

The  
**DISCOVERER**  
December 18, 2011

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

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF COLUMBUS  
93 West Weisheimer Rd. Columbus OH 43214  
phone: 614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924  
email: [Office@FirstUUColumbus.org](mailto:Office@FirstUUColumbus.org)  
web <http://www.FirstUUColumbus.org>

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

### **How We UUs Are Responsible for Christmas**

*Note: One service only – at 11:00 A.M. – Simple and informal*

*January Theme: Resistance*

**January 1, 2012, 11:00 A.M. Only**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

### **“Resisting Authority”**

*Note: One service only – at 11:00 A.M. You are welcome to walk the labyrinth in the rear of the Worship Center if you would like to come in earlier.*

**January 8, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

### **“Resisting Certainty”**

---

### **December 24 Christmas Eve Celebrations – Candle Ceremonies**

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

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



---

► "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 21, 2011**

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
- 11:00a Red Cross Blood Drive (until 5:00)
- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 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

**Thursday, December 22, 2011**

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Expressive Collage

**Saturday, December 24, 2011**

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 5:00p Christmas Eve Family Service
- 10:00p Christmas Eve Evensong Service

**Sunday, December 25, 2011**

- 11:00a Worship Service

**Monday, December 26, 2011**

- 10:00a Labyrinth (until 9:00pm)
- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance

**Tuesday, December 27, 2011**

- 10:00a Labyrinth (until 9:00pm)
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group
- 7:00p Goddesses in Training; Being Atheist/Agnostic
- 7:00p Zen Meditation

**Wednesday, December 28, 2011**

- 10:00a Labyrinth (until 9:00pm)
- 7:00p Board of Trustees
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, December 29, 2011**

- 10:00a Labyrinth (until 9:00pm)
- 9:30a Improvisational Dance

**Friday, December 30, 2011**

- 10:00a Labyrinth (until 9:00pm)

**Saturday, December 31, 2011**

- 10:00a Labyrinth (until 9:00pm)
- 8:30a Zen Meditation

**Sunday, January 1, 2012**

- 10:00a-11:00a Labyrinth
- 11:00a Worship Service

**Monday, January 2, 2012**

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

**Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

- 9:30a Newsletter Folding
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal

- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Caring Committee
- 7:00p Wellspring
- 7:35p Worship Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, January 4, 2012**

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

**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)(next meeting: Jan 4).**

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

***LINKS***

I'm writing this column just after our Wellspring program's Solstice celebration and before our congregation's Holiday Choir Concert. Both of our Wellspring groups gathered for the ceremony this afternoon. It was great to get everyone in the program in the same room for a change. Yes, this is the season in its fullness.

By all accounts the Holiday Concert will be one to remember, so I want to take this time to lift up a performance I had the pleasure to be taken to yesterday by Jolinda Stephens, *Black Nativity* by the Nia Performing Arts Theatre Company. As far as I'm concerned this is Columbus' show of the year. From the very first number all the way through the energy was palpable and nonstop. As Jolinda mentioned, the only problem was that the stage at the Martin Luther King Center wasn't large enough to accommodate the 60+ members of the cast, most of whom were on stage throughout the show.

What I most appreciated was how intergenerational the performance was. There were a number of child actors who were able to be children on stage, and who were also integral to the overall performance. And I have to admit that I thought the baby Jesus was the most life-like baby doll I'd ever seen until the child started kicking its foot during a number Mary and Joseph were singing. Wow. Nothing like a little reality to drive the point home.

The only lingering negative point was that the show put my previous favorite *Black Nativity*, by the excellent Penumbra Theater Company in St Paul, MN, to shame.

Like I said, Nia's *Black Nativity* was the show of the year. Of course, our own Choir Concert starts in just a few minutes. They may take top billing soon enough.

Happy Holidays everyone,



Rev. Eric Meter

---

### CHURCH NEWS

---

**From the BOARD CHAIR** Tonight, as I baked cookies, I thought about this column. I thought about giving, about bringing cookies to the late service on Christmas Eve, about the gifts I receive from being a member of First UU. Besides the cookies and the volunteer time, I support the church financially. Why? Because it costs money to run a church and I want this church to continue running well. When the budget is prepared, we count on a successful holiday appeal drive because the pledges are not enough. Please, give what you can to the Holiday Appeal drive and help our church to keep giving and sharing other gifts all year long.

