

The
DISCOVERER
November 6, 2011

Non-Profit Organization
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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

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WORSHIP SERVICES

November Theme for All Ages: Gratitude

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 page 10).

November 20, 2011, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“The Bread of Paradise”

The Second Ceremony of the Year: The Bread Ceremony...JAM offering (our regular monthly Social Justice offering)...Distribution of UU Service Ciommittee’s Guest At Your Table (GAYT) boxes.

November 27, 2011, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“What Do We Owe To Each Other?”

► "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, 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
- 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering team
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Yoga; Women's Spirituality

Thursday, November 10, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 10:00a The Art of Collage
- 6:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
- 6:30p Advent and Lessons & Carols Planning
- 7:00p Expressive Collage; Building & Grounds
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 11, 2011

- 7:00p Rev. Mark Kiyimba Lecture
- 7:30p All Souls Contra Dance; Reflexology

Saturday, November 12, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Building & Grounds Workday
- 11:00a Parents of Infants and Toddlers
- 1:00p Chalice Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30p All-Church Dance

Sunday, November 13, 2011

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Enlightened Hippogriffs; Pastoral Team
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry; Green Team
- 2:00p PFLAG
- 7:30p Journey of the Universe

Monday, November 14, 2011

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Adult Enrichment Committee

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Book Bites; Stewardship
- 7:00p Potluck for Rev. Kiyimba
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Finance Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 6:30p Dance Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Board of Trustees; Membership Team
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, November 17, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 10:00a Art of Collage
- 6:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
- 6:00p Multicultural Families
- 6:30p Advent and Lessons & Carols Planning
- 7:00p Learning to Knit and Crochet
- 7:00p Communications Committee
- 7:00p Community & Questing
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 18, 2011

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

Saturday, November 19, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Path to Membership
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class; Sound team
- 11:00a Move to Amend Central Ohio
- 12:00p How Big Is That?

Sunday, November 20, 2011

- 8:30a Leadership Development Committee
- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Strategic Planning
- 1:00p Wellspring; Garden Club; Youth Group
- 6:30p Care & Share Time Bank Potluck

Monday, November 21, 2011

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; BREAD Team
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, November 22, 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; Goddesses in Training
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Being Atheist/Agnostic
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

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

*For information about Covenant Groups, contact
Rev. Eric Meter, 267-4946 ext.23*

*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 20
Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com**

LINKS

While this is overdue, I want to begin by saying how glad I am our Chaplain Dick Dawson is back after his illness. It is great to see him looking so well, and, much more so, to see him so happily engaged as he returns to reaching out and being so fully present to so many in our community. Welcome back, Dick. I simply can't do what I do without you.

* * * *

“Unforgettable memories inspire my courage.” Damaris Walker inscribed those words on the portable altar she made as part of the recent Coming of Age Fall retreat. Damaris is one of 12 young women in the class. For the first time that I've heard of, we have no young men in the group. And let me tell you, this is one strong sisterhood. Frankly, if I were a boy that age, I'd be too intimidated to take part. Don't think I'm kidding.

Each year the Coming of Age class takes two retreats to the Geneva Hills Retreat Center in Lancaster. Each fall we take a silent nature walk, often observing more in the chosen silence. For the first time in my history of these retreats, the girls noticed that while Geneva Hills has names for just about every place on the property, none of the names is female. So this year, before we headed back home, they started renaming the suspension bridge over the stream, the little lake, the campgrounds, everything.

While it takes a great deal to make each of these retreats possible, the results are priceless. An hour or so each week is just not enough time for a group of youth to come together and form a cohesive group. Extended time together makes that possible. So, on behalf of the fabulous young women involved in Coming of Age this year, thanks to all of you for making the program possible. And thanks to the rest of our facilitators: both Sherri Stubbs and Casey Best are continuing on the team from last year, and Niki Hanselman and John Grinstead have come on board this time around. And our cook for this year is Chris Hardin who arranged a significant and tasty donation of food items from our Barbie and Megan at Luna Burger. Hats off all around!

