

The
DISCOVERER
November 20, 2011

Non-Profit Organization
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Columbus, Ohio
Permit 131

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

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WORSHIP SERVICES

November Theme for All Ages: Gratitude

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

Rev. Mark Belletini

“What Do We Owe To Each Other?”

December Theme for All Ages: Hope

December 4, 2011, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

“Beyond Goodwill”

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

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Hope Not Hype”

Note: *Christmas Eve Celebrations 5:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M.*

One service on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 A.M., rather informal.

► "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 23, 2011

- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga cancelled

Thursday, November 24, 2011

2:00pm Thanksgiving Dinner (setup at 1:30)

Saturday, November 26, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation

Sunday, November 27, 2011

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 1:00p UU Visual Artists
- 4:00p Community Drumming Circle
- 6:00p Bridge Group (call 499-2434)
- 7:00p Neighboring Faiths Teaching Team

Monday, November 28, 2011

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

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:30p Advent Service Dinner (service at 7:00)
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, December 1, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 11:00a Senior Gathering
- 6:30p Advent, Lessons & Carols Planning
- 7:00p Community and Questioning
- 7:00p Path to Membership (Part 1)
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 2, 2011

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 6:30p First Friday Potluck
- 7:30p Multicultural Families Meeting
- 7:30p Church Decorating

Saturday, December 3, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class

Sunday, December 4, 2011

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry;
- 1:00p Path to Membership (Part 2); Youth Group

Monday, December 5, 2011

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Goddesses in Training
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Being an Atheist/Agnostic
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Campfire Girls & Boys
- 5:30p Advent Service Dinner
- 7:00p Advent Service
- 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, December 4
Deadline: 1:00p hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00p email articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

LINKS

My entry for this issue will be briefer than most, but in many ways more important. On behalf of both myself and the congregation's Pastoral Team, I have a request. The list that my predecessor, Rev Wendy Fish, kept so diligently of people willing to be a resource for others facing a given illness has become out of date. While I have added to it in my time with you, the time has come for it to be thoroughly refreshed. So we're starting our spring cleaning early this year. If you have been treated for, or are living with, a specific health condition, and are willing to be speak to someone who is facing that particular diagnosis, please let me know.

Your information will go no further than myself, Dick Dawson (with whom I manage the Pastoral Team), perhaps another member of the team, and the person you'd be talking to.

I can't guarantee that everyone who puts their name forward will be contacted, but an up-to-date list of folks, willing to talk about their experience with a health condition they have lived with, will be invaluable to others in our community who may come to find themselves facing something quite similar down the line. Thank you.

I wish you all a warm and happy Thanksgiving,



Rev. Eric Meter

HOLIDAY APPEAL - Gifts from the Heart ♥

We are already off to an inspiring start with this year's Holiday Appeal gift. Thanks to the hard work of our elementary Sunday School classes, and the support of our dedicated community, our bake sale raised \$480. (\$300 of that is going toward the Holiday Appeal while \$180 was donated to the Ugandan orphanage.)

At the holiday time of year, our thoughts often turn to gifts. Your monetary donation to Holiday Appeal helps sustain the gift of our spiritual home, caring community and social justice ministries. With the multitude of choices for our spending dollars, what other gifts can make our lives more precious and meaningful, all while helping to affect the world around us?

The Holiday Appeal goal this year is to raise \$18,000. To show appreciation for all we have been given, the first \$1,000 will be donated to local and global families in need, through the Community Resource Center and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Any amount raised over \$18,000 will be split with these organizations also.

The requested donation is \$75 per member/friend, \$5 per youth, \$1 per child. Or more or less as you are able. I was already inspired by the children in Fellowship Hall donating their chore money to support our congregation.

Donate now on the web via Paypal, or increase your pledge online (\$12.50 per month for six months) <http://www.firstuucolumbus.org/giving/ha-donate-now>, or place your check in the collection basket, or mail it to the church (put "Holiday Appeal" on memo line).

Thank you. -- The Stewardship Committee

FIRST FRIDAY Come to the December First Friday potluck on December 2 at 6:30pm. Make some holiday decorations and help decorate the church.

