

The
DISCOVERER
October 23, 2011

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

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WORSHIP SERVICES

October Theme for All Ages: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

October 30, 2011, 9:15A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini, Jolinda Stephens

“Dia de los Muertos”

Whole Congregation Worship. Please bring a memento of a loved one who has died, for the altar.

November Theme: Gratitude

November 6, 2011, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Grateful, not Gambling: Why All this Concern about Immigration Policies is Important”

Daylight Savings Time Ends. Fall Back One Hour!!!!

November 13, 2011, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Kiyimba

“Standing On the Side of Love”

Rev. Mark Kiyimba is minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Kumpala, Uganda. See “Markings” on page 8 for more information.

► "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, October 26, 2011

8:00a UU Food Co-op
 1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:30p Dance Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Board of Trustees
 7:15p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Yoga; Women's Spirituality

Thursday, October 27, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 10:00a The Art of Collage
 6:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
 7:00p Expressive Collage
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 29, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation

Sunday, October 30, 2011

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU

Monday, October 31, 2011

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

9:30p Archives Organizing
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Caring Committee
 7:00p Take Back the Constitution
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
 7:35p Worship Committee
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
 6:30p Dance Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Sufism
 7:15p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, November 3, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 10:00a Art of Collage
 6:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
 7:00p Learning to Knit and Crochet
 7:00p Community and Questing
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 4, 2011

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
 6:30p First Friday Potluck
 7:30p First Friday Programs

Saturday, November 5, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Easy Movement Class
 7:30p Recommitment Ceremony

Sunday, November 6, 2011

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Coming of Age Leadership Team
 1:00p Wellspring; Committee on Shared Ministry
 1:00p Artists Reception; Parent/Youth meeting
 1:00p Justice Action Ministry; Youth Group
 6:00p Covenant Group (Call 267-4946 ext. 23)
 6:30p Young Adult Covenant Group (Call 267-4946, ext. 23)

Monday, November 7, 2011

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; Program Council
 7:00p Women's Covenant Group
 (call 267-4946, ext. 23)

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

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

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:00p Workshop Leaders
 6:30p Dance Choir rehearsal
 7:00p Memoir Writing; Mindful Eating
 7:00p Personnel Committee; What Moves Us
 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering team
 7:15p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; 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, November 6
Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

LINKS

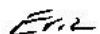
Confession time: I'm a lousy mutli-tasker. And the work I love most requires just that, handling lots of things in very quick succession. In the fifteen minutes I had recently, between the close of the Coming of Age class I was helping lead and my first meeting of the afternoon: I spoke to someone whose car had been hit by a semi-trailer truck four days before, did my best to respond to a member asking why we will be raising money to send our youth on a justice trip to Arizona next June, learned about one person's depression and another's hospitalization.

Each of the people I was talking to deserved much more time than I could give them then. While the world can move quickly, our souls need significant time to express, feel, and adapt to the realities before us. If ministry has done anything for me, it has provided a life in which there is no longer space for boredom. But more than that, my work with you provides me an education in the ways of courage and resilience. I may grow tired occasionally, and at times look as overwhelmed as I feel, and in spite of it all, I'm always grateful for the trust and the care that are at the heart of this religious community.

All of which is an odd prelude to letting you know that I'll be away from the office early next week. When I was at my ever-vigilant dentist for a regular cleaning recently, he noticed a growth in the soft tissue at the back of my mouth. So while all the children are out trick-or-treating on Halloween, I'll be recovering from having the papilloma removed earlier in the day. This is a fairly routine out-patient procedure, but I expect to be recovering for a couple of days.

The timing isn't great, however. The Coming of Age weekend is the following weekend, and then Rev Mark and I will be away at the annual meeting of our UU ministers study group from November 7 through the morning of the 10th. So if you don't see much of me in the coming weeks, please don't worry about where I've gone off to. I'm around and I'll be back soon.

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

UPDATE from Chaplain Dick Dawson

Many of you know that I have been through a challenging and often frustrating health ordeal over the past five months. After extensive exploration and testing, a section of my colon was removed in early August. The problem was on the outside of my colon; no malignancy was found. My surgeon is not sure what label to put on this condition. My colon was reconnected on September 27. I have recovered from

that surgery. I am ready to call this long ordeal over and to return to my pastoral work.

I am grateful for the healing presence of this community. I am overwhelmed by the expressions of care and support. I know that for my continuing healing, it is important for me to return more fully to my pastoral work and involvement with this community. Thank you.

On Sunday, October 16, I was reinstalled as chaplain for another three years. The District Commissioned Lay Leader certification is for a three year period. With the support of our Board and the ministers, I was re-certified for another three years.

