob Rice, bricejr@gmail.com, if you want to help host this event.

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**. 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. 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.

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 third Thursday. Listen and call in questions at WCANradio.com



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 in Fellowship Hall for one of these important meetings following services or by contacting the facilitator of the meeting you will attend.

• **Sunday, October 2, 6:00-8:00pm. (refreshments at 5:50pm)**, First UU–Library/Conference Room,

Bill Miller and Madelon Timmons, Host/Facilitators (766-9422)

• **Sunday, October 9, 6:00-8:00pm (refreshments at 5:50pm)**, First UU–Rooms A and B,

Wesley Thompson, Host/Facilitator (517-9070)

• **Monday, October 10, 6:30-8:30pm (refreshments at 6:20pm)**, Doug Rossiter (Host/Facilitator),

6610 Masefield, Worthington, (436-9266)

• **Sunday, October 16, 1:00-3:00pm (refreshments at 12:50 pm)**, First UU–Room 6, Alice Rathburn,

Host/Facilitator (563-0536)

• **Wednesday, October 19, 7:00-9:00pm (refreshments at 6:50pm)**, First UU–Library/Conference Room,

Bill Miller and 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 with investments of **\$7,690 so far**. Donations by BREAD members and friends 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, 895-2109, 563-0536, or www.breadcolumbus.org.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations, Mark! On September 22, 1979, Mark Belletini was ordained into the ministry of Unitarian-Universalism.

Congratulations are in order for Jolinda Stephens. Jolinda was recognized at the 9/11 “Better Together” Interfaith Action Movement for her exemplary social justice work for immigration reform and against Arizona’s SB1070.

Let's wish Kate Erstein the best of luck on her move to California.

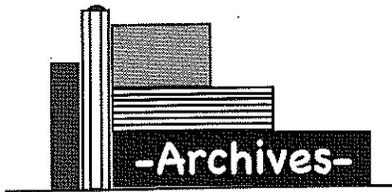
We offer healing thoughts to Nancy Morr who fell on Thursday breaking her ankle and re-opening the incision from her knee replacement surgery on August 29.

Our condolences to Jean Werts whose brother died in Kansas last week.; to Bob Mills whose mother died September 11; and to **Laurie and James Brown**. Laurie’s mother died recently.

APPRECIATION goes to the greeters, preparers of food, and reception helpers for Marilyn Page's memorial service on September 18: Cathy Elkins, Olwen Firestone, Barb Fredin Fiorini, Claire Hagan, Chris Hardin, Vanda Hughes, Pat Larson, Jo-E. Miller, Linda Miller, Bertina Povenmire, Nancy Powlick, Jane Reisman, Erica Scurr, Madelon Timmons, Ken Vail, Ohma Willette, Becky Wolff, and Marilyn's family. -- Tina Thonnings and Carole Wilhelm, co-coordinators.

THANKS The first **Senior Gathering** of this church year held on September 22 was well attended. Helping to make it possible were these individuals who participated in the program, cooked and served lunch, did dishes, or offered rides: Josette Bodonyi, Eve Catus, Sandy Coen, Michael Greenman, Don Hippensteel, Greg Houston, Florence Jain, Bill Keating, David Krohn, Dave MacDonald, Bob Mills, Nancy Powlick, Carole Pruiksmas, John Schumacher, Carole Wilhelm, and Carl Yaffey

FROM THE ARCHIVES...



“A Stranger Goes to Church”

The following is based on a column from the Columbus *Citizen Journal*, a newspaper which no longer exists in the city.

The *Columbus Citizen Journal* featured a religion page and George R. Plagenz was its editor. Mr. Plagenz visited various churches and synagogues around the city and wrote a regular column entitled *A Stranger Goes to Church*. He rated their services on a 12-point scale, one that gave three stars each for four categories -- worship service, music, sermon and friendliness.

After a visit to the First Unitarian Universalist Church in January 1985, he wrote a column entitled “Unitarians seeking better humankind.” He noted that “after attending ... yesterday, I would say most people who attend this church are humanists rather than theists. Humanists are primarily concerned with seeking the betterment of humankind without making any appeal to God.”