ADVENT SERVICES 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 plan any of these services come to church any Thursday between 6:30 and 7:30 (with the exception of Thanksgiving), or email Debra, debra.boyd@gmail.com

LESSONS & CAROLS 4:00pm December 11. This traditional service is full of music. If you love singing, it is a lot of fun and very family friendly. Bring a dish to share for the 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), or email Debra, debra.boyd@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Help our Coming of Age group by buying your 2011-12 Entertainment Book now. Books are \$30 with \$7.50 going for COA activities. There are many places to use the 50% off coupons: restaurants, cultural centers, pizza places, cafes, bakeries, gas stations, dry cleaners, discount stores, Ballet Met, Columbus Symphony, sports events, art museums etc.

Only three Sundays are left to get **your** book. Call Karin Erickson, 614-834-3988, with questions.

THANKSGIVING The 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. Please contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176 or jeanniray@gmail.com. See you there.

BOOKBITES meets December 20 in Slowter Lounge, 7 to 9 pm for our annual Christmas exchange. Bring a gift-wrapped used/read book to exchange, and some cookies to share. Beverage will be provided. Also, bring a reading in the Christmas spirit. Questions: call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ART QUILTS Please enjoy this exhibit 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, 2012. Contact Deb Baillieul (447-1223, debbsyc@yahoo.com) for purchase information. The church accepts a 10% donation for all works sold.

YOUTH ART SHOW January 3 – February 12, 2012 What does winter mean to you? What do you do in winter? Are you looking for lots of color, warmth, or do you enjoy ice and snow? Is it a season to play games, read good stories, make hide-outs? What makes winter play different? Show us with your art!

Bring your entries on Sunday, January 1, after the service, or on Tuesday, January 3, from 4-6 pm. Have it matted or framed with a wire for hanging. Sign it and name it! You can enter two pieces. Fill out the entry form below and email to Deb Baillieul-debbsyc@yahoo.com

THIS SHOW IS FOR ANYONE UNDER AGE 18-

Your Name _____
Contact name and email _____
Piece #1 Title _____
media and size _____
Piece #2-Title _____
media and size _____

FROM THE BUUKSTORE We will be closed on December 25 and January 1, due to the holidays.

The next quarterly *Bring Books/Take Books* event will be February 12. Remember, you don't have to bring books to take some, and you don't have to take books to bring some. It's an open exchange of used books to benefit our community.

The BUUKstore has a of couple gift ideas for this holiday season: 1) We regularly stock multiple titles from leading authors of particular interest to UUs, including Mark Morrison-Reed, Karen Armstrong, John A. Buehrens, Forrest Church, Bart Ehrman, Meg Barnhouse, and poet Mary Oliver. A pair of titles from one author would make a great gift.

2) The First UU cookbook is still available at the discounted \$10 price. Marry a copy up with the ingredients needed to make a special recipe inside and you have a great gift! We'll have an example on the BUUKstore tables so you can see what we mean.

-- Your BUUKstore Committee

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.
December 7, Birthdays, Poetry and Sharing - All
December 14, Fun for the Holidays - All
December 21, Winter Solstice - Jeanni
December 28, Reflections - All

AUCTION 2012 February 18, 2012. The theme is "South Pacific – Some Enchanted Auction."

"I want to wash that cash right out of my wallet!"

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!**

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.

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

GARDEN CLUB will have a plant share of indoor plants next Sunday (Thanksgiving weekend) in Fellowship Hall. Studies prove that many plant varieties such as the common spider plant, improve the quality of

air in our homes and businesses. This is especially important during the winter months.

Please feel free to bring as many plants and plant starts Sunday, November 27, and to help yourself. The event is free; you do not have to bring one to take one

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

UUSC Our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) began its annual fundraising drive with *Guest At Your Table* boxes and *Stories of Hope* booklets on November 20. This year you will be able to renew or begin your memberships online in Fellowship Hall after each service. *We have holiday cards* at the table, too. 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 these services. – Marge Lynd

EMPTY BOWLS Thanks to everyone who attended and donated to this event. First UU raised over \$1000 for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank this year. A big thank you to everyone who donated delicious soup and to those who gave your time and energy to setting up, serving soup and cleaning up. We could not host this event each year without our wonderful volunteers. – Sherri Stubbs (And many thanks to Sherri for promoting this event each year.)