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR Happy Fall! The Board has been spending some time doing a little cleanup. Expanding on theories about why we have trouble recruiting volunteers, we decided to make sure we knew about our committees, how they fit, if the names were listed correctly, and if they were still even in existence. It was a fun exercise. Now for the cleanup. Updates are

currently underway to update these items in First UU's Constitution, the Standing Rules, on our website, and our organizational chart. We will publish these items for your review when ready. Changes to the Constitution require a church vote, so look for more on that prior to our mid-year meeting in January. As expected, your input is welcomed and appreciated.

Other item of interest to the Board is the recent Strategic Planning Survey. While it will take some time to get the results sorted out, we are eagerly looking forward to what you had to say. There will likely be some follow-up discussion groups to learn more, and then we will get to work on it. Thank you for participating!

Please feel free to communicate with me about your great ideas for our church, how we can continue to carry out our mission together. You can reach me at hookstj@gmail.com

Again, plenty of opportunities to be of service at First UU. I hope you are able to take advantage of some of them for yourself. It is remarkably gratifying work, and it is almost Thanksgiving time!

Thanks for reading, Tim Hooks, Board Chair

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS for October 2011

This month's Treasurer's Report included the good news that the pledge collection rate is up from last year, and is currently at 91.1%.

We received a report from the Strategic Planning Committee regarding the church survey that is now available, and the good news that 43 responses had already been received on the first day of the survey's availability.

Board Chair Tim Hooks led us in an exercise to examine a high level overview of the church's committee structure, starting with a list of the committees and councils that are currently mentioned in the Constitution. We discussed these committees, whether they are currently running, and running under the name provided in the Constitution, and whether they may be considered for merging with others, or moving under a different leadership group or staff member. We also discussed the possibility of some day moving to a structure in which all committees are organized into specific ministry groups, which could help define roles of the many volunteer groups operating in the church community. This exercise was a time-consuming one, and it is not something that can be completed in one night, or without the input of many other volunteers.

We also voted to approve Ray Nandyal's wish to nominate Rev. Belletini for a 2012 Metropolitan Area Church Council Living Faith Award.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gina Phillips, Secretary

PREPARATION Advent is the season of expectant waiting, preparation and reflection the four weeks prior to Christmas. We are planning four traditional Advent services with a UU twist this year. Consider joining us for dinner from 5:30-6:30 and the advent services starting at 7:00pm on November 30, December 7, 14 and 21. Advent Services are contemplative, but everyone of any age is welcome. If you are interested in helping to offer or to plan any of these services come to church any Thursday between 6:30 and 7:30 (with the exception of Thanksgiving) starting November 10 and ending December 15, or email Debra, debra.boyd@gmail.com

LESSONS & CAROLS 4:00pm December 11. This traditional service is full of music. Nine short lessons are each followed by a Christmas carol. If you love singing, this service is a lot of fun and very family friendly. Bring a dish to share as we will be having a potluck afterwards. If you want to help plan this service, come to church any Thursday between 6:30 and 7:30pm (with the exception of Thanksgiving), starting November 10 or email Debra, debra.boyd@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Please help our Coming of Age group by buying your 2011-12 Entertainment Book. Books are \$30 with \$7.50 going for COA activities. So far we have sold 22 books which means that COA receives \$165. We have 22 more books to sell by December 15 when those unsold must be returned. 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, art museums etc. 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

THANKSGIVING Social Committee invites you to our Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thursday, November 24**, at the church. We set up at 1:30pm and eat at 2:00pm. We need another person to do a turkey (provided for by the Social Committee) which can be cooked at the church on that day. It needs to be ready by 1:30pm.

We also need help for setting up and cleaning up.

Please contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176 or jeanniray@gmail.com. RSVP no later than Sunday, November 20 with what dish you will bring, number of people coming, and how you can help. Please feel free to bring game(s) to share. We all have a lot to be thankful for...we have a wonderful community. See you there.

