



The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, August 12, 2012

MARKINGS (see *THE INNER FLAME* on page 2)

Every single day this summer, without exception, I have encountered a fire engine or ambulance while driving. Every single day. I started noting it in mid-July after three days in a row of having to pull over for a whole procession of them, and have never had a siren free day yet. Don't think it necessarily means anything, but I have found it remarkable. Makes me aware of how many are suffering losses out of my sight.

I remember once in my first congregation, hearing a siren wailing past, out in the street while I was in the pulpit. "Someone is having a horrible experience right now!" I remember thinking with sympathy. All of a sudden, as I was continuing to preach, I saw the hook and ladder crew coming up the aisle into my church! I saw no smoke, no fire. But someone was on the floor, his head peeking out from behind the pew. Had he fainted? Fallen deadly ill? I went down to the site, and a man was lying there looking up at the firefighters, quite awake, clearly without pain on his face. But the ushers had called the squad because they assumed he was sick.

The squad folks were asking him questions. "Are you OK?" "Sure," he said. "I'm fine!" I told the firefighter closest to me, "Let me handle this." I looked at him with some anger. "What ARE you doing on the floor?" He saw the veins in my eyes, and said, "I just wanted to see what it was like to hear the sermon while lying on the floor and looking at the ceiling." My veins grew redder. "You have exactly ten seconds to get up and sit in your pew, or you're in trouble. You wasted the time of these good men. You frightened folks around you. You did not give any consideration to anyone else around you. Church is not about you, its about all of us. Now rise up, man!" I apologized to the squad, and went back to try and "reclaim" the service. The man simply got up and sat down as if nothing had happened. Crazy.

Somehow I reclaimed the service, but as I heard all of the sirens this summer, shrieking from Wisconsin and Colorado, I was reminded of this event early in my ministry. The shootings against theater goers and Sikh worshippers were done by folks who were clearly deranged. But the guy in Wisconsin's brain was warped by the *social* psychosis of "white supremacy," reminding me that many forms of derangement are not just individual brain distortions, but are part of a larger

illness, a larger system of rigid belief and fearful entitlement. In any case, I realized that the sirens and squads are not outside, not unseen, and not far away from me, but right inside everything I hold sacred. Walking up the aisle, calling me to somehow, some way, respond. I doubt it will be as easy as it was back in San Francisco 35 years ago.

Remember to email me, marcobell@firstuucolumbus.org, with your water stories for the annual Water Ceremony, which begins every year. Now is not too early, but you can put it off and be too late...I need to compile everything by September 7. NOT September 8. The service is on September 9.



CHURCH NEWS

UU Artists and Poets. It is time for **our annual fall art and poetry exhibition.** "Still/Life" will examine the art concept of still life, or stillness, or life—your choice. You may enter two works. Drop-off is August 26 after the service. Email Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com, with your titles, media, sizes, price and name.

Poets will be invited to share their reactions to the art at **First Friday**, October 5 at 7:30. Poetry can be posted next to art works. Contact Jeannie Ray, 985-6176, about the poetry.

Healthy Congregations The Leadership Development Committee is offering training, through Central East Regional Group (CERG) and facilitated by our own Debra Boyd and Amy Watson, in the ecumenical Healthy Congregations curriculum by Peter Steinke. This training will help leaders learn how to effectively: Accept differences, Focus on mission rather than just "getting along," Focus on strengths, Respond to anxiety and change, Respond to conflict, Act flexibly and creatively, and more. It will be offered the first Saturday morning of every month, October-April (skipping January). Registration is open to all who are interested, and current leaders are especially encouraged to attend. A commitment to all six sessions is asked for enrollment. Contact Amy Watson at amykaywat@gmail.com or 519-0737 for details.

THE INNER FLAME

In memory of our Sikh (pronounced Sik, not Seek by the way) cousins who were attacked, wounded and killed in Wisconsin last Sunday, these words from the Adi Granth, (A'dee Grunt, its usually pronounced.) It reminds me of the famous, probably anonymous poem found in Paul of Tarsus' Letter to the Corinthians, so often wed at weddings. (A morning song of Ravi Dass; the Adi Granth compiled from many authors in 1604.)

If you were to bathe in the sacred pools
of all sixty eight shrines in the world;
if you feel prostrate before many images of God,
even if you dug public wells with fresh water,
but treated any other human being with contempt,
all that you have done before is empty.

If you sit in awe before all the astronomical wonders,
and richly adorn your family,
and listen to all ancient sermons with great care,
but you treat any other human being with contempt,
your former deeds are without profit.