UU ANIMAL MINISTRY Help eliminate Dog Auctions. Ohio is the only state east of the Mississippi to allow this despicable business, where dogs are treated as products, not as companions, nor sentient loyal beings.

Dogs are kept in unsanitary cages that do not have to be more than 12' wider than their bodies. Many of the dogs are diseased or lack good temperament. It's a miserable life for "our best friends."

Dogs born in puppy mills are sold at auction. They have had minimal or no health care. They are bought by pet shops or used for "training" for illegal dog fighting.

Ban Ohio Dog Auctions is trying to eliminate dog auctions by an initiative petition that goes on the ballot in 2012. Signatures must be gathered by November 30. If you haven't signed, please see Rick Kritzer, Lisa Iacobellis, Deb McGuire, Marguerite Molk, Stephen Palm-Hauser, Karen Squires, or Sue Pascual. To learn more see BanOhioDogAuctions.com

-- Rick Kritzer, First UU Animal Ministry

FOOD PANTRY Now it's time to begin our Christmas food collection for our friends at the Athens County *Feed My Sheep* food pantry. 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 hope to help out with food boxes for 175 families. We need: hams, 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 also time to bring 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



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity - our local interfaith social justice organization)

1) **New Issue:** 500 representatives of BREAD congregations at BREAD's November 14 Annual Assembly voted to select *Lack Of Jobs In Central Ohio* as the 2012 problem for BREAD to begin researching for Action in 2012. Anyone interested is invited to attend the Research Kickoff on Monday, December 12, 7 pm, at North Broadway United Methodist Church, 48 E. North Broadway Avenue.

2) **Recognition:** First Unitarian Universalist was one of 14 BREAD congregations honored for meeting or exceeding their 2011 goal in the annual BREAD Member Investment Drive. (Your financial investment in justice for Central Ohio is still welcome. Make out your check to BREAD and mail it to the church or place it in the BREAD mailbox in the volunteer room.

3) **Elections:** Rev. George Glazier (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church) and Dr. Hany Saqr (Noor Islamic Cultural Center) - BREAD Co-Presidents; Rev. Charles Tatum (Good Shepherd Baptist Church) - Vice President; Elder Daniel Harris, Sr. (Rhema Christian Center) – Treasurer; Gloria Angelo (St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church) – Recording Secretary; Carol Smith (St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church) – Corresponding Secretary.

Go to <http://www.breadcolumbus.org/> for additional information or contact Alice Rathburn, alice37@insight.rr.com, 895-2109, or 563-0536.

ARE WE A DEMOCRACY? Arguably today we are not! *Occupy Wall Street* (and *Occupy Columbus*, and....) activists have clearly demonstrated that the “emperor has no clothes”! The real power in our country resides with the huge multi-national corporations that have gradually gained access through judicial decisions, to many of the rights “We the People” have acquired through our Constitution and its amendments. Today, they are legally “people” and, since the “Citizens United vs. the FEC” Supreme Court decision in 2010, they are also able to spend unlimited funds from their treasuries for advertising in support of, or against, any candidate in any election! Given the resources they enjoy, there is little doubt as to which candidates will be elected! And once they are elected, who are they going to listen to in order to remain in office? Yet the Constitution clearly states that “We the People” are supreme!

Citizens United, though, gave birth to a counter movement. A coalition of many national organizations called *Move To Amend* was born a week later with the objective of supporting a national, grass-roots movement to obtain a constitutional amendment declaring the “Corporations are not persons and money is not speech.” The Central Ohio affiliate of this coalition is based in our church, as a sub-committee of our Justice Action Ministry. *Move To Amend – Central Ohio* is obtaining signatures to a national petition, speaking to churches, unions, and civic organizations about the reality of our nation's politics and will be promoting resolutions and ballot initiatives to move the issue forward. We are collaborating with *Occupy Columbus* to clarify possible actions to restore power to the 99%. See our Facebook page: *Move To Amend – Central Ohio*; or our website: movetoamendcolumbus.org; or the national website: movetoamend.org for details; or contact co-founder, Michael Greenman at mgreenman@wowway.com.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **David Krohn** on the birth of his first grandson and **Jim Arter** who has been invited to be a guest of The Columbus Children's Choir when they go to sing at the White House next month.

