

The
DISCOVERER
January 1, 2012

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

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WORSHIP SERVICES

January Theme: Resistance

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

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Resisting Certainty”

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

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Resisting Being Co-opted”

MLK Sunday; Justice Action Ministry (JAM) offering

January 22, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

“Resisting Our Power”

► "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, January 4, 2012

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

Thursday, January 5, 2012

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Knitters Circle
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 6, 2012

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

Saturday, January 7, 2012

8:30a Zen Meditation
 10:00a 5th/6th Grade OWL Orientation

Sunday, January 8, 2012

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Enlightened Hippogriffs
 12:30p Youth Group
 12:45p High School Justice Trip
 12:45p Strategic Planning
 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry
 1:00p Green Team; Wellspring
 2:30p GSA Planning Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2012

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
 7:00p Program Council; BREAD Team
 7:00p Adult Enrichment Committee
 7:00p Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

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

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

1:00p Archives Organizing
 7:00p Memoir Writing; Personnel Committee
 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering Team
 7:15p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, January 12, 2012

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Building & Grounds Committee
 7:00p Expressive Collage
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 13, 2012

7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

Saturday, January 14, 2012

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Easy Movement Class
 11:00a Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Sunday, January 15, 2012

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
 10:30 & 12:15a Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Strategic Planning
 1:00p Garden Club

Monday, January 16, 2012

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

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

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

8:00a UU Food Co-op
 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
 7:00a Gay Straight Alliance
 7:00p Membership Team
 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, contact scott.1148@buckeyemail.osu.edu for info.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) meets MWF at 9:30a (F: Conversation Class)

**The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, January 15
 Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
 6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com**

LINKS

For the past two weeks I've been relieved that I had the presence of mind to add the final comment that I did in my last column. I had been raving about Columbus' Black Nativity, calling it the show of the year. And then, by grace, I was wise enough to add the lines, "Of course, our own Choir Concert starts in just a few minutes. They may take top billing soon enough." Which they did, and oh how they did. Kudos to Tony McDonald, Brandon Moss, Dee Keller and everyone else who made those performances so amazing. The thing is, the figurative bar is now raised so high I'm not sure I can see it any more.

I also want to lift up something beyond our church community that I didn't catch at first. When I have time, I enjoy reading our local quarterly *Edible Columbus*. Well, I'm proud to say that my uncle, Ken Meter, wrote the article that closes their recent winter issue, highlighting sustainable foods collaborations in Ohio and beyond. Ken was also here to give a keynote address at a sustainable foods conference at OSU last April. Based in Minneapolis, Ken has been researching and writing about sustainable communities and agriculture for years, and I was happy to accompany him for a day a couple summers ago when he talked with two different regional farming groups in western Wisconsin. At each of the two events, local foods were highlighted. Our lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, fresh green salads and raw milk from grass-fed cows at the first gathering wasn't gourmet, but it didn't need to be. Everything was farm fresh and succulent on its own.

I know I tend to wax romantic when talking about the beauty I find when people come together along common needs and interests, but these gatherings were as inspiring to me as the performances I mentioned earlier.

We are fortunate to have so many great efforts within such easy reach.

Happy New Year everyone,



Rev. Eric

CHURCH NEWS

SUNDAY BREAKFAST will return on January 8. Join us for cooking and eating! Served at 8:45am at \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children, and FREE for first time visitors! To help cook or shop, please contact Debra Boyd at debra.bpyd@gmail.com.

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

South Pacific

"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, etc., etc.

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

Please go online 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



A BIG HOLIDAY THANK YOU!

All four choirs contributed their time and talents toward the very successful Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 18. We really appreciate all their hard work.

We are also especially grateful to those who hosted tables of refreshments at the reception following the choirs' performance. Beverages were provided by Caring and Membership (Path). Snacks were available from the Auction/Bookstore/Library/Communications Committees, Leadership Development, Atheist & Agnostic Circle, as well as many individuals.