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

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY *Wednesdays at 7:30pm.*
Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176; jeanniray@gmail.com
November 9 - Gratitude - All
November 16 - Gratitude Part 2 - All
November 23 - Share stories of thankfulness - All
November 30 - Gratitude Part 3 - All

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. Contact Dave Richter, drichter@sciotangy.com, or Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org.

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!)

THAT TIME AGAIN! It is less than one hundred days until our 2012 Auction on **February 18, 2012**. The theme is "South Pacific – Some Enchanted Auction." "I want to wash that cash right out of my wallet!"

There will be a phonathon on **Sunday, November 20** from 5-8 pm. Be thinking what to donate. Dinner parties generate the most income, and are great ways to socialize. Service items are always popular, too – consider raking leaves, washing windows, giving rides to the airport, pet sitting, child sitting. **DINNERS!**

The evening includes the usual: Silent Auction...Bake Sale...Dinner...**LIVE AUCTION.**

Child care is provided with advance registration.

Ticket sales in Fellowship Hall will begin on December 4. These advance tickets are only \$12. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

We are always looking for new committee members to help plan this major church event.

The Auction Committee will be viewing the film, "South Pacific" November 19 at 6:00pm. Prospective committee members should join us at the home of Danya Furda and Jim Pinkham (in Gahanna) for a potluck and the movie (478 Sutterton Drive, Gahanna, dfurda@gmail.com) Our next committee meeting is November 20 at the church.

-- Jo Anne St. Clair, Co-Chair. 268-1923, joastclare@aol.com

NEW MEMBERS Michele Basso, Scott Schricker, Jake Calaway, Jessie Calaway, Charlie Christian, Mitch Gross, Margie Cook, Jasmine Freeman, Brandi Lee Grammas, Jamal Gilcrease, Jennifer Hambach, and Kat Whitford were welcomed during the 11:00 A.M. service on November 6.

Please enjoy "**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ART QUILTS**" by the Art Quilt Alliance. AQA is a central Ohio group which meets monthly to promote the art of fiber. This show in the Gallery, Worship Center, and Fellowship Hall will be displayed through January 2. Contact Deb Baillieul (447-1223 debbsyc@yahoo.com) for questions or purchase information. The church accepts a 10% donation for all works sold.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

UUSC Guest At Your Table membership drive and holiday card sales Our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) begins its annual fundraising drive with Guest At Your Table boxes and Stories of Hope booklets on November 20. This year you will be able also to renew or begin your memberships online in Fellowship Hall after each service. *We will also have holiday cards available beginning next week.* These can also be ordered online. Our church is a strong supporter of UUSC, our national and international service organization working for environmental justice, economic justice, and human rights, and providing disaster relief around the world. UUSC relies heavily on its individual members to provide services.

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 or sardine cans!)

-- Jacques Angelino

YWCA Family Center 4th Friday Taco and Brownie Dinner I received an email from Jessica Wichtman, Volunteer Coordinator, at the YWCA Family Center this past week. She said that they rely 100% on the community to provide meals to the families they serve. Our First UU Church has been providing meals to the YWCA Family Center for approximately six years. Every fourth Friday we have been there without fail. None of this would be possible without the wonderful volunteers who generously give of their time and effort each month.

Thank you so much to all of you who have volunteered in the past years. Your work has been noted and very much appreciated!

This month in addition to our wonderful regular volunteers, Candyce Walchesky, Cariann Stubbs and Sherri Stubbs, we had Jan Voelkers' son and his family - Jeff, Mary, Della and Chris. Della made the most beautiful and scrumptious brownies. Chris brought a child's pure delight in giving to others. Thank you, Jan, for sharing your lovely family with all of us and the families at the Center!

Thank you to the members of this church and to JAM (Justice Action Ministry).