Best wishes to **Chris Hardin** who, on Friday, 11/11/11, formally initiated two new business ventures for herself;

Congratulations to **Sue Pascual** who has a winning photo in the 2012 Greenlawn Cemetery Calendar. "Lilacs Galore" is the June photograph.

Happy Birthday to **Vera Toran** who will be 91 on Monday, November 28.

Our best wishes to **Lea Pearson**, who has recently moved to New England.

Our caring thoughts are with **Rich Humenick and his wife, Deb Steward**, as Rich begins treatment for Multiple Myeloma.

We send our condolences to **Tim Peacock** whose father died on 11/11/11.

Don't miss *Poetic Vision: Ink Paintings*, an exhibit of the art of the late C.Y. Woo, father of First UU member Tien Hsing Wu, which is on display at the Frank

Museum of Art at Otterbein College, 39 South Vine Street, Westerville. The museum is open 11a.m. to 3:00pm, Wednesdays through Fridays (closed holidays and university breaks). For further information, call 818-9716, or visit www.otterbein.edu/artscene. (The Frank Museum is named after the late Lillian Frank, also one of our church members.)



WORDS ON MUSIC

by Tony McDonald, Music Director

As the holiday season approaches, there are several traditional music activities in which you may want to participate. All the events listed below are open to the general congregation and friends. If you see an asterisk, that means I need to know if you want to participate, so please email me at: musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org. In any case, consider marking your holiday calendar for:

- **Singing in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Chorus.*** Again this year, we have been invited to be part of this major city-wide event by singing in the chorus made up of choirs from around the city. There are five rehearsals on Tuesday evenings: 11/29; 12/6; 12/13; 1/3; and 1/10 at the Broad Street Presbyterian Church. The Breakfast is the morning of Monday, **January 16, 2012**.
- **Messiah Sing-along with ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Friday, December 9 at 7:30 pm** at the Southern Theatre.* Sing through Handel's great oratorio with choruses from all over the city and a professional orchestra. Members from this church who participate often go out to dinner before (organized by Karen McGuire).
- **First UU's traditional Holiday Concert of the church's choirs, Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm.** All four choirs will participate in this much-loved annual event, this year featuring Karl Jenkins' new cantata *Gloria*, with orchestra.
- **Caroling for seniors.** We sing carols at homes and centers for UU seniors on *Monday, Dec. 19, starting at 6 pm*. Feel free to use the above email address for any questions.

And in the future, look for more on these upcoming events in 2012:

- **Adult ("Grownups") Talent Show Saturday, February 11, 2012, 7:30 pm**
- **Mostly Motown Sing-along Saturday, March 24, 2012, 7:30 pm**
- **Youth Talent Show Saturday, April 21, 2012, 7:30 pm**
-

Happy Holidays!

ANNUAL CHOIR CONCERT RECEPTION – December 18

Each year, the First UU choirs present their gift to the congregation in the form of a Holiday Concert (see above) We reciprocate by providing the reception that follows. On Sunday, December 18, after the 4:00pm concert, various committees, teams and groups will spearhead the set-up, serving and clean-up of the reception from 5:30 – 7:00pm. How can you help?

The groups noted above can decorate a table (or share one), provide finger food refreshments and supplies, and then, lastly, clean-up their area when finished. Beverages will be available for all at a central service.

So that sufficient space can be planned, participating groups are asked to leave a note in the Governance Documents mailbox in the Volunteer Workroom.

Individuals/families can also show their appreciation by bringing a plate of *finger foods* (nut/fruit breads, fruits, veggies, cookies, etc.) before the concert. Or you can assist with the early organization of the food platters and tables, or help with general clean-up at the conclusion.