The staff assisted with the usual set-up and clean-up, but heartfelt thanks to those who helped out: Debra Boyd, Olwen Firestone, Cathy O'Neil, Jo Anne St. Clair and Carole Wilhelm.

Paula Hook, Coordinator

BOOKBITES We'll meet in Slowter Lounge
January 17, 7 to 9 pm. A new topic for the New Year -
Beginnings, fiction or non. Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY meets Wednesdays at
7:30pm. For information, call Jeanni Ray, 985-6176
January 4 Birthdays, Poetry and Sharing - all
January 11 New Beginnings and Renewal - all
January 18 Beginnings with Joanne Wiggins
January 25 We talk of new beginnings and plans - all

RECYCLING First UU has a green and yellow Abitibi
bin in the south end of the parking lot. We'll take all your
newspapers, magazines, office/school paper, catalogs and
mail (no cardboard, please). This is an easy church
fundraiser you can help with, while reducing trash, too.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

UUSC If you have not yet returned your Guest At Your
Table boxes with your contributions to the **UU Service
Committee**, please bring them to the next service, or
return to the office during the week. Thanks.

CARE AND SHARE *Timebanks* will host another
meeting on **Sunday January 15 at 6 pm** at First UU.
Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. If you wish to
participate in another "White Elephant exchange," bring
an item to exchange. Agenda: update on *Timebanks*
locally and nationally; troubleshooting navigation on the
new software; enrollment of new members. Members
may also give notice of items they wish to sell outside of
the *Timebanks* format. All are welcome. There will be an
information table at the CICT Fair on January 8.

GSA NEWS The Gay Straight Alliance's *Freedom to
Love, Freedom to Marry* (FLFM) will have a planning
meeting on **Sunday, January 8, 2:30pm**. Please join us
and help plan this Interfaith Community event.

On **February 12**, couples will be given the
opportunity to reaffirm their vows and rededicate their
partnership. This ceremony is open to all couples,
regardless of legal status of their relationship. Contact
Bob Rice, 313-7158 or bricejr@gmail.com for more
information, and to indicate your intention to participate.

BIG THANKS from the *Feed My Sheep* food pantry in
Athens County. The Thanksgiving and Christmas food
boxes were much appreciated. Please continue to bring
food items for the pantry – peanut butter, canned stew
and hearty soups etc.- plus warm clothing and blankets
and children's books to tuck into the food boxes.



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

BREAD's newly formed Jobs Research Committee
has begun its research into the problem related in many
of BREAD's House Listening meetings: People
throughout our community are struggling to find work;
and when they do, even if it is full time, it is often for
lower wages and fewer benefits. Those most impacted
are young adults, African Americans, and middle-aged
workers with 20-30 years of work experience.

All of the active BREAD committees (Jobs, Crime and
Violence, Healthcare, and Neighborhood Blight)
welcome new members at any time.

Deb and Tom Baillieul and Wanda Hambrick have
made recent financial contributions to this work,
bringing the 2011 BREAD investment of First UU's
members and friends to \$9,905.

If you don't already have the following important
dates on your calendar, be sure to INK them in now:
Sunday, March 18, 12:30pm and **Wednesday,
March 28, 6:30pm** – First UU's BREAD Justice
Ministry Network Organizing Meetings (attend one)
Monday, April 16, 7:00pm – BREAD Rally
Monday, May 7, 6:45pm – BREAD Nehemiah Action
(the BIG one)

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

COMMUNITY WINTER FAIR Community in
Challenging Times (CICT), part of First UU's Justice
Action Ministry, will hold a Community Winter Fair in
Fellowship Hall after each service **Sunday, January 8**.
Our purpose is to provide information and to answer
questions on services that are available within the church
or in the broader community to assist members and
friends who are being "buffeted" by our challenging
times (perhaps un- or underemployed?). You'll find a
number of tables staffed by experts in such areas as jobs,
housing and foreclosures, health, economics, the Time
Bank, and Simply Living. Pick up the "Catalog of
Services" to see the full range of services or download it
from the church website. For questions call Michael
Greenman, 614-898-5825.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Kyle Pigman** who took part in the Special Olympics Ohio State Aquatics Championship. He won bronze, silver and gold medals in the events.