He gave the church a rating of nine stars: two for worship service, one for music, three for sermon and three for friendliness. He saw that the worship service was informal and that it lacked dignity to some extent, but he felt the readings were meaningful, one written by Emerson had “eloquence and deep meaning” and the other given by Rev. Carl Whittier was impressive.

“There was no sermon as such. Instead members of the congregation were asked to come forward and mention something from their experience in 1984 they wanted to put behind them as they entered 1985. It was imaginative and the response was lively.” There were 40 persons who came forward, some with humorous statements such “I tried to get my ex-husband to come with me so I could put him behind me but he wouldn’t come.” Others came with serious contributions; these were “written down beforehand on pieces of paper and after being read were discarded in a big coffin-like wooden box to be ‘buried’.”

“There was no choir on this day and the congregational singing was poor - almost pitiful.” (Historian’s note: **Mr. Plagenz should hear us now!**) All the visitors “are greeted at the door, given a visitor’s tag and from then on are given the most cordial VIP treatment which puts most of the more ‘religious’ churches to shame.” A hand written note attached to the article indicated that Mary Odbert (now deceased), was one of the greeters.

Linda Thompson, Historian

Strategic Planning Survey Is Coming

The Strategic Planning committee was recently reestablished by the Board to develop a sense of what is important to our congregation both now and for the future - about who we are, the direction we would like to head and how we might go about it. As a first step, the SP Committee over the next few weeks will be surveying the Congregation. The results of this survey will provide insight to the desires of the congregation. You have a chance to express your views regarding what is most meaningful to you and what may be needed for the church and its programs and facilities. There are two ways to complete the survey, electronically or in writing. Instructions will be provided for each way. The SP Committee strongly suggests utilizing the electronic means, but a hard copy is also very acceptable.

Important Dates to Remember:

October 26 - Emails will go out with instructions/link for the electronic survey. Hardcopy surveys will be available at church office

October 30 - Visit the SP Committee table in Fellowship Hall after services for a survey copy or more information.

November 6 - Visit the SP Committee table in Fellowship Hall after services for a survey copy or more information.

November 9 - Last day to submit completed surveys.

The SP Committee looks forward to your participation!

Dennis Rankin
SP Committee Chair



First UU Joins Community Day of the Dead Remembrance The Latino Arts for Humanity has asked First UU to create an altar for *The Day of the Dead Remembrance*. This 15-year tradition in Columbus will take place in Clintonville for the second year at them, Global Gallery, 3535 N High St from October 29 through November 5 during regular Global Gallery hours. The First UU Altar, or Ofrenda, will be one of only five, and the only one not created by LAH. There are several ways you and your family can contribute to this event that now embraces the Latino communities and the Clintonville community.

1. Honor a loved one who died this past year on the First UU altar. We will need something that represents the loved one: a food she/he loved, a symbol of a hobby or occupation, a photo - to place on the Altar.
2. Help to create the Altar on Friday, October 28 or add photos of our Sunday morning *Day of the Dead* worship service on the afternoon of October 30.
3. I'm in charge of performances/demonstrations and I'm looking for people to fill the evening hours. Currently we have musicians, a performance art piece, a cooperative art project, and demonstrations of several crafts related to the holiday. If you have performance, participatory art, or craft demonstrations related to Mexico, the holiday or a remembrance of 9/11, please let me know. I'd be happy to schedule you.
4. There will be general set up help needed on October 28 and take down help needed for November 5.

It's quite an honor to be asked to participate. It will be fun and educational. I hope you will plan to visit and participate.

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education, 267-4946, ext 28, Monday through Thursday, 1 to 6.
jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Recruiting - We have almost every our teaching slot filled. Thank you all so very much for stepping forward. I'm always very frustrated when I have to turn to parents so much for teaching. My goal is always to have 50% of teaching slots filled by non-parents. You can help with this goal. We will be recruiting workshop leaders all year. Brag about how much fun it is to be with our children and youth for a few Sundays to all your friends. That makes it a lot easier to recruit and means you don't get phone calls.