Regardless of how you choose to help with the reception, your help will contribute to another wonderful experience!
-- Paula Hook, Reception Coordinator

FOOD AND UU!

Food, wonderful food! We cook it, we serve it, we eat it, we sell it and often give it away, and we even clean up the mess! We use it in ceremony, for fundraisers, for charities and best of all for fellowship. It is healthy, diverse, delicious, and enhances our social lives. Sometimes we all contribute; for example, bringing food to share for the Summer Picnic, First Friday Potluck, and Thanksgiving Dinner (the Social Committee donates the Thanksgiving turkeys and volunteers cook them). James Brown is the Social Committee Chair at info@brownj.net

Awesome food was served up last year to 250 people who bought tickets to the annual Auction fund raiser for an *Evening in Paris*. The atmosphere was fun and lively. A team of six cooked the entrees in the kitchen, while many others donated side dishes and salads. Total auction proceeds amounted to approximately \$28,000. What a dinner that was!

Once a year Reverend Mark puts on his apron and cooks for the Seder dinner. This is an exceptional, spiritual experience and is part of the Jewish Passover Celebration. I loved this event! Mark does some of the cooking and organizes and supervises others who cook and serve the dinner. In addition, he facilitates the presentation of an authentic Jewish Seder Service and meal for close to 100 people. Watch for information on this event which you don't want to miss.

About a dozen hard working people cooperate to bring the seniors of the church together for Senior Gathering four times a year. They generally serve lunch to around 40 people, including seniors, staff and volunteers. The food is donated by the Caring Committee. In addition, the church provides food for receptions after memorial services. Volunteers for set up, serving and clean up for both these events are always welcome. Contact Carole Wilhelm, cwillhelm@columbusrr.com.

An average of 150 people are served a *Taco and Brownie* meal the 4th Friday of each month at the YWCA Family Center. These are homeless families with children who are staying at the center while they work towards employment and housing. Volunteers purchase the food, prepare it, serve it and clean- up after. We have been supporting this event for six to seven years. Many volunteers are involved in this effort, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Cathy McCutcheon, at mccutcheoncathy@yahoo.com.

A group of volunteers also cook the first and third Friday of the month for Faith Mission serving homeless men and women. By request, the menu is always the same and always nutritious. Some of this group have been cooking for these people for 19 years! Weiland's Market supplies the chicken at low or no cost. Donna Greenman spearheads the delivery of the food to the mission and is looking for volunteers. Contact her at dgreenman@wowway.com.

In addition to all the happenings mentioned above, you can have breakfast at the church on Sunday morning before the first service for only \$2.00. And always a "hats off" to the Coffee Warriors faithfully serving up the brew every Sunday (volunteers are needed here, too.) Food also appears at functions like the two Choir Concerts (see page 6), Artist's Receptions, Guest Speakers, and other events that take place on Sunday afternoons and throughout the week.

Food is definitely a big part of the life of our congregation. It's an important part of the warm, generous spirit I have found here at First Unitarian Universalist Church. By the way, just recently, I attended a class after Sunday Service and guess what? Lunch was included. That's what prompted this article! -- Patty Monroe, Communications Committee



Dealing with Difficult Family Members at Holidays I don't in any way consider myself an expert in dealing with difficult family members because I usually feel just plain defeated that I've been unable to maintain any but the most superficial relationships with my birth family. This is the time of year, when many of us contemplate how to renew and repair difficult relationships.

That's a very worthy goal and I have the greatest admiration for those who can love and hold close those with whom they have profound disagreements. Something happened this week that reminded me that holding my birth family at arm's length may be the healthiest thing I can do. A FaceBook posting to my wall from one of my nephews let me in on the latest news from my family. This is the nephew who found me on FaceBook and introduced himself by saying I must be the Aunt Jo that no one will talk about. I had never met him. He was the child that his parents wouldn't talk about as a teen. The family was on the "mission field" (England, of all places) all during his childhood.