If you spend time in profound worship,
and build temples on land you have donated,
and dutifully care for others,
but treat any other human being with contempt
you shall never find any "salvation."

CHURCH NEWS (continued from page 1)

Art of Hosting Have you attended a three-day *Art of Hosting*? If so, you have information in context that would be helpful to the core host team of First UU's *Meaningful Conversations* series. Whether or not you feel comfortable hosting, whether or not you are interested in increasing your involvement in the church, we'd like to hear from anyone who has had the three-day *Art of Hosting* training. Please contact Amy Watson at amykaywat@gmail.com or 614-519-0737.

Covenant Groups Have you heard good things about Covenant Groups? That Covenant Groups are a good way to get to know your fellow UU's in a more intimate setting? That Covenant Groups can deepen your spirituality? Sign-ups for the current church year will begin in a few weeks. Look for our table in Fellowship Hall after Sunday service. For info, contact Judy Fettman at judyfet375@gmail.com.

Bookbites Tuesday, August 21, 7 to 9pm in Slowter Lounge. August's topic is books about any of the Romance language countries of Europe. Questions? Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

Labor Day Retreat September 1-3, intergenerational, all-congregation gathering in the beautiful Hocking Hills. Workshops, worship, fellowship, community, nature, hiking and relaxation. Wonderful for families, singles or couples. For more info and to register go to <http://www.firstuucolumbus.org/labor-day-retreat-registration>. Or register in Fellowship Hall after the service. Patricia Boughton, registrar, 467-9020, patkap@wowway.com

Women's Spirituality meets Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9pm.

August 15 Goddesses of Home and Nature (all)

August 22 We Talk. We Share (all)

August 29 My Favorite Goddess (all)

This month's theme is "The Goddess: Who Are We?"

Contact Jeanni Ray, 985-6176, jeanniray@gmail.com.

The **Free Plant Exchange** by the Garden Club continues on the first Sunday of each month through October. The next exchange will be Sunday morning, September 3. Plan on bringing any plants, seedlings, no-longer-wanted tools, extra flower pots etc. to Fellowship Hall. No need to bring something in order to take something. Questions? Contact Chris Hardin, chardin123@att.net.

Eco-Safari Space is still available on this September 15 adventure sponsored by the First UU Green Team. Join the intrepid bargain hunters as they explore and discover hidden treasures of resale and overstocked clothes, household goods, electronics, and food outlets. Then brag about your finds at a delicious local food based picnic lunch. Sign up on the First UU Auction website (<http://togetherauction.com/firstuu>) or call Elaine Fujimura or Tony Skrabak at 614-261-0215.



First Friday Dinner and Movie

Please join us! The potluck begins at 6:30pm and the movie and other events will start at 7:30pm. A family movie will be showing in one room and a documentary in another room each month. Many events occur during First Friday. Please see the schedule for upcoming First Friday events. Childcare is provided for those who are too young to enjoy the activities for the evening. Margaret Allen, allenhoyt@gmail.com.

September 7:

Family Movie: *Toy Story*

Documentary: *Northern Lights* (1978)

Multicultural Family Group

October 5:

Family Movie: *Toy Story 2*

Documentary: *Forks Over Knives*

Multicultural Family Group

Poets and Artists UUnite

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Reminder of construction projects that may affect church members and visitors during the next few weeks and months. Please keep these projects in mind as you plan for the upcoming events. If you have questions, please contact Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator, or David Richter, chair, Building & Grounds Committee. Weisheimer Construction and Raingarden:

The first phase has been underway since June on Weisheimer Road, where new gas lines are being installed. The construction materials on our "front lawn" are part of this project. This is being done prior to construction of storm sewers along the road from High Street to the Olentangy, which will begin probably in late August. As part of the storm sewer project, a large new rain garden will be built on church property between the two entrance drives (where the church sign is currently located).

Church members and visitors should expect delays, detours and limited access during several months of construction. In addition, a number of parking spaces will be lost in the front parking lot during construction for materials and equipment storage. Also, there probably will not be parking along Weisheimer Road.

Support Column Replacement:

The two large wood support columns in the courtyard will be replaced starting any day now. The project may take up to three weeks. There will be no access to the court yard during construction. Furthermore, the staff parking area south of the church will be closed and used for construction supplies. Some of the work may be disruptive and noisy.

East Parking Lot Repair:

Since it's been asked, I wanted to report that the storm sewer near our East entrance is caving in and is scheduled to be repaired in the next week or two.