Photos of Our Classes - Susan Hayashi has been taking photos of our classes. They are now posted on the bulletin boards in the Window Hallway across from the atrium, near the Library and Toddler Room. They will change often. Check them out to see what's happening in Sunday School.

Snack Rotation Has Started - Every preK to 5th grade family is asked to bring snack once this year. You will be asked to provide snack only for the service you attend. Please respond to the email from Margaret Allen.

Meet Your Infant and Toddler Room Leaders - *Jenifer Bojanowski* has joined our staff as the Toddler Room Lead Teacher. She is a lead teacher at our School for Young Children and has many years of professional experience working with young children. She will also be providing most of our other childcare throughout the week to provide consistency for our children. Former Sunday School chair *Katie Swett* has taken on the role that Gretchen Faulstich fulfilled for so many years as the Nursery Room Coordinator. Stop in the Toddler Room or the Nursery to volunteer to hug babies and play with toddlers. What better way to start your week

MULTI-AGE AND ADULT PROGRAMMING

Community & Questioning - *Thursdays, October 6, 20 and November 3 and 17, 7pm* - Provides a small group experience, focusing on spiritual practice of deep listening. Share personal reflections on religious themes and the ups and downs of daily lives. Open to everyone, newcomers will find a place to start learning more about who we are as a faith.

Immigration as a Moral Issue - *Thursdays, October 13 through November 17, 6pm* - Join the DRE in an intense look at several aspects of the issues of immigration and migration. We will vary a bit from the UUA-designed curriculum - <http://www.uua.org/immigration/moral/guide/index.shtml> - to bring in local expertise, but those who can't attend are welcome to follow along using the curriculum. If you register and note "on-line" I'll set up a FaceBook group for discussion. Set for the dinner hour, feel free to bring along a brown bag dinner. Warning: there is "homework."

Anti-Racism for Collective Liberation - *Friday, October 14, 7pm through Saturday, October 15, 5pm* - Join the young trainers from the Catalyst Project and leaders from around our in a fresh look at how we can build the Beloved Community and bring about change here in Ohio. Study anti-racist organizing principles to build up powerful multiracial movement for collective liberation. **Designed for leaders from 13 years of age on up.**
Co-sponsored by the district UU Ministers Association. Register at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/catalyst2011.html>. **RE will pay your fee if you are a youth or volunteer with RE.** Put copy of your registration in the DRE mailbox or just email jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org.

Easy Movement Class. Join us for gentle movement to music that moves you! No steps to learn, just go with the flow. Popular, classical, jazz -- we use an eclectic set of music. Relieve stress, enhance flexibility and coordination, and burn calories! Saturday October 8 and Saturday October 22, at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact Barbara Taylor @ 390-9083 if questions.

Fair Trade Ministry. The Fair Trade Table is open for business every 3rd Sunday after both services! On **October 16**, come and savor the taste of our newest product: fairly traded olive oil from Palestine! We'll also have coffees (ground and whole bean), chocolate bars, teas, almonds, and cocoa. We need volunteers! If interested in helping out, please contact Barbara Taylor at firstuufairtrade@gmail.com. Thanks for your support of small farmers, sustainability, and economic justice

Except as otherwise noted, please register for multi-age and adult classes and events at <http://bit.ly/pUg1uL>

Week of 9/26

Tuesday 9/27, 7 pm - *Atheist/Agnostic Group*
Goddesses in Training, for girls and women
Wednesday 9/28, 7:30 - *Yoga* (weekly)
Saturday 10/1, 9:30 am - *Ukrainian Egg Decorating*
Sunday 10/2, 1 pm - *Labyrinth*

Week of 10/3

Thursday, October 6, 7pm - *Learning to Knit & Crochet*
Friday October 7, 6:30p - *First Friday Potluck*
Saturday October 8, 11 am - *Easy Movement* (twice per month)
- *Parents, Infants & Toddlers* (monthly)
Sunday October 9, 12:30 - *Enlightened Hippogriff* (monthly) - Social Justice, creativity and fun for everyone of every age who is a Harry Potter fan.
Sunday October 9, 7:30 - *Journey of the Universe* (monthly)

Week of 10/10

Tuesday October 11, 7 pm - *This Month in Science*
- *Feminism 3.0*
Thursday October 13, 7 pm - *Expressive Collage* (monthly)

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.

