

The  
**DISCOVERER**  
December 4, 2011

Non-Profit Organization  
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Columbus, Ohio  
Permit 131

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF COLUMBUS

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**WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

**“Hope Not Hype”**

**December 18, 2011, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**“The Feast of Illuminations”**

*Multigenerational celebration of the gifts of the Season with stories and dances...*

**December 25, 2011, 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

**“Hoping to be Seen”**

**Note: One service only – at 11:00 A.M - Informal**

**December 24 Christmas Eve Celebrations**

**5 PM** Family Christmas Eve Service with Jolinda Stephens and Rev. Eric Meter

**10 PM** Christmas Evensong with Rev. Mark Belletini

ONE **11 AM** service only on New Year’s Day.

► "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, December 7, 2011**

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Campfire Boys and Girls
- 5:30p Advent Service Dinner
- 7:00p Advent Service
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, December 8, 2011**

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 6:30p Advent, Lessons and Carols Planning
- 7:00p Building & Grounds Committee
- 7:00p Expressive Collage
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, December 9, 2011**

- 7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

**Saturday, December 10, 2011**

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 10:00a A Walk Through Geologic Time
- 11:00a Parents of Infants and Toddlers
- 1:00p Clovis Dawson Memorial Service
- 2:30p Youth Group Childcare
- 6:30p Yule Ball

**Sunday, December 11, 2011**

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Enlightened Hippogriffs
- 12:30p Sunday Forum: Sufism & Religious Pluralism
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry
- 1:00p Green Team; Strategic Planning
- 2:00p PFLAG
- 4:00p Lessons & Carols Service/Dinner

**Monday, December 12, 2011**

- 7:00p Adult Enrichment Com; Chalice Choir
- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; Executive Committee

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

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

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011**

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:30p Advent Service Dinner
- 7:00p Advent Service; Memoir Writing
- 7:00p Personnel Committee
- 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering team
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, December 15, 2011**

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 6:00p Multicultural Families
- 6:30p Advent Planning
- 7:00p Communications Committee
- 7:00p Community and Questioning
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, December 16, 2011**

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

**Saturday, December 17, 2011**

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Extra Choir rehearsal
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class; Sound Team

**Sunday, December 18, 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 Artists Reception; Garden Club
- 1:00p Wellspring; Youth Group
- 4:00p Holiday Choir Concert (see page 6)

**Monday, December 19, 2011**

- 6:00p Caroling
- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; BREAD Team
- 7:30p Healing Journey

**Tuesday, December 20, 2011**

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Book Bites
- 7:00p Stewardship Committee; Wellspring
- 7:30p Finance Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 21, 2011**

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
- 5:00p Campfire Boys and Girls
- 5:30p Advent Service Dinner
- 7:00p Advent Service; Gay Straight Alliance
- 7:00p Membership Team
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

**COVENANT GROUPS - Rev. 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, December 18**  
**Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)**  
**6:00p - e-mail articles to [olwfire@yahoo.com](mailto:olwfire@yahoo.com)**

## LINKS

First off, thanks to all of you who responded to my request last time for those willing to be a resource for others facing a given illness or other condition. As I mentioned, our previous list has become out-of-date, so the Pastoral Team and I are seeking new folks to step forward. If you have, or are, living with a medical illness or other condition and would be interested in being a resource for others who may be facing the same situation in the future, please let me know.

The other thing I wanted to lift up in this issue is our *Path to Membership* groups. Last year, in the early fall, we started with a trial run of a new curriculum for these groups — one heavily revised from a denominational resource to use our own mission statement as the central element. In this, Susan Williams deserves all of our thanks. Based on both our sense of how the groups run, and feedback from participants, we've been making small tweaks to what she has created, so the sessions started great, and somehow have continued to improve.

In case you don't know, Path to Membership is, in large part, just what it sounds like. Though joining the congregation is not the direct goal. Rather we hope to give enough information, and follow-through to help folks with a significant interest in the congregation, make as informed a decision about joining as possible.

We usually hold a four hour session (either straight through on a Saturday, or broken up into two hours on a Thursday followed by another two hours that next Sunday afternoon) once a month, from August through May. Besides Susan and myself and Rev. Mark, who leads the portion on our mission statement, we also have a mentor for each group that goes through the class. Laurie Weltlin, Holly Adams and both Donna and Michael Greenman have been truly wonderful in this role. Ruth Gerhold also does a great job with the photographs of our new members you see in the hallway.