In my sermon following my re-installation, I affirmed how much I love doing this work, and how honored I am with your affirmation of me in this role. I also noted how much I have learned from doing this work.

As part of my re-certification, the Board, the ministers and I agreed that over the next three years I would phase out some of the organizational and administrative tasks I have taken on, and devote more of my time to the pastoral work, the connecting I love most.

As a first step in this transition, Carole Wilhelm will be taking on the organization and implementation work for the quarterly Senior Gatherings. I will, of course, continue to attend and be part of these gatherings.

I thank you for the trust and hope you have vested in me, and look forward to being present with you in so many ways. – Dick Dawson, Chaplain

CHURCH NEWS

GALLERY KIOSK Take a look at the new poster on the north side of the kiosk (facing the Worship Center). It offers you an opportunity to serve our church and recycle at the same time. When a staff member or a committee chair has a need for an item, they will place their need on a file card and pin it on the poster. If you can fill that need, please take down the card, bring the item and the card to the volunteer work room next to the office and leave the item on the work table and place the card in the Communications Committee mailbox. This does work! We have already been able to fill one request. Feel free to contact the requester if there are questions.

WORK DAY

Please set aside Saturday morning, **November 12**, for the next church work day. Breakfast will be served at 8:30, followed by work inside and outside the church from 9 to noon, or any portion of that period you can attend. Look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, October 30 and November 6. Or contact Dave Richter, drichter@sciotangy.com, or Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org and plan to help.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Now is the time to get your 2011-12 Entertainment Books for \$30 with \$6 going to our Coming of Age group for their activities. There are many places to use the 50% off coupons: restaurants, cultural centers, pizza places, cafes, bakeries, gas stations, dry cleaners, Ballet Met and Columbus Symphony, sports places etc. The books are available on Sundays through mid-December after church services. Call Karin Erickson, 614-834-3988, with questions.

BOOKBITES We will meet *November 15* in Slowter Lounge, 7- 9pm. Thanksgiving Theme Topic: *Coming Home to America* -- Kathleen Boston, 262-4025

COFFEE WARRIORS As you walk into Fellowship Hall, the sounds of children laughing, adults conversing, and friends meeting pleasantly fill your ears. You smile, feeling at home. You greet a couple you were in a Covenant Group with a few years ago, wave at your fellow teacher from last year's OWL class, and nod at a college student you met last Tuesday night at the Zen Sit. However, you feel there is something is missing.

Then, suddenly, you notice. There is no coffee! The tables are sitting there but the only thing on the table is a sign: "**Due to lack of volunteers, the after-service coffee hour will not occur today.**"

Then, you notice the second line on the sign: "**If you have enjoyed coffee hour in the past, consider becoming a volunteer in the present.**"

On a business card size note attached to the sign is contact information. As fast as possible, you shoot off an email to **Denni** at rayneblueoh@gmail.com to volunteer to be a once-a-month Coffee Hour volunteer!

Now you smile because you have just joined the long line of phenomenal Coffee Hour volunteers at the First UU Church, Columbus. You are making someone's life a little better by volunteering a few hours a month to such a worthy cause! You are a Coffee Warrior!

SUNDAY BREAKFAST Eggs, bacon, tater tots, apples, oatmeal, coffee, and OJ are served starting at 8:45am. A requested donation of \$2 for adults, \$1 for children, under 12. FREE for first time visitors.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY *Wednesdays at 7:30pm.* Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176; jeanniray@gmail.com.
October 26 - Samhain(Halloween) - Jeanni Ray
November 2 - Birthdays, Poetry and Sharing - All
November 9 - Gratitude - All
November 16 - Gratitude part 2 - All
November 23 - Share stories of thankfulness - All
November 30 - Gratitude – part 3 – All

BUUKSTORE NEWS Time to start collecting books you no longer want to keep. The next *BRING ONE TAKE ONE* book exchange will be **November 13**. Bring your exchanges that Sunday and take away as many as you wish. Anything remaining after the exchange will go to worthy causes. Ask us where!

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

EMPTY BOWLS First UU's fundraiser to raise money for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank is **Saturday, November 5, starting at 11am**. This is an annual project jointly sponsored by the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks and area churches. The event features great soup, music and homemade bowls.