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.

Our blog at <http://Firstuufamilies.wordpress.com/> provides more detailed Sunday School and family news.

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
Ben Iten, FOCUUS (OSU Campus) Chaplain

First UU Church of Columbus is not responsible for the use, by others, of personal information published in the *Discoverer*

GA REPORT – Rick Kritzer

Church of the New Millennium: Scenario for Success A Lecture by Rev Galen Guengritch, All Souls Church of New York City

This was the best presentation I attended. The large room was packed – no seating room

“The world is in need of your theology.” This statement was made by Harvard Professor Diane Eck, at the installation of Rev Guengritch. At his second lecture at the GA, Rev Guengritch said that to grow, we 1) Need to get over our reluctance to use the word “God,” and 2) Focus on what unites us rather than how each person and congregation is different

He said, “We will fail if we are spiritual but not religious.” Religion is a way of life (7:00). If we are truly to be spiritual, we must become religious. Religion happens within a community of faith. If we never become religious our spiritually may nourish us as individuals, but will not nourish those around us. Our way of life will fade.

The defining discipline of Judaism is Obedience; Love is the defining discipline of Christianity; Submission of Islam. And Gratitude is the defining discipline of UU. Our bumper sticker could be: “We are the gratitude people.”

Our challenge is our tendency to think we are each a religion unto ourselves, and that congregations develop their own rituals

To thrive, we need to recognize more of what we have in common, both as individuals within a congregation, and congregations within a denomination. We are united by what we have in common, not how we are different. Common disciplines, common experiences, common aspirations

A Gallup survey said that 94% of Americans believe in God. If we restrict our appeal to the remaining 6%, you could say we are doomed (29:30)

We must conceive of God in a way we can take personally (33:15). You can’t be satisfied by saying “evolution loves you, or gravity believes in you.”

In worship we contemplate the mystery of God, . . .

God is our name for 1) the past, the physical things, and 2) the realm of meaning, our fleeting thoughts, emotions, feelings, experiences. The atoms that make up a given object, disband themselves, and go on to constitute something else entirely. Those atoms remain. The question is where they go when their physical substrate no longer exists.

We have a word for the 1) physical world, the rocks, the mountains. The word is Universe. We also need a word for the totality of all the experiences in the world. 2) That word is God

God is our name for the experiences that matter. Just as atoms are never lost, experiences don’t simply vanish into thin air. No experience is ever suffered alone (37:00). Rev G expands on this – it is most profound

God is also our name for the source of future possibilities - like the tendency of a plant to grow towards the sun. You and I are also the human form of the divine. We are the face of God in the universe.

UUs take scientific research as seriously as we take religious wisdom. “You can’t be wise with your mind turned off.” Religion holds up a vision of the good, and moves toward it. (43:10)

Religion is a way of life. Religion is how we live our lives each day, practiced by a community of faith

Rev G describes a way of daily spiritual practice used at his church. Reading not for knowledge, but for your life. Take a short text. Read it over. Meditate on its meaning. You can do this anywhere and as long as you choose (54:25).

The practice has a larger purpose. Since we will ideally read the same text, the practice unites us as a community. Readings provide part of our common conversation. You can receive them via the All Souls website

Readers: Rev G was kind and attentive enough to provide me with paper copies of the 2 sermons from which he developed this lecture. If you would like to listen to the whole lecture, contact me, Rick Kritzer 781-1799, rick94037@yahoo.com FYI, for those who attended GA, numbers in () are the time in minutes:seconds where the material is on the recording of the lecture, in case you want to listen

Rev. Mark Belletini’s column, *Markings*, will return in the next issue of the Discoverer, October 9.