



The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, March 20 – April 2, 2013

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

Many of you have asked about my time away. I already told you a story a couple of issues back about the memorial for the great love of my life, which I conducted in Kansas.

In Florida, I preached a sermon to 450 colleagues, which was received very well, I have to say. It was very gratifying. I also learned a lot from my colleague Scott Taylor of Rochester NY.

I also went to Epcot Center with my friend William Green, who now lives in Miami. The visit raised a lot within me. I realized how much I miss William...he was my first great friend here in Columbus back in 1998. We're still close, but it was great to walk arm in arm with him through Epcot, talking deeply, as we always have.

I found myself bewildered by the whole place however. Beautiful, certainly. Well constructed. But...but...I found myself disturbed by visiting countries...Italy, Morocco, Germany, Japan, China, etc. which were constructed to look as if you were actually there...but based to a certain extent on USA caricatures of these cultures. There is more in modern Germany than beer, half-timber homes and blond women with pigtailed. There is more to China than pagodas and sweet bridges over koi ponds. There is more to Morocco than a souk where you can buy knick knacks (with American dollars too). Oh, the food was great...excellent and undeniably authentic Mexican food inside a mock Aztec pyramid, for example. And the croissant with butter and jam at "Les Halles" was every bit as good the one I last had when I was in Paris. But it was strange to be travelling without travelling, to visit the symbols of nations rather than the nations themselves. I probably have to dig deeper to find out why this was so unsettling. But it was. Perhaps it has something to do with what Camus once wrote: "What gives value to traveling is fear." There was nothing but comfort at Epcot. No differing customs to worry about, no struggle with language and signs, no getting lost for five hours (which happened every single day in the *real* Venezia).

I have two chapters written of my book, a table of contents and an introduction, so I am on my way. And I was privileged in California to not only visit blood family (my cousin Sergio) and my chosen family (my godchildren Adam and Ben, as well as my brothers

Richard, Doug and Kevin), but also to enjoy the Stanley Kubrick exhibit at the LA county museum, which was a real thrill. You should see what Kubrick was *originally* planning to offer at the end of 2001, instead of those wild colors coming at you!

Note, during the Celebration schedule, the extra services of Communion and Seder, uplifting and learning from our Christian and Jewish taproots.

See you soon....



(see *THE INNER FLAME* on page 4)

CHURCH NEWS

Invitation to a Wellspring Information Session

Have you heard about Wellspring? Over the past three years, nearly 40 First UU members and friends have participated in this amazing journey. Wellspring offers spiritual deepening within our UU tradition, an opportunity for learning more about ourselves and our faith through a year-long small group experience. There are five components: commitment to a daily spiritual practice, monthly spiritual direction (self-reflection with a guide), small group meetings, reading about the theological and historical foundations of our faith, and putting our faith into action. After a day-long retreat on September 14, we will meet two or three times a month through June, 2014. We invite you to an information session to help you decide whether Wellspring is a commitment you want to make, on Sunday, April 14, 1:00-2:00pm. Bring your lunch, your questions and your open hearts. Contact Ohma Willette at 614-794-3229 or ohmawi@gmail.com

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 Mondays, April 15 through May 20. For further information and to register, please call Rev. Eric Meter at 267-4946 x23.

(*CHURCH NEWS is continued on page 3*)

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

If you've been around the church for any length of time, I'm sure you've heard Rev. Mark Belletini and me talk about going to this or that training or workshop. UUs follow the "learned clergy" model, so we do our best to keep ourselves up to date, participating in several workshops and seminars each year. Neither of us would ever want to be considered dusty, after all.

Sometimes we come back from those experiences with ideas to share immediately, but most often, for me at least, I find I need to sit with the material before I figure out how it might be most useful, if at all, to either myself or the congregation.

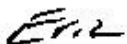
But last weekend, I spent all of a Saturday, from 8:30 in the morning until after ten that night, here at the church as part of a Fundamentals of Healthy Youth Groups workshop presented by Ohio Meadville District staff that left me absolutely jazzed.