SYC Playground:

The SYC playground is undergoing renovation. The excavation and foundation work is done and the new playground climber will be installed the week of August 13. The project consists of a new climber with a pea gravel surround, refinished sand box, and a new area for raised bed gardens for the school children to use. Additionally, new playground hardwood mulch will be brought in and SYC has scheduled a "friends and parents" work day for August 26. If you are interested in helping out, contact the SYC office, 267-0254. Let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Brian

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator

Want to serve your church in a meaningful way?

The church needs ushers for all celebrations. Typically an usher will volunteer to usher for one celebration each month on the same Sunday each month. For instance, you can usher for the 9:15am celebration on each first Sunday of each month. **Are you willing to be an usher?** If so, please drop an email note to Earl Wurdlow at earlword@yahoo.com. We'll get you started right away.

First UU Annual Picnic Sunday, September 23 at Thompson Park in Upper Arlington from 1-3pm. All are welcome. Potluck. Drinks, plates, cups, napkins and silverware provided by the Social Committee. Please contact Margaret Allen, Social Committee Chair with questions, allenhoyt@gmail.com.



UU Animal Ministry meets every second Tuesday of the month, 7pm, Room 8. The next meeting is August 14.

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will have an **ice cream social** Sunday, August 26, at 2pm – 4pm, in Room 7. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Barbara Byrd at 318-9562.

Garden Work Party You're invited to the August Midsummer's Night Garden Work Party on Thursday, Aug. 23. Work from 6 to 9 p.m. Dress is casual garden work. Bring gloves and small tools, if you have them. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org, or Barb Fisher, barbkfisher@wowway.com, for details. Care and Share Time Bank credits offered.



DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

From the Ohio-Meadville District (OMD) office:
Leadership Day 2012 All congregational leaders are invited. Saturday, October 13, at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland in Shaker Heights, OH.

CARING CORNER

We send our happy wishes to **Marjorie** and **Jason Campbell**, who welcomed new baby daughter Eila on July 3, 2012.

We send healing wishes to **Jacques Angelino**, who is recuperating after successful stomach surgery.

We offer sympathy to **Danya Furda** and **Jim Pinkham**. Danya's 90-year-old grandmother, Clara Pearl Pyles, of Steubenville, died on August 8.

Red Cross Blood Drive Our next blood drive will be on Friday, September 7, from 3pm to 7pm. Please reserve this date on your calendars. Blood inventories are at an all-time low. This will be our first drive that will span the late afternoon and early evening hours on a Friday, which also coincides with September's First Friday potluck. The goal for our Church is to collect 16 units. Volunteers are needed for: staffing the registration table and providing snacks. Sign-up sheets for these along with an appointment sheet to reserve a time slot to donate blood will be at the Caring Table beginning this Sunday, August 5. Questions? Please contact: Chris Hardin via chardin123@att.net. Thank you in advance for your help and participation.

Healing Journey Are you experiencing grief due to the loss of a family member or other loved one, a job loss, or the pain of another unwelcome life transition?

If so, the Healing Journey may be for you. Together we share our stories, and learn how much we have in common with others who also know the experience of loss. The group will meet 7:30 to 9 pm on Thursdays, August 16 through September 20. For further information and to register, please call Rev. Eric Meter at 267-4946 x23.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

Help Restore Democracy to the United States!

Getting tired of the onslaught of negative ads on TV and radio? Unfortunately, they work! Citizens United, Corporate Personhood and "Money is Speech" –all "gifts" from our Supreme Court—are rapidly destroying democracy. Move to Amend - Central Ohio, a sub-committee of the Justice Acton Ministry, and an affiliate of movetoamend.org, is pushing back! Over 200 cities in the US and three states have already passed resolutions or legislation stating, "Corporations are not persons," and that "Money is not speech." We're working on the Columbus City Council as part of a national coalition to amend the constitution. Want to learn more? Come to our August meeting on Saturday, August 25, at 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM (brown bag lunch) in Room 6. Learn what's possible and how you can help! "Like" our Facebook page at: "Move to Amend – Central Ohio". Call Michael Greenman, 614-439-4768, for more details.

YWCA Family Center 4th Friday Taco and Brownie

Dinner There will be one dinner sitting. There will be two dinner sittings. There will be one dinner sitting. There ended up two dinner sittings. Friday, July 27, was a little confusing at the YWCA Family Center. More and more people kept coming in. We just had to shake our heads and laugh and cook and serve and wash dishes. Big THANK YOU'S to: Candyce Walchesky, Jim Conlan, Jan Voelker, Christine Smithies and last but not least to Rachel, Gray and Lee Holbert. Please know that the Holbert boys were going on a camp-out; they came and served before they went to their camp-out. That is showing care and generosity!