A speedy recovery to **Tom Townsend** who had knee surgery recently; **Marina McCreary** who is home

following a stay at Children's Hospital with a foot infection; and **Steven Davis** who had abdominal surgery just before Christmas.

We extend our sympathy to **Sue Wilson** on the death of her husband, **Ray**. Sue and Ray were former members of First UU.



WORDS ON MUSIC

by Tony McDonald, Music Director

Consider marking your calendars for:

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*



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Rev. J. Franklin Chidsey and the First Unitarian Universalist Church (1965 - 1968)
(Part I)

Rev. Chidsey was called to become the minister after his candidating week, September 27 - October 4, 1964. He began his ministry at First UU in January 1965. Rev. Chidsey's installation service was held on June 4, 1965. The participants included: Rev. Gordon McKeeman, Vice President of Ohio Meadville District; Dr. G. Weir Hartman, Executive Director of Columbus Area Council of Churches; Dr. Milton D. McLean, Director of Religious Affairs Center OSU; and Mr. John A. Childers, church member and Chairman of Central Ohio Civil Liberties Union. The address was given by Dr. James Dixon, President of Antioch College

Background: Rev. Chidsey was born in Green Springs, Ohio, and graduated from Antioch College in Yellow Springs in 1951. He received his BD degree from Meadville School of Theology at the University of Chicago in 1954. Later he did graduate work in anthropology in Ontario at the University of Toronto.

He served as minister at the All Souls (Universalist) Community Church in Chicago. From there he went to First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto where he was ordained (1956-1957). He then became minister at Don Heights Unitarian Congregation of Scarborough, Ontario.

During Rev. Chidsey's tenure as our minister, the church and the society dealt with the challenges of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. He was a social activist and became involved in, and spoke about, these issues. According to an article from an unnamed local newspaper, Rev. Chidsey joined about 500 ministers from all denominations who participated in the *March on Selma* in 1965. He is quoted: "Words can't express the spiritual experience or high spirits. . ." of those who marched. The article continued by describing the potential for violence which indeed did occur later on Bloody Sunday.

-- Linda Thompson, Historian

(When an Archives article quotes a column or article "from an unnamed local newspaper" it is because the article has been clipped and given to the Archives with the name of the newspaper omitted. Often the dates are also left off.)



New Year's Resolution: Pause Five Times a Day

I don't make many resolutions and rarely are they timed for the new year. I generally set an intention or two, which is vastly different from resolutions, at the time of my birthday. Last year, however, I did make a resolution and kept it for almost six months. I want to return to that practice.

It's based on the Muslim practice of praying five times per day. I don't pray, but it was an amazing spiritual practice to pause for three minutes or so and draw my attention from the minutia of the everyday to my connection with the web of all existence, my connection to all people, everything in my environment, to Love itself. It sure helps to put things in perspective.

Sometimes I just closed my eyes and breathed and tried to feel the connection (not always easy). Sometimes I went outside, checked the weather, looked at my garden or looked into the vastness of a clear night sky. Sometimes I read something from my Commonplace. Very simple. It can, however, have profound effects on living in the moment, feeling connected and supported and remaining calm.

Would you like to join me? Last year I set phone alarms for 8am, 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm and 11pm. This year, I'm thinking that I'd like to set up messages, short passages from the UUA worship web, and from my Commonplace, which is heavy on poetry from Sufis, or a question to ponder. With a bit of effort I could set up a Twitter feed. I have an app that would allow me to set up tweets in advance and send them out on a regular schedule. If you'd like to be a part of that, email me at jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org. Setting up your own practice is simple. Just choose your times and a way to remember. Then decide what you will do during these times you've set aside. At the very least, stop what you are doing, and change your physical position.