Very Gratefully Yours, Cathy McCutcheon

IMMIGRATION REFORM UUs focusing on Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) which is a national UU member organization dedicated to "Economic Justice"), recognizing that, on a national level, major immigration reform is going nowhere, is building a coalition consisting of UUs, other faith communities, migrant groups and NGOs focusing on immigration issues. The coalition's purpose will be to ***develop a comprehensive immigration legislative reform proposal*** that will lead to rational, humane, responsible, inclusive and sustainable laws to eliminate the massive injustices being perpetrated on migrants so widely in our nation (and around the world) today. UUA President, Rev. Dr. Peter Morales, has expressed his support for this project saying: "*This grassroots initiative of the UUJEC toward comprehensive immigration reform is commendable. It is courageous, ambitious and born of compassion. I appreciate this inspired work and believe that it brings us closer to realizing our common humanity.*"

We are inviting UUs in congregations around the country to help make this happen by 1) becoming involved, and 2) inviting the involvement of their friends and family who are members of other faith communities. For more information, contact Michael Greenman, UUJEC Congregational Representative at mgreenman@wowway.com.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (TDOR) Thursday, November 17, was set aside to memorialize those who are the victims of violence, or were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

The service takes place at King Avenue United Methodist Church, 299 King Avenue at 7:00pm.



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)

1) BREAD Investment Drive: Thank you to Carol and Paul Brody and Chas and Susan Williams for their 2011 financial support of BREAD to help make the Central Ohio community a better place in which to live and work.

2) BREAD All-Team Assembly: All BREAD Member Teams in attendance reported the three problems of greatest concern which surfaced during their House/Listening meetings. (First UU's areas were Jobs, Support for Youth in Crisis, and Problems Faced By Seniors.) With three votes per team member present, the problems selected for consideration at **BREAD's Annual Assembly** were:

- 1) Lack of Jobs;
- 2) Violence in Neighborhoods;
- 3) Youth in Crisis. One of these three will be selected for research and action in 2012 at

BREAD's Annual Assembly:

Monday, November 14

7:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Rhema Christian Center

2100 Agler Rd.

6:25 p.m.-Car pools leave from First UU

All are invited, but only Justice Ministry Network (JMN) members present will have a vote. Others present may also vote **if** they decide to become JMN members

(i.e., commit to attend one of First UU's JMN organizing meetings in March, the BREAD Rally on Monday, **and** bring three other people to the Monday, May 7 BREAD Nehemiah Action). Contact Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, or 563-0536, alice37@insight.rr.com, for information.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Emma Johnson**, Ginnie Vogts's daughter, who grew up in this congregation. She and Ivan Ruiz were married by Rev. Mark Belletini in a ceremony at the church on October 22.

Chrys Gee, Craig Stuntz and daughter Evelyn, participated in *The Naming Ceremony of the Seven Blessings* for baby Esther Julia on Sunday, October 23.

Karin Kleen and Andy Stewart welcomed a baby boy, born on October 18 in London, England. Grandparents are Judy Kleen and Les Kleen.

We send healing wishes to: **Doris Cornell** who will have neck surgery November 7; **Jo Anne St. Clair** who will have gallbladder surgery on November 9; **Shirley Shank**, mother of Wesley Thompson, who is recovering from a fall; and **Rev. Eric Meter** who is healing well after out-patient surgery on October 31.

We send caring thoughts to: the **Nandyal family** and **Su Ann Farnlacher**. Lauri Nandyal's father has been moved to a nursing home for Alzheimer hospice care. Su Ann underwent surgery for a detached retina.

Our condolences to: **Nancy Fritz**, whose best friend, Sandy, died of lung cancer on October 28; and **Sandy Aska**, whose nephew in Florida died unexpectedly.

Strategic Planning and the Survey

. After having probed through the archives and reviewed interviews conducted by other committees, the Strategic Planning Committee decided to create its own survey. This will provide updated information from the congregation and provide insight into the viewpoints of the congregation.

There are two ways to complete the survey: electronically or by hardcopy. Instructions will be provided for both ways of completing the survey. The SP Committee strongly suggests utilizing the electronic means, but we will happily accept a completed hardcopy.