I had been talking it up among the other adult Coming of Age facilitators because one of the presenters, Evin Carvill-Ziemer is a colleague I admire greatly. What I didn't anticipate, though, was how fabulous her fellow leader Caitlin Ballinger would be, nor how powerful it would be to be part of a congregational team made up of both youth and adults. The others making up our intergenerational team were: Linda McNabb, Rain Maxwell, Gina and Cecilia Phillips, and Niki Hanselman. Being part of this team proved to be magic.

So the next time you hear of, or are invited to take part in, an OMD or denominational religious education workshop, please give it the attention it deserves. I doubt very much you'll be disappointed, especially if you make sure to take part in it along side other members of our church community.

In closing, I also want to thank David Gill, who oversees youth leadership development on our congregation's Religious Education Council. First of all, he has an amazing job – who wouldn't like to do what he does on the Council? And second, his efforts remind all of us that we can become more when we come together along common cause.

In peace,



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Beth Jewell

Cooking for Faith Mission: Twenty Years In the Kitchen

Did you know that this First UU Volunteer Team has been cooking for the homeless for TWENTY years?! (If you are hungry, you may wish to wait until after you have eaten to read the impressive details that follow.) Long-time cook John Reisman conservatively estimates that over the past two decades, this Volunteer Team has cooked over 14,000 pounds of chicken, oven-baked with a special recipe coating of flour, paprika, salt, and pepper, prepared alongside mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, and carrot sticks. Members and friends have baked 2,000 cakes in their home kitchens. Close to 45,000 homeless women and families have been fed.

But the homeless are not the only ones fed through this endeavor. The volunteers have built community and camaraderie by sharing the humility of this simple act, the opportunity to provide a basic need for so many. Tom Dodge has led the kitchen team for most of this time, and John and Jane Reisman have been cooking for 19 years. Along with Tom, John, and Jane, the current cooks and helpers are Olwen Firestone, Sue Vierow, and Betsy Duckworth. Kay Fisher currently bakes the cakes in her home. Don Hippensteel renders invaluable assistance. Past cooks include Pei Tsing Wu, David Timm, Cindy Kerkhoff, David Grant, Bob Lechter, Linda Cox, Marilyn Beerman, Pat Larson, Pam Chen and Margaret Loudenslager.

I asked John if he recalls any funny stories over the years, and he responded by assuring me that this team ensures the health and safety of its final product: The cooking team once faced down a box of chicken that smelled bad and looked green! Needless to say, that batch did *not* find its way to Faith Mission!

Before the church kitchen was remodeled, the cooking team spent four to five hours preparing the meal on two regular stoves. Today, with our restaurant-style convection ovens, it takes *an hour and a half* to cook 40 pounds of chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and coleslaw—providing dinner for about 150 people. The cooking team convenes at First UU on the first and third Fridays at noon, and the meal is ready by 1:30. Other members of this volunteer team are on hand to deliver and serve the meal at Faith Mission's location in downtown Columbus.

Donna Greenman is the chief negotiator of the price of chicken, and manages the schedules of those delivering and serving, which include: Marilyn and Tom Beerman, Patricia Boughton, Susan Carter, Kristi Ferguson, Barb Fisher, Kay Fisher, Bill Fullarton, Ruth Gerhold, Donna

and Michael Greenman, Joe Heimlich, Pat Hoffman, Bill Inglis, Chris Johnson, Hans Kohles, Peggy McKee, Susan Musick, Jane Reisman, Susan and Allegra Roscigno, Gini Szabo, Amy Thompson and Tom Fechter and family, Layne Vanover, Agnes Vishnevkin, Candyce Walchesky, and Laurie Weltin.

Cooking for Faith Mission lifts up the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. I am deeply moved by this volunteer team's generous gifts of time, talent, and resources, and by First UU's ongoing support of this important ministry.

Is there a volunteer team you would like to see covered in this column? Email Beth at jewell_beth@att.net.

CHURCH NEWS (continued from page 1)

April First Friday April is national poetry month so it's a Poetry Read-in! Bring a poem or two to share and we'll meet at 7:30pm in Slower to share. All are welcome. Jeanni Ray, jeanniray@gmail.com, 985-6176.