This is an important part of the life of our congregation, so when you see any of the *Path to Membership* group around next Sunday, please give them a warm Thank You for all they do.

*Eric*

Rev. Eric Meter

## CHURCH NEWS

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

## HOLIDAY APPEAL – Gifts from the Heart ♥

“...every one of them – the two old grandfathers, the two old grandmothers, Charlie’s father, Charlie’s mother, and especially little Charlie himself – went about from morning till night with a horrible empty feeling in their tummies.”

These words from Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* are the nearest brush many of us have had with poverty and hunger. Yet there are many who experience the unfathomable much more closely than in a book they read at night, tucked in their warm bed. Already, funds from the Holiday Appeal have provided \$1,000 for local and global families in need, to be shared through the Clintonville Community Resource Center and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Thanks to everyone who gave!

Now, we invite all of you who have not yet given to join us. Our budgeted goal for the appeal is \$18,000, and we need everyone’s help to reach it. **Please consider a gift of \$75, or more or less as you are able.** All gifts are tax deductible.

Your gift from the heart will help sustain our spiritual home, caring community and social justice ministries. With the multitude of choices for our spending dollars, what other gift can make our lives more precious and meaningful, all while helping to affect the world around us?

Donate securely at:

<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org/giving/ha-donate-now>, or place you check – marked Holiday Appeal on the memo line – in the collection basket on Sunday, or mail to the church.

Thank you. -- The Stewardship Committee

**ADVENT SERVICES** Consider joining us for dinner from 5:30-6:30 and the advent services starting at 7:00pm on **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 Thursday between 6:30 and 7:30, or email Debra, [debra.boyd@gmail.com](mailto: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 Thursday, December 8 between 6:30 and 7:30pm, or email Debra, [debra.boyd@gmail.com](mailto:debra.boyd@gmail.com).

**SUNDAY FORUM:** Babak Darvish will be giving a lecture on "Sufism and Religious Pluralism" on Sunday, December 11, at 12:30 pm.

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS** Sunday, December 11, after each service, is your last chance to get a book. Proceeds of \$7.50 for each book sold for \$30 goes to our Coming of Age group to help with their endeavors. 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. Coupons will last through November 1, 2012. Call Karin Erickson, 614-834-3988, with questions.

**SEEKING MUSICIANS** Amateurs or professional musicians are asked to volunteer their time and talent, to provide live music for the traditional labyrinth walks at the church during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Any music, chanting, singing, etc. will be welcomed - for either daytime or evening hours - to provide a meditative enjoyment of a walking meditation. If you are interested, please email or call Tina Thonnings with your availability and type of music you wish to share, 614-436-2902 or ktgratitude@yahoo.com.

**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

**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; email to Deb Baillieul- [debbsyc@yahoo.com](mailto:debbsyc@yahoo.com)  
**This show is for those under 18.**

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

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

**ALL SOLES CONTRA DANCE** *Friday, December 9* in Fellowship Hall; beginners' session at 7:30, dancing 8-10:30. Live old time music by Gypsy Stars, featuring fiddle, piano and hand drums. All dances prompted by the caller, Ken Gall. No partner needed; new dancers welcome! Childcare provided by an SYC staffer for those too young to join in. There will be an After-Party following the dance at the home of Kate Power and Andy Shewmon.

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

The BUUKstore has a couple of 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 cook book 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.

**BUUKstore note:** *Understanding the Bible* by John A. Buehrens a former President of the UUA is an excellent one to read to better understand the different books of the Bible in the Old and New Testaments. A synopsis of the books is provided, as well as information about the prophets. *Understanding the Bible* is available in the Buukstore.

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.

-- Your BUUKstore Committee

**2012 AUCTION** **February 18, 2012.** The theme is "South Pacific – Some Enchanted Auction." Be thinking what to donate. Dinner parties generate the most income, and are great ways to socialize. Service items are popular, too: raking leaves, washing windows, giving rides to the airport, pet sitting, child sitting etc.