We hope that you will take time to complete the survey. Please answer all questions, including the final questions which will provide demographic information to the committee. The survey is confidential, and is your voice to the Board.

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 now complete the survey electronically or in writing. November 9 is the 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

The Music Committee is sponsoring something new this year: an **All-Church Dance** for everyone—families, kids, adults, singles, partners—everyone, **Saturday, November 12, 5:30 – 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 5:30-6:30 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, 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.



Rev. Mark preached on immigration today. I was much struck by his comparison of our attitude toward immigration with the Calvinist attitude toward salvation. Calvinists believed that people were born predestined to be saved and go to heaven. All others are damned, literally. It is an accident of birth, a cosmic lottery, that put us in the U.S. and like the Calvinists our attitude is all others be damned. To be fair, I guess, most of us don't think that way; we just don't think about it at all.

A First UU group has been thinking and talking about our broken immigration system for four weeks. We have two more sessions to go in the UUA class, *Immigration As a Moral Issue*. We will offer this class again in February and March. Here are some thoughts from some members of the class.

Kathleen Boston found that “As a result of the class, I am more attuned to immigration issues through the media and other sources. Everywhere I turn, when I see the landscapers working in my apartment complex, or when dining out and glancing into a kitchen, and many other moments, I wonder if people live in fear of deportation or if they can be secure in their lives as they are working to support our economy as well as themselves. Why can we not provide a legal path for newcomers so they don't need to live in fear of deportation, leaving their children behind who are actually American citizens? Except for native American Indians, we all were newcomers once.”

Fujio Hayashi shared a personal incident with us when we discussed the Arizona law that requires police to stop and question everyone who “looks illegal.” “Over 30 years ago when my sister was about 14...[she] came to visit us for a weekend with my wife Susan and me in Rochester, NY. We took a day trip to Niagara Falls. After spending the day, my sister was asleep in the back seat, when we were crossing the border from Canada to the US. A US official checked my documentation and my wife's and then asked about my sister. I told the official that she was born in the US. He told me that he needed to question her directly. I protested. The official shouted for me to “wake her up!” I reluctantly woke her up, but Kay was still half asleep. The official asked where she was born. Kay replied that she was born in the US. The official asked the same question again, with more hostility. Kay responded that she was born in California. The official asked the same question again with more hostility and skepticism. Kay responded that she was born in Mountain View, California. The official asked the same question again. This time, Kay shouted back to the official, ‘What do you want, the name of the hospital!?’ The official backed off and finally let us go through. I doubt if we would have gotten the same treatment if Kay was a Caucasian....There was nothing suspicious that would have caused the US official to suspect that we were attempting to smuggle an illegal alien. I would like to share this story as many of the church members may not have encountered such discrimination.”

“The content from the UUA curriculum was very informative,” said **Steve Palm-Houser**. “The class activities brought the content home--making it personal and engaging me on the emotional level. Especially moving were the timeline, where we wrote in our families' immigration histories and talked about them, and the Shop 'til You Drop on a Mexican wage site. That's at <http://www.ueinternational.org/shop/>”

“Susan Carter, a guest participant from Overbrook Presbyterian Church, brought us a first hand account of the treatment of the workers (many of them immigrants) in the tomato fields in Florida, and told us about the work of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. ‘The CIW has been recognized for its work in helping with the investigation and federal prosecution of several forced labor operations – including slavery rings - in Florida agriculture.’ (Wikipedia) It’s heartbreaking stuff. Susan works now in Ohio (yes, there are problems here too) with the CIW Campaign for Fair Food (ciw-online.org).”
Olwen Firestone strongly urged more folks to sign up for this class when it is offered again in February.

And **Susan Carter** observed, "The immigration class has opened our eyes to new perspectives and new information about the suffering of immigrants in our country today under our current laws. The solution, we're learning, isn't easy. For example, in some states, lawmakers have tried to ensure that only documented immigrants are hired, and schools are told to check children's documents before admitting them to school. The result? Migrant workers are fleeing the state at untold cost to themselves and their families, while farmers suffer as their crops rot in the fields."