We need volunteers to donate homemade soup and to help with set-up, serving and clean up. Please look for the volunteer sign-up table in Fellowship Hall after both services on October 30. Questions? Contact Sherri Stubbs 614-577-9277 or at stubbscpa@sbcglobal.net

FOOD PANTRY It's approaching our ninth Thanksgiving food collection for our friends in Athens County at the Feed My Sheep food pantry. Those willing and able to help, please bring donations to the Social Justice table in Fellowship Hall. This year, because of the economy and the increased unemployment, the need for help will be greater. We are hoping to help out with food boxes for 175 families. We need: turkeys, 175 cans each of yams, corn, green beans pumpkin, cranberry sauce, mushroom soup, vegetables other than corn or green beans and 175 five- pound bags of potatoes (also anything else you think is appropriate).

We still need: peanut butter and dried pinto beans, spaghetti, sauce, canned stew and chunky soups.

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. (Please no cat food cans or sardine cans!)

-- Jacques Angelino

ASKING AND OFFERING Thanks to JAM for sharing part of their bulletin board space in the Window Hallway, we now have a more visible place for members and friends to post what things and services we have to offer. It is also a place to say what we need. People have already started using it!

Appreciation is also due to the Communications Committee for setting up the board and being willing to maintain it.

Having this opportunity supports Community in Challenging Times and should help our church increase sharing and build community. --Rick Kritzer



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) House/Listening Meetings: Kudos to the 58 First UU members and friends who participated in the 2011 BREAD Listening process. The discussions were lively, stimulating, and very worthwhile. The major local problems we identified were added to those surfaced by the other BREAD congregations at the All-Team meeting on Monday, October 24. By democratic vote, three were selected and will be presented at BREAD's Annual Assembly on Monday, November 14. All BREAD Justice Ministry Network members attending the Annual Assembly (or prospective members – yes, you too can be a JMN member!) will then vote for BREAD's next problem to research for action. **BREAD Investment Drive:** Congratulations, First UU! Thanks to Roger Cole, Carol Fisher and Dan Baer, Don and Carolyn Hippensteel, and Frank Phillips for their recent investments, **First UU has made its 2011 goal of \$9,000** in member contributions toward BREAD's work to make systemic change for justice in central Ohio. However, our BREAD Team set a lower 2011 goal than First UU's 2010 total, so write that check to BREAD if you haven't already done so. Please make out your 2011 check to BREAD *but* send it to the church office. BREAD is a 501[c][3] tax-deductible corporation, tax ID number 31-1467082. For more info: www.breadcolumbus.org or contact Alice Rathburn, alice37@insight.rr.com, 895-2109; 614-563-0536.

On October 16, we celebrated the continuation of **Dick Dawson's** position as Chaplain of our First Unitarian Universalist Church.

Congratulations to: **Tanya and Steve Huwig**, who welcomed their new baby daughter, Charlotte, on September 26; **Julie Duhigg**, who has a new job at Ohio Wesleyan University's Counseling Center; **Rev. Carol Brody** who was ordained into the ministry of Unitarian-Universalism on October 12, 1981; and **Rev. Kathleen Fowler** who was ordained into the ministry of Unitarian-Universalism on October 23, 2009.

Happy Birthday to **Marguerite Molk**, who celebrated her 85th birthday on Tuesday, October 25.

Best wishes to **Paul Evans** and daughter **Susie Mesler-Evans** on the special occasion of their move into their new home.

Healing wishes to **Julie Pinsonneault** who had bunion surgery on September 27.

We send condolences to: **Pat Peterson** whose sister, Carol Peterson, died on October 5; **Amy Marie Riley**, whose uncle died after a year and a half struggle with cancer; and the **family of former member, Linda Ray**, who died last week in Dayton.

WORDS ON MUSIC



by Tony McDonald, Music Director

The Music Committee is sponsoring something new this year. It's an **All-Church Dance** for everyone – families, kids, adults, singles, partners – everyone, on **Saturday, November 12, 5:00 – 9:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

Presided over by dance expert Edie Driskill, *Dancing with UU Friends and Families* will be in two parts. It will begin with the **family dance** (that's the part for kids) from 5:00-6:00 pm. Based on the Community Dancing Movement, there will be contra and square dancing, plus other fun dances to music that kids know well. Parents can come too.

Then, after a break and some refreshments (and maybe a potluck, TBA), the **adult dance** will start around 7:30 pm. It will be a "hosted dance" that will include all types, from ballroom, swing and Latin, to country and line dancing. Edie will provide instruction and demonstration for those adventurous souls unfamiliar with all these styles. Please note that both couples and singles are welcome, and no partner is needed.

"This will be a larger version of much of what we do here regularly on Monday nights," Edie said. "It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun, and everyone will be exhausted when we are done." There is no admission, but donations will be accepted at the door.