Ticket sales in Fellowship Hall began 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](mailto:joastclare@aol.com)

## 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](mailto:debbsyc@yahoo.com)) for purchase information. The church accepts a 10% donation for all works sold.

**THANKS** The Social Committee wants to send a big thank you to all those who helped prepare - and all those who attended - our Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a big success. A special thank you to Wesley Thompson and Ruby Linhan for doing the turkeys. We are so very fortunate to have this wonderful community, and I hope to see you on Thanksgiving next year! --Jeanni Ray

**SENIOR GATHERING APPRECIATION** Thank you to these caring folks who prepared and served the meal, washed dishes, and provided rides on December 1: Carolyn Aurnou, Josette Bodonyi, Eve Catus, Sandy Coen, Olwen Firestone, Paula Hook, Greg Houston, Florence Jain, Oliver Jones, Bill Keating, Pat Larson, Dave MacDonald, John Schumacher and Linda Thompson. -- Carole Wilhelm

### 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



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

1) **Research Kickoff:** Are you ready to get involved in helping to change our community for the better? If so, or if you just want to learn how BREAD's research process works, attend the BREAD Research Kick-off meeting on

**Monday, December 12, 7-9 pm, North Broadway United Methodist, 48 E. North Broadway 43214.**

In addition to the research group for the new "Jobs" problem, the committees for Crime and Violence, Healthcare, and Neighborhood Blight will meet to discuss plans for the coming year. Attend the breakout session that is your passion.

2) **Election—Executive Committee At Large—Members:**

Quay Barnes (Christ United Methodist Church), Min. Jacqueline Golden (Rhema Christian Assembly), Adrienne Owens (Bethany Presbyterian Church), Alice Rathburn (First Unitarian Universalist Church), Rabbi Michael Ungar (Congregation Tifereth Israel), Leroy Hushak (St. Thomas More Newman Center).

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

**FOOD PANTRY** Now it's time to donate to 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

### CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Suzan McCrystal**. December 5 marks the second anniversary of her ordination into the ministry of Unitarian-Universalism.

There will be a memorial service for long-time friend, **Clovis Dawson**, on Saturday, December 10 at 1 pm at the church.

The Caring Committee will be coordinating a special blood drive on **Wednesday, December 21 in Fellowship Hall from 9am. to 3pm.** This is in commemoration of the December 23<sup>rd</sup> birthdate of Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross. She was also a Universalist. The Red Cross will be providing a birthday cake! You can sign up for the blood drive at the Caring Table on Sunday.

  
**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](mailto:musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org). In any case, consider marking your holiday calendar for:

- **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.
- **Singing in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Chorus**.<sup>\*</sup> 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.<sup>\*</sup> 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).
- **Caroling for seniors**. We sing carols at homes and centers for UU seniors on *Monday, December 19, starting at 6:00 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



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The History of Campus Programs, Part I

(Rev. Eric Meter asked that I provide Ben Iten, our campus chaplain, with a history of campus programs. The following article is the first in a series on the campus programs that the church has offered. The Archives provided materials for them - newsletters, annual reports, newspaper articles, and miscellaneous items. There are gaps in the materials and a few contradictory statements, but for the most part, this is the history. With special thanks to Archives Team member Nancy Morr for starting the research. Linda Thompson, Historian)

The First Unitarian, the First Universalist, and the First Unitarian Universalist churches have had campus, college or young adult programs over the years. The names, the programs and the leadership have changed through the decades.

The First Unitarian Church, founded in June 1940, opened its first church home, The Unitarian House, in 1941 at 1957 Indianola Avenue near the Ohio State University campus. The first called minister Rev. Clyde Williams worked with ministers from two other churches - the First Congregational Church and the First Plymouth Congregational Christian Church - to develop a program for student religious liberals. The Unitarian House became the Liberal Student Center.

The committee which planned the Center included Rev. Williams, Rev. Clarke Cockrene of First Plymouth Congregation and Rev. William Leath of the First Congregational. Photos of the three ministers appeared in one of the Columbus' newspapers under the headline "Ministers Aid Student Center." Rev. Williams served as director of the Center.