The Board has been busy updating the church constitution to better reflect how we actually operate. It will be posted online for your review and voted on by the congregation at our Mid-Year Meeting. That is **February 5**; please mark your calendars and try to attend. A big thanks goes out to Chas Williams, Bill Inglis, Rich Humenick, Tony Skrabak, and all the Board for their hard work on this document. Already in the works to go with that update is an updated *Standing Rules* document. We hope to have that ready and posted before the February 5 meeting as well.

Another big thanks goes out to the Personnel Committee, headed up by Judy Kleen. They have recently completed and put into use a new employee manual. This is a huge undertaking, but it sure helps keep both the church and its valuable employees clearly understanding what they can expect from each other. It fosters healthy relationships for all.

As noted above, this place works because of its member's time, not just financial support. We need you. This community of care works because we all work together. If you haven't found your niche yet, or want to get more involved, let me know, and I will try to help you find something. I know for me the rewards come from giving back.

Thanks for reading. I hope this time of year, when the days begin to grow longer, you are finding times of peace and joy with family and friends – happy holidays!

--Tim Hooks, Board Chair

### Holiday Appeal

The winter solstice and darkest day of the year approach this week. Many of the holiday celebrations

that evolved around the holiday originated to give people hope, to remind them that even during the darkest of times, things would get better.

Today, in a world filled with electricity and modern lights, many feel the uncertainty of job security or employment, or experience the loss of loved ones and illness. Our church offers a sustaining community of hope and support through the dark times, gathered around the warmth of the chalice we light each Sunday. Your generous donation to our Annual Holiday Appeal helps sustain our shared fellowship.

Thanks to the many of you who have already made a gift, we are nearly 50% of the way toward our goal of \$17,000. If you have not already done so, please consider a gift of \$75, or more or less as you are able.

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

**COMMON READ** Eboo Patel's memoir *Acts of Faith*, a Beacon Press book, has been selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association as the 2011-2012 *Common Read*. Patel is founder and executive director of *Interfaith Youth Core*, an international, non-profit youth service leadership organization.

The *Common Read* invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given time period. This is a way to build community in our congregation and movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversation.

A committee of UUA staff selected *Acts of Faith*. Ten years after 9/11, the book describes the vulnerability of youth to violent, fundamentalist influences, and makes a case for all of us, particularly youth, to promote pluralism by engaging in interfaith and social justice work.

As a first step in working with Patel's book in our congregation, Rev. Kathleen Fowler will focus on it in her sermon of February 26.

### 2012 AUCTION February 18, 2012.

#### ***"South Pacific – Some Enchanted Auction"***

Needed: 1) older, working laptops for use at the Auction, especially for checkout. Your donation would be most appreciated; 2) baked goods and side dishes for the Auction dinner. Sign up with Jennifer Johnson for volunteer opportunities.

The Auction Table will be in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, beginning January 8, 2012.

Please go on line to enter your items. If you have questions about suitability/value, please stop by the Auction Table.

Ticket sales in Fellowship Hall continue on Sundays. Advance tickets are only \$12; tickets are \$15 at the door. -- Jo Anne St. Clair, Co-Chair. 268-1923, joastclare@aol.com



### **LABYRINTH returns to First UU over Holidays**

Add to the enjoyment and your spiritual experience of the Holidays by “walking the Labyrinth” at First UU. The 11-circuit pattern, reproducing the 1201 A.D. Chartres Cathedral original, will be returning to us on Monday, December 26. It will be located in the Worship Center and be available from 10am through 9pm each day through Sunday, January 1, 2012. New Year’s Day has long been a favorite time for a contemplative walk!

Psychologist Carl Jung called the labyrinth an “archetype of transformation.” Walkers along its sinuous path find they are often deeply affected. Rev. Lauren Artress of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, writes that people in transition periods find a calmer perspective; those with untapped gifts to offer have their creative fires rekindled; walkers dealing with grief experience peace. For millennia, the circling path that evolved from the simple spiral brought centeredness and healing to untold numbers of walkers.

Instructions and guidelines, along with information about labyrinths around Central Ohio and elsewhere, will be available. Walk in silence, with gentle music on CD, or live meditative music.

Questions? Call Michael Greenman – 898-5825.