--May all be well, Jolinda

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
www.firstuucolumbus.org, JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946, ext 28

Faith Development at First UU

Senior High Justice Trip To General Assembly Our senior high youth are going to Phoenix - June 20 to 24 to join with several thousand other UUs to witness for justice, learn more about doing justice right here in Ohio, and support our partners there. If you think you want to be a part of this trip, come help make jewelry with the group at **First Friday, December 2**. Attend the 6:30pm potluck, if you like, and then gather to make items for sale. We have some great ideas for fundraising for the 2012 trip...and for the trip to Transylvania/Rumania in 2013.

Youth Musicians Sought for Special Recommitment Ceremony February 12 First UU will be the host congregation for a very special event to support the right of LGBTQ folks to marry. LGBTQ and straight couples will recite vows on February 12. The last time we held this celebration we had over 400 people in attendance from all over the city, from many faiths and none. The interfaith planning team has made a special request that our young musicians perform during the reception. If you'd like to volunteer, email Jolinda Stephens at jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org.

Families of Infants and Toddlers, Saturday, November 12, 11am. These informal gatherings meet monthly and provide safe space for parents and caregivers, infants, toddlers and siblings. New parents are especially welcome. Contact Nancy Powlick, lpowlick@columbus.rr.com.

Sunday School Calendar for November

Preschool and Kindergarten

November 13 Regular Sunday School classes

November 20 Whole Congregation Worship - Bread Ceremony. We all gather for one of the basic celebrations of our church year

November 27 Justice Sunday at Highbanks MetroPark at 10:30 am for both 9:15 and 11am classes. Details on our website at <http://bit.ly/vccav4>

Elementary

November 13 A special Generosity Project/ Bake Sale

November 20 Whole Congregation Worship - Bread Ceremony.

November 27 Justice Sunday with Harry Potter. Details on our website at <http://bit.ly/vccav4>

Youth

November 13 Regular Sunday School classes

November 20 Whole Congregation Worship - Bread Ceremony.

November 27 Some classes meet and others will not. Check with the teachers.

Multi-cultural Families Meets Thursday November 17, 6 pm. Discussion topic: Getting along with in-laws. With Thanksgiving coming up, the group will explore differences in traditions among family members. What traditions do you have? How do you deal with differences traditions. Then the December 2nd **First Friday** gathering of the group will feature the topics of money. What values around money does your family share? Do immigrants have different money values than those born in the U.S.? More information? -- Ka Wa Berman ka_wa_berman@yahoo.com.

Elementary Campfire Girls and Boys - Wednesday, Nov 16, 5-6:30 pm

Help Prepare for November 13 Holiday Appeal Kick-off. The elementary Sunday School classes will have an important role in kicking off the congregation's annual Holiday Appeal. They will be having a **BAKE SALE on Sunday November 13.** (The Holiday Appeal gift will help support 1) local families in need at the Clintonville Beechwood Community Resources Center; 2) help global families earn a living wage through the work of the UU Service Committee; and 3) support our church community that allows us to accomplish so much and make a difference in the world. The kids have been/will be learning about these organizations in their Sunday School classes.

If you'd like to help with this event there is more information in the "elementary" section at <http://bit.ly/u7MZEj>.

What does Hope Mean to You? Have some fun with our elementary groups in Sunday School two weeks in December exploring the idea of hope. Work with the DRE Jolinda Stephens to develop a workshop using your own talents or interests—science, cooking, dance, music, art, nature, movement, sports or drama. Or use a lesson plan. Contact Jolinda Stephens - jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org

Adult and Multi-Age Programming

This Month in Science, Tuesday, November 8, 7 pm. Topic: How are humans affecting the global environment – and what consequences do we have to look forward to? Contact Tom Baillieul for readings. tbaillieul@gmail.com

Zen Meditation, Tuesdays at 7 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am. Participate in a traditional Zen sit. It includes two 25-minute periods of silent meditation and walking meditation, chanting and prostrations. **Registration requested***