Strategic Planning and the Survey

The Strategic Planning Committee is developing a sense of what is important to our congregation—who we are, the direction we would like to head, and how we might go about it. As a first step, the committee will be surveying the congregation. You can complete the survey electronically or in writing. Important dates:

- October 26: Emails will go out with instructions/link for the electronic survey. Hardcopy surveys will be available at the church office.
- October 30: Visit our table in Fellowship Hall after services for a survey copy or more information.
- November 6: Visit our table in Fellowship Hall after services for a survey copy or more information.
- November 9: Last day to submit completed surveys.

The Strategic Planning Committee looks forward to your participation!

-- Dennis Rankin, SP Committee Chair, Jeff Boughton, Anita Bucknam, Phyllis Byard, Jim Conlan, Bob Letcher, Dennis Rankin (Chair), and Doug Rossiter



No Matter Where You Tug on the String, It's All Connected

I just had dinner with new friends I've made since I've been involved with immigration justice work. It was a dinner for two people from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. They are touring Ohio to involve us in their campaign for fair wages and an end to slavery for tomato pickers in Immokalee, Florida. Yes, I said "an end to slavery." As we ate great vegetarian chili, the talk ranged from working conditions for tomato workers in Florida, to farm workers in Ohio, to organizing based on sustainable principles of relationship-building and political education, to the Occupy Movement, to sustainable and local food movements, to climate change, to immigration, to the drug war that puts a big bulls eye on youth of color in the neighborhood that my host and I share. We weren't just jumping around from one topic to another. All of these things are related, often in multiple ways.

Justice work is like that. We often feel that we have to choose among competing outrages that tug at our hearts and our consciences. And it's hard not to feel overwhelmed. And yet, no matter where our hearts lead us to do justice, if we work thoughtfully and build in time for reflection, learning and talking with others whose justice journey has them focusing on different issues, we usually find that our strings are all connected and there are many ways we can support one another.

Sunday, October 30: Please bring a memento of a loved one to worship. We will focus on the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. We will have three traditionally decorated altars or ofrendas on which to place your memento. It is a great time to talk with children about relatives they may have never known. Mementos are often photos, but more traditionally something that the loved one enjoyed. A golf ball could represent someone who loved golf, for instance. This is a time for good memories and playful takes on the circle of life and death. There are colorful sugar skulls, paper flags called papel picados, dancing in graveyards (and even in church aisles). For me, Dia de los Muertos has the same feel as a UU Celebration of Life.

I'll be setting up the altar at the community celebration of Dia de los Muertos on Friday. I'd love to include your memento in the eight day celebration. Bring the name of the person you are honoring and a photo or other representation. I cannot guarantee that these will be returned. Or email me the name and the graphic file, jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org.

Join me Friday, October 28 at 6 pm to decorate the sugar skulls for the worship service and for the community observance.

May all be well,
Jolinda,

Adult and Multi-Age Programming

Multi-Cultural Families Have Fun at First Fridays Join families with children of every age for fun and mutual support. We all bring our own cultures to the fun and support one another in celebrating the various cultures and having fun together. This is for you, if your family is: multi-ethnic...mono-ethnic...“plain old American”...bi-racial...multi-racial...looking for ways to have fun. The group is meeting following the potluck on First Fridays and on the third Thursday. Email Ka Wa Berman with questions. ka_wa_berman@yahoo.com

An Evening with Neil Douglas-Klotz Wednesday, November 2, 7 pm

Join internationally known interfaith leader Neil Douglas-Klotz for another experience in unity as we gather for an evening of shared spiritual practice, stories of interfaith work around the world and ideas about how we can strengthen our ties and more effectively work for justice together.

Neil Douglas-Klotz is • Director of the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning and co-founder of the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. • Popular author of *Prayers of the Cosmos*, *The Hidden Gospel* and other books on an Aramaic approach to the words of Jesus • Author of several books that build bridges between Middle Eastern religions, including *Sufi Book of Life* and *The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims*, published by our own Beacon Press. • Sufi Murshid with the Ruhaniat International Order and past chair of the Mysticism Group of the American Academy of Religion. • Author of *Desert Wisdom: A Nomad's Guide to Life's Big Questions from the Heart of the Native Middle East*, which combines the most ancient Middle Eastern stories (Egyptian, Babylonian and Goddess) with Aramaic Jesus, Genesis, science and Sufi poetry (his most recent book).

This Month in Science, 7pm, Tuesday, November 8 Topic: *How are humans affecting the global environment – and what consequences do we have to look forward to?* A study that looks at the correlation between El Nino heating events and spikes in conflict around the globe; review of ways that humans have altered our planet; and a look at possible effects of food shortages are all grist for the discussion. Led by Tom Baillieul.