**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. 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.

**WOMEN’S SPIRITUALITY** *Wednesdays at 7:30pm.* Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176; [jeanniray@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniray@gmail.com). December 21, Winter Solstice - Jeanni December 28, Reflections - All

**From the LIBRARY TEAM** Thanks to *Cindy Dillard* and *Rev. Eric Meter* for their contributions to the Library. Cindy gave a number of books about the Jewish faith which reside in the Judaism section of the Library. Rev. Eric donated several textbooks being used in the Wellspring Class. These sit on the Religious Education shelf and can be checked out by people taking the course. Those who complete the course and wish to

donate their copies afterward are welcome to do so. Future donations must be approved by the Library Team by contacting Kathleen Boston, 262-4025. Thanks to Cindy and Rev. Eric, our collection has increased measurably! Please visit the Library, browse and enjoy our growing collection. -- Kathleen Boston

**...And more from the Library Team!** As a member of the First UU Library Team, I am becoming acquainted with the neat collection of books available to everyone in the congregation. Here are two that I checked out.

While processing books on the shelf marked “UU Authors,” I found *Thomas Starr King: the Man Behind the Legend* by Arnold Compton. I knew the name but not much else, so how could I pass it up? Though very brief, it gave me a picture on one of our UU “saints.”

Next to intrigue me was *Holy Clues: The Gospel According to Sherlock Holmes* by Stephan Kendrick. As a child, Kendrick had received an abridged edition of Holmes, and he was hooked! Now a UU minister in Connecticut, Kendrick has become an expert and passionate devotee of Sherlock Holmes and his creator. A reader will be totally captivated by Kendrick’s rich and fascinating tale on the spiritual aspects of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his undying literary character. The late Forrest Church stated, “If you want to grow spiritually and have fun at the same time, curl up and enjoy this gentle tour de force.”

Take time to check these and others when you browse First UU’s library on your own. It is located at the north end of the Window Hallway past the bulletin boards.

Enjoy, Jeanne Slasor, Library Team

### **YOUTH ART SHOW January 3 – February 12, 2012**

What does winter mean to you? What do you do in winter? 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 and email to Deb Baillieul- [debbsyc@yahoo.com](mailto:debbsyc@yahoo.com) <http://us.mc1609.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=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 _____



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

Thanks to Steve Fechter and Amy Thompson and Catherine Saveson and Richard Otten for their financial investments in the BREAD Organization. Their contributions have brought First UU’s 2011 investment in BREAD’s work to \$9,605!

It’s not too late to give financial support to BREAD’s work for justice in central Ohio (*and* get a 2011 tax deduction!) Make out your check to BREAD (not First UU) and place it in a BREAD envelope in the BREAD mailbox in the workroom or mail it to the church, Attn: BREAD.

Also, the First UU BREAD Team needs your help toward meeting our congregational goal of 300 people at the **BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting on Monday, May 7**, our portion of BREAD’s 3,500 attendee goal. At the NA, we’ll ask city and county public officials for help to:

- increase access to primary health care,
- keep children in school,
- get vacant and abandoned housing rehabilitated or demolished
- decrease recidivism,
- improve the local jobs picture.

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

Congratulations to: **Linda Weigelt** on the birth of her third grandchild; and **Caitlin Marie Davis** (daughter of Kitty Durham Jones) who recently graduated from OSU cum laude.

Our support goes out to **Adele Stratton**. Her granddaughter was in Children’s Hospital with severe bronchitis but is now home and doing well.

Our sympathy to: **Jana Genzen** whose mother died recently; **Sam Pollock** whose brother, Monte, died in a plane crash in Panama earlier this month.

**Don and Karen Jones** wish to express their appreciation for the cards, calls, and visits they received over the past months. Don had a stroke in June. He is now at home receiving rehabilitative therapy.

**Appreciation to:** Sandy Coen, Cathy Elkins, Olwen Firestone, Chris Hardin, Vanda Hughes, Suzanne Koebel, Patty Kuun, Marylou and Dave MacDonald, Beth Scherer, Gini Szabo, Becky Wolff, and friends of Clovis Dawson for assisting and providing food for his memorial service and reception on December 10. --Tina Thonnings and Carole Wilhelm, co-coordinators of receptions.



**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:

- **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**.
- **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!



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The History of Campus Programs Part II

In October 1944, one of the newsletters lead articles was "Students Are Back." Rev. Frank Ricker asked the members of congregation to invite them to a home dinner. At the end of the month, the first "Town and Gown" meeting was held. All the "OSU gang and their working or soldiering colleges were invited to attend." The session was a getting-acquainted one with refreshments served.