Because I limit interaction with them, I tend to forget what my family is really like. Following up on what my nephew told me, I took an internet trip via news stories through the world I escaped as a teen. It is a world that tolerates abuse of many kinds in the name of their religion.

If you are struggling with relationships that you feel need healing during the holidays, don't be too hard on yourself. Maybe your distance is an important form of self-preservation. A good test is to look at the other relationships in your life. If they are vibrant and don't fall apart over differences, perhaps what you are doing is for the best. At least for now. Life does have a way of softening some people. There is always hope.

Here's a toast to all of us who will be reminding ourselves of the inherent worth and dignity of every person a whole lot over the next few weeks!

May all be well, Jolinda

Religious Education Activities

Keep Up with What's Happening on FaceBook "Like" First Unitarian Universalist of Columbus. You'll get short reminders of events and links to interesting UU news.

For more information about Sunday School and faith development for children, teens and adults, contact Director of Religious Education Jolinda Stephens. Office hours are Monday through Thursday afternoons until 6 pm and by appointment. jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org

Families of Infants and Toddlers meets Saturday December 10 at 11 am. Join this lively group for fun and good talk with those who may have very similar experiences to yours. It meets monthly on the second Saturday.

High Schoolers Meet December 2 for 2nd Justice Trip Meeting *We're making jewelry to sell....*

The Organizing Meeting for the June 20-24 Senior High Justice Trip decided on several great fundraisers. An important one is to make and sell jewelry. All youth and their parents/guardians who plan to go on the trip, or who want to know more about the trip should attend the December 2 First Friday meeting. You'll learn more about the trip and have a great time making jewelry. If no one from your family can attend, please contact Jolinda or Rev. Eric. Bring food to share at 6:30 with First Friday Potluck and then the group will gather to plan their trip and fundraising.

Justice Sundays for PreK/K and for Elementary *PreK/K Justice Sunday, November 27, 10:30a at Highbanks*

Both the 9:15 and 11 am Sunday School kindergarten and preschool groups will meet at Highbanks MetroPark to explore ***Nature Prepares for Winter at the same time - 10:30.*** The naturalist will lead the group of parents and children in outdoor walks, if the weather permits, and indoor activities to help children experience a part of the yearly cycle of life.

These Justice Sunday events support children in answering the psychological and spiritual questions they have about the nature of life. It also supports their connection with, and love for, the natural world. This love and connection is foundational to the 7th Principle - respect for the web of all existence. Please call the RE Office if you would like a ride to Highbanks. Older and younger siblings are welcome. If you would like elementary-aged siblings to participate in the Harry Potter Justice Sunday for them at the church, please ask an adult to be responsible for them during the time that you are not there. Meet at: 9466 Columbus Pike (US Rt 23 N) Lewis Center, OH 43035 at the Nature Center.

Elementary Justice Sunday with Harry Potter *November 27 at 9:15 and 11* This year our elementary Justice Sundays will use the mythology of Harry Potter. We are now the Columbus chapter (The Enlightened Hippogriffs) of the Harry Potter Alliance ("the only weapon we have is love"). On November 27 we'll all join Dumbledore's Army to fight poverty and child slavery. Chocolate is a very special substance in Harry Potter's world.

The children will join their launch of the HPA campaign called *Not in Harry's Name* to replace the chocolate that carries the Harry Potter brand made by WB with Fair Trade chocolate and we'll promote the sales of Fair Trade chocolate here at First UU. And we'll have some fun doing it. If your children have Harry Potter character clothes, they are welcome to wear them on November 27.

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.

The book we'll be using is about a group of homeless kids in Haiti who came together to build a better environment for themselves. When it was destroyed, they rebuilt, including starting a kids' radio station and creating murals. If that gives you ideas for a two week project you'd like to do, contact the RE Office, extension 28.

Sunday School Schedule for the Holidays

November 27—Elementary will meet at 9:15 and 11 in Fellowship Hall for Justice Sunday; PreK/K and their families will meet at Highbanks MetroPark at 10:30. Senior High OWL meets. Neighboring Faiths meets. 8th Grade OWL does not meet. Check with teachers for Coming of Age.