Feminism 3.0, Nov. 8 (2nd Tues), 7 pm. Discuss chosen reading topics of feminist literature, exploring the background of each author and related subjects, focusing on third wave feminism. **Registration required.***

Yoga with Terry LeMaster, Wednesdays, 7:30. Kripalu Yoga is a meditative approach combining breath work and physical movement for inner attunement of the body. **Registration required.***

Improvitational Dance, Thursdays, 9:30 am

Reflexology, Friday, November 11, 7 pm. Come alone or bring a buddy to practice foot massage and reflexology. **Registration required.***

Enlightened Hippogriffs, Sunday, November 13, 12:45 pm. All Harry Potter fans of every age who care about justice are welcome to the Columbus Chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance - thehpalliance.org.

Journey of the Universe Discussion, Sunday, November 13, 7:30pm. Discuss Thomas Berry video. Journeyoftheuniverse.org.

Easy Movement Class, Saturday, November 19 (2nd & 4th Saturdays), 11 am. This rather unstructured, non-competitive, non-demanding, and (relatively) non-instructional class is about easy movement to music. Participants are invited to simply engage with the music and move. **Registration requested***

Community and Questioning Thursdays, November 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.***

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

OPPORTUNITY! The Adult Enrichment Programs is looking for a new chairperson. First UU's programming – the richest in the denomination – results from the efforts of our dynamic team. The chair's role is to facilitate monthly meetings, coordinate with other elements of RE and guide development of each year's programs. Interested? Contact Tim Hooks, Board Chair, or Tom Baillieul, outgoing AEP Chair, tbaillieul@gmail.com

Eric and I will be away at our annual Ohio River Study Group when some of you read this. It's great to get together with colleagues to focus on particular issues in depth. Sermons rise from these conversations and papers, sure, but really, talking about our church life takes center stage, and we realize how many patterns can be found in any church, regardless of size or locale. It's comforting.

A couple of weeks ago I preached a sermon about Rob Bell, the Christian Universalist. I referred to his scholarship, and pointed out that he knew that the word often translated as hell in the New Testament (and in the Qur'an for that matter) is Ge Henna, a Greek form of the Hebrew Ge Himnon, which meant literally, "the clan Himnon's ravine." The place is still there in Jerusalem; I visited it and walked through its tangled low bushes littered with car parts, a garbage dump. It was a garbage dump at the time of Jesus too, a place to burn refuse. When I heard people giggle when I said the word, I realized that some people seemed to have heard Gahanna, a suburb of Columbus, and a totally unrelated word. It's a local Native American dialect meaning "confluence of three creeks."

I hope that informs. And I certainly hope no one would imagine that I would say anything untoward about any place around here.

Next week, there will be a guest preacher from Uganda, the Unitarian minister from Kampala, Rev. Mark Kiyimba. He will give a lecture on Friday night at the church on the terrible anti-gay crusade of conservative Evangelicals, tutored by USA pastors, who have stirred up a hornets' nest there. He will preach on Sunday, and will collect a special offering for the Unitarian AIDS orphanage in Kampala. Mark has traveled around the country offering his sermons, and all of my colleagues have truly enjoyed working with him. If you want to read up about Uganda, that might be nice. Go to Google images and type in Kampala or Uganda and see panoramas of the country where Mark grew up.

See you soon. Blessings.



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame

*Over the river and through the wood
to grandfather's house we go.
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifting snow.*

These familiar Thanksgiving words from 1845 in a book called *Flowers for Children*, were written by Lydia Maria Child. (pronounce that second name Ma RYE uh.) The cottage where grandpa lived still stands, near Tufts, in Massachusetts.

She was a Unitarian, an abolitionist, and remarkably knowledgeable for that day and age about world religions. She wrote these words in a letter to Theodore Weld in 1880:

"Ah, my friend, that is the only true church organization, when heads and hearts unite in working for the welfare of the human race." Amen

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
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Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
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