By November a clear program was outlined for Sunday evenings beginning at the Unitarian House, starting with supper (25¢) followed by specific speakers, panels or discussions. Some topics included *Preventing Juvenile Delinquency*, *Psychology of Blindness and the Economic Situation Thereof* (with blind church member Milton Klein from the State Commission for the Blind) and *Anti-Semitism and Military Conscriptioin*. Guest speakers from various faiths presented: William Kappes of Holy Name, Rabbi Moshe Goldblume of Tiferith Israel, Chaplain Whipple from Fort Hayes (then a military base).

The programs continued through that year and into 1945, 1946 and 1947. Rev. Ricker, church members and student leaders prepared programs and had them in place at the beginning of each quarter. Professors from Ohio State University were often tapped to present. At the end of the year in June 1945, Rev. Ricker prepared a supper of waffles. The members of *Town and Gown* presented an entertainment program in July.

In October 1947 *Town and Gown* became the *Channing Foundation* and the price of supper went to 35¢. At this time, the church home was located at 175 W. 11th Avenue, south of campus. Program descriptions can be found in the newsletter of the period. Some exchange programs with Hillel occurred during the year, such as Jewish music, ancient and modern.

In January 1948 the first meeting featured Dr. Meno Lovenstein of the OSU Department of Economics, speaking on *Henry Wallace and a Third Party*. Other speakers during the quarter included Fr. William Kappes whose topic was *Housing and Catholic charities*; Sgt. Lester Shaw, Ret. Columbus Police and head of Columbus NAACP on *Civil rights in Columbus*.

The Channing Foundation program was mentioned from January through September 1949 when an open house was held at 8:00 p.m. at the church for OSU students. Little notice is given in the newsletter after that meeting. (This article continues a project of writing a chronological history of campus programs. -- Linda Thompson, Historian.)



**For Unto Us/Hallelujah/Gloria** Three energizing and glorious musical experiences have me wondering why they have such a strongly positive effect on me. True, they are all expressions of musical genius, but I don't believe the words in any of them. The three musical events are the Columbus Messiah Sing Along, the Black Nativity and Psalm 150 from Jenkins' *Gloria* performed at second worship this morning. Many of the words for the Messiah and the Black Nativity were identical: *For unto us a child is born/ and his name shall be called/ Glory to God/Hallelujah*. The joy was the same, the beat was different; and while the orchestra at the sing-along was definitely professional, the singing for the Black Messiah was much more professional than the sing-along that included rank amateurs like me.

Jenkins' *Psalm 150* differed from both. It is crisp, staccato, harsh and soaring. The words are also words of praise for a god. My quick summary is "Praise God for being powerful and amazing. Praise her with all kinds of instruments, with song, and with dance." And our Chalice Choir was awe-inspiring in their own right. Still I don't believe a word of any of it. So, why does it make me feel so joyous?

Maybe the answer is somewhere in Rev. Mark's charming retelling this morning of a Kenyan story of the love of the sun and the moon that keeps the earth alive. Maybe it's somewhere in the book I just finished with the tantalizing title of *Love Wins*. Love triumphs. No matter how cold it gets. Ultimately, love soars and sings and makes a very joyful noise.

May love win you this season. May each and every one of us express love, rather than wait for it to find us.

May all be well, Jolinda

## Religious Education Activities

**The Enlightened Hippogriff's Yule Ball: A New Holiday Tradition** Thanks to everyone who made the Yule Ball such a special event. It combined a Contra Dance for all ages, with live music, with Hogwarts games and food, great costumes and even some important social action around Fair Trade chocolate. Some of the children organized great Hogwarts "classes," including a potions class that featured lots of messy and good chocolate and a Care of Magical Animals class that featured animals from the Cote d'Ivoire where so much chocolate produced by children originates. Special thanks to Lynne Bieber, the Enlightened Hippogriff organizer, Fair Trade leader Barbara Taylor, dance caller and organizer Kate Power and the band, including Chas Williams.

### Values-based Sexuality Education for 1st Graders and Fifth and Sixth Graders

Orientation 5th/6th - *Saturday, January 7, 10 to noon*

Classes 5th/6th - *Sundays, 9 am, starting January 8*

Orientation 1st - *Sunday, January 8, 9:15 a*

Classes 1st - *Sundays, 9:15a, starting January 15*

**Register by email: [jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org)**

Our Whole Lives, or OWL, is the values-based, comprehensive sexuality education program developed by our own UUA and the United Church of Christ. OWL values self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusiveness.