According to the February 1942 edition of the News-Calendar of the First Unitarian Church, the Center opened in January with two successful programs. On Sunday, November 15, 1942, Professor James Luther Adams of the Meadville Theological School and "one of the outstanding younger theologians in America," visited the Liberal Student Center. Students were invited to attend the program at 4:30; it included supper, Prof. Adams' talk and a discussion. His topic was "A Churchman Turns Citizen."

The Center continued regular Sunday afternoon forums through April. From February 26 through March 12, panel discussions were held in cooperation with OSU Religion in Life Programs; the overall topic for these was Religions Faith of Students Today. The program appears to have continued through the fall. Beginning in January 1943, there was no longer any mention of the Liberal Student Center. This may be the time of transition with Rev. Williams' leaving to become an Army chaplain in WWII and Rev. Frank Ricker's arriving as the second called minister.

-- Linda Thompson, Historian



Please, let's all be gentle with ourselves this holiday season. The holidays can be a time of real struggle. Family issues, economic pressures, or depression can all be much worse when confronted with the season when we are all supposed to express love, give freely and be happy. If you are struggling, this is a community that seeks to embrace all of us in all our humanness. Don't hesitate to reach out - to friends in the congregation, to me, or to our ministers.

I wish for you the hope of the season. The sun does return and gradually it grows towards spring.

Jolinda

## Religious Education Activities

### Something for Everyone Saturday, December 10

#### Need Some Holiday Shopping Time or a Date Afternoon? Use Youth Group Childcare

The Junior High Youth group at the First U.U. Church will be holding a childcare fundraising event on December 10. The child care will last from 2:30 to 5:30 pm and is open for children who are potty trained and between the ages of 3-10. Multiple children from one family are welcome. A snack will be provided, however, if there are any food allergies/dietary concerns please provide a snack for your child.

Donations are requested, funds raised from this event will be used by the youth for group activities and future service.

Contact Kaitlyn Maywhoor, [kmaywhoor@gmail.com](mailto:kmaywhoor@gmail.com)

**Fair Trade Chocolate Yule Ball, December 10 at 6:30pm.** For Wizards and Muggles of every age, hosted by the Enlightened Hippogriffs chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance. In addition to a dance with a live band, there will be a trip to Hogwarts, and Butter Beer to drink, and all kinds of Hogwarts fun.

**A Walk thru Geologic Time, Saturday, December 10, 10am.** Join geologist Tom Baillieul as he cranks up his time machine and takes us on a walk through geologic history. We'll visit some of the key moments in the life of our planet, and get a real feeling for how long everything took. When did life begin? When did oxygen become widely available, and what irreversible changes did that cause? What was the surface like before plants arrived? When did the first fish walk up on the land? When did the first humans arrive on the scene?

Take this walk and you'll never think about things in quite the same way again. Appropriate for most ages. We will be outdoors if weather cooperates.

**Families of Infants and Toddlers, Saturday, December 10, 11am.** These informal gatherings meet monthly and provide a safe space for parents and caregivers, infants, toddlers and siblings. New parents are especially welcome.

Contact Nancy Powlick, [lpowlick@columbus.rr.com](mailto:lpowlick@columbus.rr.com)

#### Sign Up Now for 9:15 First Grade and 5th/6th Grade Sexuality Education

Our Whole Lives (OWL), our values-based, comprehensive sexuality classes, begin January 8 for 9:15 First Graders and all 5th and 6th Graders who haven't taken this level of OWL. First Grade OWL will meet at 9:15 and 5th/6th at 9 am each Sunday. Separate orientation for parents and children will be held the first and perhaps the second Sundays. The older group will hear from the teachers about their orientation.

Parents of 5th and 6th Graders can make a determination about which year will work best for their child. If you have questions about these classes, check the national website - <http://www.uua.org/re/owl/> - or read the brochure available at the Sunday School Table each Sunday, or call the RE Office.

#### Christmas Eve Skit Sign-ups for Individuals, Groups and Families

Once again our early Family Christmas Eve service (5:00pm) will use a *Lessons and Carols* format with improvisational skits instead of the lessons. We will return to Italy to explore the legend of La Befana, who delivers gifts to all the children on Epiphany Eve (often called 12th Night). Our skits will explore epiphany - sudden insights, transformation and finding the child that will change everything everywhere we look, even within ourselves. So if you'd like to be a part of the action on Christmas Eve, email [jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org). You will get a skit prompt a few days before Christmas Eve, along with the others in your skit. You can work it out at the last minute, as we've done in the past, or take a few days to really do it up. Of course we'll end with Silent Night as we ignite the Christmas candles under the skylight.