Two Youth Groups - Grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 - Open To All Youth You don't need to be active in Sunday School to participate in our youth groups. All youth are welcome to join with peers twice per month for lunch, fun, social action and more fun. The next meeting is 1:00pm, **Sunday, November 6.**

Senior High Justice Trip to Phoenix Please bring your parents to the planning meeting on **November 6, 12:45pm.**

Parents of Infants and Toddlers The group next meets on **Saturday, November 12** from 11am to 1pm. For information contact Nancy Powlick at lpowlick@columbus.rr.com or call 451-4045.

Community and Questioning Thursdays, November 3 and 17; December 1 and 15. Join this small group to explore such questions as: What is the divine? and What role does community play in coping with grief and loss? Led by Don Shartzter. **Registration required.***

Take Back the Constitution Tuesday, November 1, 7:00pm Read and discuss the actual language of the Constitution through the social/historical lens. Led by Bill Keating, attorney and constitutional scholar.

***Registration: <http://bit.ly/qdhKqH>**

Our new blog at Firstuufamilies.wordpress.com provides more detailed Sunday School and family news.

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education, 614-267-4946, ext 28. Office hours: 1 to 6 pm, Monday - Thursday.

www.firstuucolumbus.org; JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org

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
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

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I had my yearly heart ultrasound test recently. It's expensive, yes, but more beautiful than any other test I've undergone over the years - all those blue and orange flashes on the screen, over the black and white beating of my heart, clear as can be. My real heart, there on the screen. It totally amazes me. Doc says I'm doing OK, keeping steady.

Have officiated at more weddings than usual this fall...beautiful weddings, all of them, quite moving actually. It's one of the things that seems like "Introduction to UU" work, since I always hear from those there, few of whom are UUs, that they actually LISTENED to the ceremony, and didn't, as they have each said to me, usually using the same phrase, "drop down to auto-pilot."

My mother is on daily vicodin, so is not terribly alert any more, her head drooping. The hospice man we talked with was more wonderful than any other person from hospice I have encountered as a minister over the last decades, and that is saying a lot, since I have always known the most extraordinary people associated with that organization. The exact shape of her future is unknown even to the doctors, since she goes up and down so much, in a way that leaves seasoned professionals baffled.

Rev. Mark Kiyimba the Unitarian Universalist minister from Kumpala, Uganda will be here on the November 11, 12 and 13. He will give a talk on Friday evening at 7pm about the terrible situation in his country about GLBTQ issues. He basically had to flee for his life. On Sunday he will preach at both services. Please invite your friends to come Friday night, especially, which will be more personal.

And next week, don't forget to bring a memento photo of someone beloved who has died, to put on our Altar (stress second syllable in Spanish) for Dia de Los Muertos. This is not a somber ceremony, and our Dance Choir will be part of this intergenerational celebration.

Readings for Our Deepening: An Invitation to Join the Conversation For those of you who weren't able to attend the Anti-Racism gathering last week, here are some books recommended by the most excellent presenters; at the end. You'll find the Common Read that people all over the Association are reading, and which Rev. Kathleen Fowler will address in a sermon later this year: **Conquest** by Andrea Smith; **Abolition of White Democracy** by Joel Olson; **There is a River**, by Vincent Harding; **Feminism from Margin to Center** by bell hooks; **Uprooting Racism** and **You Call This a Democracy** by Paul Kivel; **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander (from OSU, by the way); UU Common Read 2011 **Acts of Faith** by Eboo Patel.



Rev. Mark Belletini

N.B. Eric and I will be gone from 7-10 of November for our annual Ohio River Study Group.

The Inner Flame: from *Qoheleth, (Ecclesiastes in the English Bible)* as translated by Rabbi Rami Shapiro author: anonymous, about 350 BCE

How a thing ends is more valuable than how it begins; hence, patience is more valuable than pride.
Don't distract yourself with fantasies of a golden age, imagining yesterday was better than today.
Nothing constructive can come from such nonsense. No one on earth is so perfect as to never make mistakes, doing good only and never erring. So don't obsess over everything people say about you.
There are still things that elude me: the essence of existence, the deep of the deep who can find that?
I accept my limits and focus mind and heart on what can be known.
This is why I value joy, for there is nothing better for you to do during your life than to eat, drink and rejoice.
This purpose should inform all your labor throughout your life under the sun .
I looked into every aspect of reality and I still could not fathom all that happens.
Even if you pretend to know, in truth you do not.
Regarding reality: Wonder! Regarding right living: Diligence!