December 4 and 11—All groups meet

December 18—Illumination Intergenerational Worship at 9:15 and 11.

December 24—4:30 gather before the 5 pm early Christmas Eve Service; 11pm Christmas Eve Service. No childcare

December 25—11am Worship Service. No childcare

January 1—11am Worship Service with art experience for children. No childcare.

Adult and Multi-age Programming

Enlightened Hippogriffs Yule Ball, December 10 at 6:30. Get your glam clothes ready. All Harry Potter fans of every age won't want to miss the Ball. In addition to a dance with a live band, they'll be a trip to Hogwarts and Butter Beer to drink and have all kinds of Hogwarts fun.

Multi-Cultural Families Meet on December 2 at First Friday Come together for fun and support. This session will feature creating multi-cultural holiday decorations for the church and talks about the holidays.

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.

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

Jolinda Stephens

Director of Religious Education, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus

www.firstuucolumbus.org, JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946, ext 28

The First UU Adult Enrichment Program (AEP) is seeking a knowledgeable individual to create and lead a 2-3 part class on Mormonism (history, doctrines, practices, current issues). If interested, please contact Tom Baillieul at 614-447-1223 or by e-mail: tbaillieul@gmail.com.

Want to be part of a team that brings the best in Adult Programming to First UU? We're always looking for new members with ideas, energy, and an interest in lifelong learning. We meet every 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM (hint: for December, that's the 12th).

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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There is new kind of theology, often seen on television, but also preached in many of our mega-churches, called “Prosperity Theology.” We (the BREAD clergy) studied a whole book written about this new development in great detail by a minister in Cleveland (Marvin A. McMickle’s *Where Have All the Prophets Gone*, 2006). I didn’t know much about it, and didn’t think the TV preachers were representative of much reality. Apparently they are.

The Prosperity Preachers teach that God wants you to be fabulously wealthy, and all those passages in the scriptures about the oppression of the poor are mistaken. The poor are poor because they are godless. Robertson, the Trinity Broadcast Network folks, John Hagee, Rod Parsley and others are proving their beliefs by living in fabulous mansions of many dozens of rooms, driving a fleet of fancy cars, and owning personal jets, which, they assure us, Jesus would have owned had there been jets in Galilee.

This is all nonsense, and it’s not what we teach around here. During the coming month, the Holiday Appeal will address the situations of those whose lives are the exact opposite of the Prosperity Preachers, including many of us. I have always been disturbed by the congregations who have no offering during services, or tiptoe around the needs of the world, as if generosity is somehow onerous, or evil, the church plucking at your wallet out of some sort of greed for its own needs. I think of our church as a prophetic church, not a pulpit issuing summons to offer tithe “to God.” I dare say God doesn’t need the cash.

There are many other places that we give, some very personal. I myself have been helping a friend, without means and with a low paying job, buy a car, including his insurance; and yearly give to the AIDS ride in California in support of my very fit friends riding their bikes for 500 miles to raise money for services. But I give to the Appeal, I pledge to the church, I give in JAM offerings because I can’t imagine not doing that. When I was out of work for six months, I didn’t give very much at church, but I did give some, and didn’t feel shame for not giving more, because I am a rational person and know what makes sense for me.

As for my life, I am torn. My mother is declining more obviously now; the nurses say it won’t be long for her, so you may find Eric up there in the pulpit next Sunday and not me, and my friend John may cover for my Thanksgiving supper, since I usually have over people who mostly don’t go anyplace else. If I look tired, I am. And in this season of thanksgiving, I am grateful for my amazing mother.

Blessings on you all,



Rev. Mark Belletini

***The Inner Flame** Here is the famous passage from Yisayahu (Isaiah, 8th century BCE) quoted during Advent celebrations with its preface, which is rarely quoted. There is no prosperity preaching here, but hope for an end of oppression.*

The terror of oppressors
and the cruelty of tyrants
with all their weapons
and skills in devious language
are being done away with.
Every warrior’s boot used in battle,
and every garment red with innocent blood
will serve as kindling for a great bonfire,
for a child has been born for us