We can use more volunteers. If you are interested in a once a month up to four-hour commitment please contact me at mccutcheoncathy@yahoo.com.

Very Gratefully Yours,
Cathy McCutcheon

9th Annual Backpack and School Supply Drive. Bring items to the Social Justice Table in Fellowship Hall, or leave them in the bin in the Window Hallway. Please donate only new or gently-used items.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES

Jolinda Stephens, Religious Education Director



Does It Need To Be Institutionalized?

I hate endings. It's not just that I hate leaving people I've come to love or places and vistas that I've become attached to. I hate the whole process of wrapping things up, documenting them and putting the final touches on them. There's always more that would make it better; more that would be fun. Lots more. I'm just not the kind that gets satisfaction from putting the check marks in front of completed tasks.

So this church year will be twice as hard. I have to say goodbye to all of you and I have to institutionalize new programs that haven't reached that stage. Institutionalize. Isn't that what they do with you when you're at you're wits end? I could really use your help over the next few months. While I want to leave plenty of space for the new DRE to join his/her vision with yours, there are a few newer programs that I think the congregation wants to continue and that don't have strong congregational leadership yet. Perhaps you or you and a small group you know would be interested can join together to really make a difference in First UU as you move through this time of a lot of change. Here's what I see needs your leadership. Programs for children and youth are always stronger when they include a lot of congregants who are NOT current parents.

High School Justice Trips - Needs someone or a small group to be the institutional memory and get the whole process going each year. This encompasses identifying trip options, estimating costs, organizing fundraising, taking care of permissions, and transportation.

Sunday School Graduate Program - Rev. Eric and I have been slowly building some practices into our relationships with high school seniors and with young adults who have recently left us. This year we are starting a monthly Dinner with the Ministers that begins in January, leading up to the Bridging Ceremony. A few years ago we began sending small gifts and cards to young adults who left our Sunday School. Our motto is "We were the church of your childhood; we want to be your church during this time of transition." We also honor them the last Sunday before Christmas with cakes in Fellowship Hall. It needs someone to keep track of our graduates, facilitate connection with the ministers and help organize the rituals.

Youth Ministry - Heather Myers Pierson has been leading our youth groups for several years now. She has indicated that she will need her own transition soon. We need a person or small team to support this vital ministry.

Recruitment Team - One of the most difficult tasks for a new DRE, particularly in this size congregation, is recruiting teachers and other volunteers. Let's make the transition much easier by having a team to help with the recruitment.

If you would like to fill these vital roles that assure that programming that you know is important continues, please call or email me. 267-4946, ext 28, jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org. My office hours have changed: Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 6 pm. Other times by appointment.

It is good to see everyone again.

May all be well, Jolinda

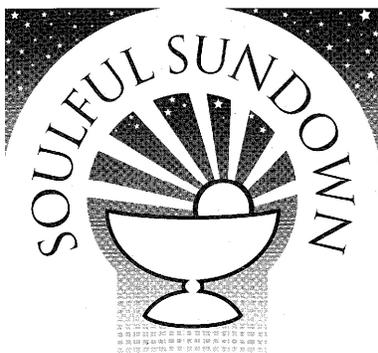
Our New Year Begins!

- **Sexuality Education (Our Whole Lives/OWL) Parent Information Meeting - Grades 1, 5/6, 8th and high school. Sunday, Aug 26 from 11:30 to 1.** OWL information: <http://www.uua.org/re/owl/>
- **Registration for the New Sunday School Year:** Children through grade 5 - <http://bit.ly/OgfgVX> Has a new skip-to-the-end feature for returning families.
Grades 6 and up - <http://bit.ly/P99jXe> This requires both parent and youth to complete the process.
- **Your talents are needed** for a variety of opportunities to connect with our children and youth and with other volunteers. There is no better way to feel connected. Check out the volunteer page <http://firstuucolumbus.org/children/volunteer-opportunities>
- For a **list of Sunday School Groups**, descriptions and links to many of the curricula, check out this page: <http://firstuucolumbus.org/children/sunday-school-classes>.

The **Defense within Our Values (DOV) program** teaches our children self-defense from the Tae Kwon Do tradition, the principles of which share much with Unitarian Universalist principles. We ask our children to challenge prejudice, privilege, and injustice. We owe it to our children to help them acquire the confidence and competence to interact with the injustices of the world knowing they can protect their being, worth, and dignity.

Classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays after school during the school year in Fellowship Hall. The projected start date is September 4, 2012, with up to 30 students, ages 6 – 18. There is an equipment fee of \$10 per month to cover mats, target paddles and breaking boards. We plan to make it possible for students for whom the fee is a barrier to participate. Students will need to purchase a uniform. New uniforms were found on line for \$24.95 (top, pants, and white belt). Contact Laurie Brown (614) 246-0170 or Wesley Thompson, wthompson3233@hotmail.com.

THE FIRST UU COLUMBUS SOULFUL SUNDOWN



Sunday, August 26, 5:30pm.

Join us for a dynamic, interactive, contemporary worship in the Worship Center.

Drinks and snacks will follow,
provided by the Soulful Sundown Committee.

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Minister Affiliated
Rev. Suzan McCrystal, Minister Affiliated
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Casey Clymer, Summer Sunday School Coordinator
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Don Hippensteel, Sexton
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Beth Jewell, Chair, Board of Trustees

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CALENDAR August 15 – 29, 2012

Wednesday, August 15

- 7:00pm Memoir Writing; Executive Committee
- 7:00pm Gay Straight Alliance(GSA)
- 7:00pm Membership Team
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality
- 7:30pm Men's Spirituality

Thursday, August 16

- 9:30am Improvisational Dance
- 7:30pm Healing Journey

Friday, August 17

- 12:00pm Cooking for Faith Mission

Saturday, August 18

- 8:30am Zen Meditation
- 9:00am Path to Membership
- 11:00am Sound Team
- 11:30am Dance Your Way
- 7:30pm All Soles Contra Dance

Sunday, August 19

- 10:00am Worship Service
- 11:15am Getting to Know UU
- 11:30am Strategic Planning
- 11:45am Garden Club

Monday, August 20

- 7:00pm UU Dance Fellowship; BREAD Team

Tuesday, August 21

- 9:30am Archives Organizing
- 1:30pm Library Team
- 7:00pm Stewardship Committee
- 7:00pm Zen Meditation; Book Bites
- 7:30pm Finance Committee

Wednesday, August 22

- 7:00pm Board of Trustees
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality
- 7:30pm Men's Spirituality

Thursday, August 23

- 9:30am Improvisational Dance
- 5:30pm Midsummer Night Garden Work Party
- 7:00pm Expressive Collage
- 7:30pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Healing Journey

Friday, August 24

- 4:00pm Mid-Ohio Workers Association
School Supplies Distribution
- 6:30pm Board Dinner

Saturday, August 25

- 8:30am Board Retreat; Zen Meditation
- 10:00am COA-Coming of Age Orientation
- 12:00pm Move to Amend

Sunday, August 26

- 10:00am Worship Service
- 11:15am Getting to Know UU
- 11:30am Covenant Groups Info Session & Potluck
- 12:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
- 2:00pm PFLAG
- 3:00pm Time Bank Meeting
- 4:00pm Community Drumming Circle
- 5:30pm Soulful Sundown Service
- 6:00pm Bridge Group (call 499-2434)

Monday, August 27

- 7:00pm UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, August 28

- 9:30am Archives Organizing
- 9:30am Newsletter Folding
- 1:00pm Cancer Support Group
(contact se.schofield@hotmail.com)
- 7:00pm Goddesses in Training
- 7:00pm Caring Committee; Zen Meditation
- 7:00pm Being an Atheist or Agnostic

Wednesday, August 29

- 8:00am UU Food Co-op
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality
- 7:30pm Men's Spirituality

For information on COVENANT GROUPS,
contact **Judy Fettman** at judyfet375@gmail.com.

The deadline for the next issue of *The Discoverer* is Sunday, August 26. Please send articles to office@firstuucolumbus.org, or drop them off in the front office.



The
DISCOVERER
August 12, 2012

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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

web: <http://www.FirstUUColumbus.org>

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TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP SERVICES

August 19, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Necessary Home Improvement: A Spiritual Guide”

August 26, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Looking for a Vehicle: A Take on the Common Read for the Summer: Rebuilding the Dream by Van Jones”

Also, at 5:30 p.m., all are invited to the **Soulful Sundown Service!** (See page 6.)

Theme for September: At-One-Ment/Unity

September 2, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Hard Work: What I Learned Making Leaf Springs for Dodge Trucks”

This is the last Sunday of the Summer schedule. Starting Sunday, September 9, we will have two services, at 9:15am and at 11am.

► Hearing assisted devices, large print hymnals, and a few copies (in large print) of the Sunday readings and sermon are available at the rear of the Worship Center. Copies of CDs of our worship services will become available for sale at the bookstore. Audio and text of recent services can also be found on the church website.