I'd love to hear about your experiences with this practice.

May all be well,
Jolinda

Jolinda Stephens
jolindast@gmail.com

Religious Education Activities

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS The next gathering is on Saturday January 14, 2012 from 11AM to 1PM. Bagels and drinks will be available. For more information contact Nancy at lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

OWL Values-based Sexuality Education for 1st Graders and Fifth and Sixth Graders starts January 8

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

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

Orientation for First Graders - Sunday, January 8, 9:15 a

Classes for First Graders - Sundays, 9:15a, starting January 15

Classes close to new children on January 15

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.

Sign Up for June Justice Trip by January 15.

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 your commitment and a deposit of \$50 by Jan. 15 because we expect to get a chance to secure inexpensive dorm rooms in January. 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).

Opportunity to explore our January worship theme with 1st through 3rd graders

The theme is **Resistance**. The book is a new memoir for children by the daughter of Andrew Young. She explores her memories of civil rights actions in the 1950s and 60s. We will use the UU Second Source and the Fifth Principle as guides.

Second Source: the words and deed of prophetic men and women that call us to confront the structures and powers of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love.

Fifth Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process. We can use activists and martial arts practitioners to lead workshops. 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 to volunteer to have a GREAT time.

Jolinda Stephens

Director of Religious Education

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

PLAN AHEAD...

MID YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 5, 2012

The Congregation will vote on the proposed changes to our Constitution.

The complete text of these changes is posted on our website – firstuucolumbus.org. A copy is also available on the bulletin board in the Window Hallway, or from Marian Garcia in the church office (267-4946, ext 21).

I am still vibrating from the excellent holiday concert on the Sunday before Christmas. The rich quality and variety of all the pieces, and the sheer goose-bump grandeur of the Jenkins GLORIA kindled a fire in me that has not burned out. Thanks to all the musicians, singers, organizers and directors who made this wondrousness possible.

Thanks for all the sweet gifts...the lovely wooden candles, glass ornaments, stoles, sweets, wines and beautiful cards.. The cards you have been sending to embrace me as I grieve have been wonderful and well written. I know the course of my grief very well, having buried so many people in my life, from my grandparents, to my best friend, and so recently, my mother. I weep, sure. That is part of it. I get down a bit at times. I get extra talkative, another way I grieve. Or I feel lonely in a crowd...yet another form. Last week, I encountered a typical form of grief for me, but in drastic new way. Besides that infernal month-long cold which settled in my chest, I was having vision problems. Things were blurry in the morning, lights ringed with halos, like when you are coming down with "pink eye." Thing is, the pink eye never showed up. My eyes looked clear in my bathroom mirror.

I was about to make an appointment with my ENT, when suddenly I noticed something in the mirror at the gym bathroom, where the lights are considerable brighter than in my house. There were my daily-wear contacts circling my pupils! And, I must have been wearing them for over three weeks, since that is the last time I remember putting them in. I had just apparently never taken them out that night, since part of my grieving cycle is a lack of focus, a breakdown of ordinary mindfulness, and a loss of memory. I worried in panic that they had melted onto my cornea permanently, but with a few tears I was able to loosen them right out, and I wasn't the worse for wear. And everything is clear now. Amazing. And the joy and relief that I didn't hurt myself is great indeed.

It's a new year. Grief will proceed and so will joy, and, as usual; they will dance hand in hand forever.

Blessings,



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame: from *New Year's Day*, by Kathleen McTigue, found in her new Meditation book *Shine and Shadow, Skinner House, 2011*

January---The years turn
one into the next so swiftly, your age
has come sifting down on you unnoticed,
and surely there are more bright beads
already threaded for you than await
in that glimmering pile the world spills out
as it spools around the sun.

But the light of this day, the frozen air,
the black eye of a small bird waiting...
what peace, through time is passing,
drifts lightly like a friend's arm settling
around your shoulders.

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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