#### High School Justice Trip

##### Our Deadline to Sign Up for the June Justice Trip is January 15, 2012

**Fundraisers for June and for the Transylvania Trip in 2013 are scheduled. Sign up for them now, if you're going on either trip.** We need to know whether or not you plan to go on the June Justice Trip and receive your \$50 deposit, because we expect to get a chance to secure inexpensive dorm rooms. We will have to act immediately when they become available.

**We are looking for people to do fun things to raise money.** You could volunteer to do push ups for a quarter a push up, or stand on your head for \$1 a stand, or play or sing music for \$5 per request. Or sell your jewelry. There will be a table in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 and 12:15. We need people to do the fun things, to take the money, and to provide people with information. We'll do it every month, but we've got **December 18 and January 15** scheduled.

## Schedule for the Holidays

December 11 - All groups meet

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

December 24 - 4:30 gather before 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.

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**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](mailto:jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org)

**Youth Musicians Sought for Special Recommitment Ceremony** 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](mailto:jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org).

Jolinda Stephens

Director of Religious Education

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus

[www.firstuucolumbus.org](http://www.firstuucolumbus.org)

[JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org)

614-267-4946, ext 28

**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](mailto:tbaillieul@gmail.com)

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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Grief has many forms. When my sister called to tell me about ma on the Monday night before Thanksgiving, I was at Jungle Jim's down in Cincinnati with my friend Michael Buck. I had gone down to see his new loft, and to shop for my dinner. I burst into sobs, and he just held me tight for a half hour right there in the middle of the store. It was beautifully surreal. Then I realized I had to drive home alone. So I asked him to walk with me around the store until I was ready. (It was raining cats and dogs outside.)

After a half an hour and a talk with my sister, I said, "I need to shop. I am still doing Thanksgiving." So I bought my cardoons and mint for the ravioli, and the goat cheeses for the antipasti, and then drove home, calling my friends in California to keep me company at that late hour.

My son came over and held me for an hour when I came home, and at the end of that time, grateful as can be, I told him I recognized him as a gifted man in his capacity to say things that grounded me in my grief more deeply.

My Thanksgiving feast was also filled with thanks...for my mother, and for my son, son-in-law, and my friends at table who made the dinner so perfect. I left to go up to Detroit at 3. They stayed and cleaned up. My mother's eulogy went well during the prayer service Friday night, and Fr. Randy at St. Blase, my parent's church, did a fine job with the requiem, even speaking in Italian. UU colleagues dropped by, my two closest friends from California, Richard and Doug, showed up, an amazing feat, I think you'll admit, on Thanksgiving weekend. Our wonderful Board Chair Tim Hooks came up, the Board's flowers were perfect, my Birmingham MI friends Gregg and Jim were there, and my sense of immense gratitude spread throughout the week, filling the spacious interior of my heart, once occupied by worry, concern and decisions about my mother in her last couple of years of up and down, difficulty and revelation.

Grief takes many forms. Tears, yes, and sadness. But don't forget love, joy and gratitude and a sense of the holy...the very "that-ness" of life and death, the great luminous mystery at the heart of all things permeating it all.

Thanks for all of your tender notes and cards. Would that I could respond to them all, but I know that is not remotely possible as the holiday season approaches.

But know that I'm OK. My heart is filled with deep gladness. And I am even now getting ready to go to Boston to serve as a sub on the UUA's ministerial credentialing body that I served on for eight years. It will be a good way of viewing my life in Columbus from a distance not attached to grief.

See you after I get back on December 4.



Rev. Mark Belletini

**The Inner Flame** *from my beloved James Broughton, a few sacred sentences from his Sermons on the Big Joy 1994*

No more treasure maps to mislead the mind.  
Exhume the bonanzas buried in your heart.  
Excavate the riches rusting in your soul.  
Be a launching pad, not a cowcatcher.  
Let no sibyl or guru annex your soul to remodel it.  
Lift your ineffable out of your mundane. Insist on canticles.  
Nothing perishes. Nothing survives. Everything transforms.