**First Grade OWL** supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies, families and being safe. Following Parent/Child orientation, the eight sessions engage children with stories, songs and activities and include a weekly HomeLink - a homework project for parents and children to do together. It promotes dialog between parents and children.

**Fifth and Sixth Grade OWL** is an eight-session program for learning about and discussing the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants read *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie H. Harris, and examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision making. Each session includes a HomeLink - a homework activity for parents and children to complete together.

**UU Radio is on the web and Our Se'lavi Murals are on display** Don't miss the results of our work in Sunday School this month as we worked with the worship theme, *Hope*, and the book for the month, *Se'lavi: A Haitian Story of Hope*. From the book we took the ideas of using murals and radio to draw attention to needs for justice and fairness. The murals are on display in the main hall that leads to the back parking lot. There's lots of messages from our children there. They invite you to take some time to read them.

The 11am 4th and 5th grade group worked with Neal Schmitt to create a radio show. The children identified the issues and wrote their scripts and presented them. It is on the First UU website: [www.firstuucolumbus.org](http://www.firstuucolumbus.org). Look in the center of the home page and scroll down, looking for the picture of the book.

**Deadline to Sign Up for the June Justice Trip is January 15, 2012.** If you are in high school you may be interested in our Justice Trip June 20-24, 2012 to the **Justice General Assembly** in Phoenix. We need to know if you plan to go on the June Justice Trip and to receive a \$50 deposit because we expect to get a chance to secure inexpensive dorm rooms but we will have to act immediately when they become available. If you didn't receive a newsletter about the trip, then the RE Office doesn't have your family listed as possibilities. Please contact us to be added to the list.

**Important dates: January 8** - Next meeting (at 12:45). **January 15** - Next fundraising table in Fellowship Hall.

**February 12**- major fundraiser, all hands on deck (late afternoon).

**\*\*\* Help elementary kids explore next month's theme of *Resistance*** We can use electricians, activists and martial arts practitioners to explore January's theme of resistance from every angle. The commitment is to work with one group of children from January 8 through January 29 on one or two projects. Please email [jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org) to volunteer to have a GREAT time.

### Schedule for the Holidays

December 24: 5pm Early Christmas Eve Service; 10pm Evensong Christmas Eve Service. No childcare

December 25: 11am Worship Service. No childcare

January 1: 11am Worship Service. Children will explore art

Jolinda Stephens

Director of Religious Education

[JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org) 614-267-4946, ext 28

I do not lead a boring life. My friend Mark called from Gent (the new Flemish spelling), Belgium, where he is visiting his beloved Leen and her son. He called to tell me how happy he is. Don't often get those calls, but I appreciated it. Paul, age 83, called from Seattle after opening a show of photographs at a gallery there. He's happy, too; my role-model, I tell him, for my own 80s. My former Board President from the Hayward church, Sandi Shaw, is taking me out to lunch today with her husband Mark, and friends from California. Mario and his new beau are coming over for dinner tonight after the concert. The sour descant to all this happiness: laws being passed in our own state to basically overturn Roe v Wade in the most devious ways; news of the deaths of the great Vaclav Havel and the controversial but reliable Christopher Hitchens; friends who have lost jobs this week, or have been out of work for over six months and are getting desperate.

Joy and woe are woven fine, the great Blake wrote, and he has never been proven wrong in my experience. The mixture is life.

I will go up for two days to Detroit after Christmas and come back in time for the Board Meeting on Wednesday.



Rev. Mark Belletini

### **The Inner Flame**

Alles wird wieder groß sein und gewaltig  
by Ranier Maria Rilke 1901

Everything will come into its former strength,  
The fields no longer divided,  
waters no longer dammed,  
the trees fully grown,  
and all the walls built low.  
In the valleys, the people are as  
Diverse as the landscape in which they live.

No more churches where God is boxed up  
And treated shamelessly like a trapped animal.  
The houses opening their doors  
To anyone who knocks,  
And sense of generosity in every relationship,  
And in you and in me.

No yearning to live beyond death, no looking  
Beyond, no making light of death either,  
But only a deep longing  
For what belongs to us,  
The earth, serving the earth I mean,  
So we will not live unused.

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

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