Please, **join the UU Artists for a reception of their current exhibit, "Check the Box."** How do they make their choices, what box, how do you make your choices? Artists will be present for food and conversation on Sunday, April 7, at 12:45-2:30 pm. This exhibition runs through April 28.

Free Book Exchange Please mark your calendars for the next Book Exchange on May 12. These exchanges happen quarterly, on the second Sunday, in May, August, November, and February. —Kathleen Boston

Women's Spirituality meets Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9pm.
March 20: women energy, big and fun,
facilitated by Gabby McCoy

March 27: we talk and share
We celebrate and rejoice in women's history month, and salute and say hello to spring. For more information, contact Jeanni Ray, 985-6176, jeanniray@gmail.com.

Art of Developing Meaningful Conversation (ADMC)
We've begun a remarkable journey. In May 2012, First UU's Leadership Development Committee sponsored a new training program called "Developing Meaningful Conversations." Since that first workshop 10 months ago, we have had conversations that included such topics as: where we are in the life of the church, what we want and need, and what's next for us. Discussion of future directions for the church has been meaningful, heartfelt and inspiring. While these conversations took place as

part of our training program, they have generated extraordinary new thinking, new life, and new opportunities for the church. The March 6 edition of The Discoverer outlines our findings so far, and on March 30, from 1:30-5:30 in Fellowship Hall, we will begin to take our next exciting steps to shift our conversations into plans. We would love for YOU to join us. To reserve your place in these fun and exhilarating discussions please contact Allie Bonsteel, 937-304-6698 or bonsteam@gmail.com, and say "YES! I'll be there!" You'll have a great time while helping to discover the future of our church. For information, contact Amy Watson, 614-519-0737, amykwat@gmail.com.

Book Bites will meet in Slower Lounge 7 to 9 pm, Tuesday, April 16. New topic: Poetry, Poets or something about Poetry. For information, contact Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

Volunteers wanted for First UU bUUKstore

Have an hour to volunteer on occasional Sundays -- one shift every four to eight weeks? The First UU bUUKstore provides a special selection of books and other items for First UU people to browse and buy after each service. Their tables are set up in Fellowship Hall most Sundays. When there are two services, there are usually two volunteers—one to set up and work during the hour break after the first service, and the other to work during the hour after the second service (and put things away). The bUUKstore's sales help raise money for First UU as well as provide a special reading selection available at no other area bookstore. If you are interested, please stop by the bUUKstore and fill out the volunteer registration form or send us an email at bUUKstore@gmail.com.

Sunday Forum March 24, 12:30, First UU Worship Center. Dr. David Stebenne, Professor of Law and History, OSU, will speak on **Polarization in American Life and Its Consequences**. He will address why this problem has become more serious in recent decades, and its effects on our politics and culture in our time. For information contact Earl Wurdlow at (614) 296-6304, or at earlword@yahoo.com.



UU Animal Ministry meets every second Tuesday of the month, at 7pm, in the Library. The next meeting will be held April 9. Rick Kritzer, 781-1799, rick94037@yahoo.com.

Parents of Infants and Toddlers meets every second Saturday. The next meeting is on Saturday, April 13, from 11am to 1pm. Rooms 1&2. Contact Nancy Powlick for more information. lpowlick@columbus.rr.com.

Muslims for Progressive Values conducts an Islamic Prayer Service every Friday at 1pm, here at First UU. All Muslims and all friends of Islam are invited participate in this gender-neutral and LGBT-welcoming Jumma Prayer. For information, contact Frank Parmir, frankparmir@yahoo.com, 614-274-7330.

Elevator speeches address the question, "What's Unitarian Universalism?" during a time as brief as an elevator ride. Rick Kritzer has been collecting these speeches, to be printed in the newsletter. Here are three of them.

This one is by Dotte Turner:

"The UU Church is the best place for atheists, agnostics and humanists to freely explore, with others, ideas about God or other supreme entities. Though diverse in beliefs, we UUs hold certain principles in common. We seek knowledge in freedom, promote justice with wisdom, practice compassion for others, and possess a passion for democratic social structures and behaviors. All folks are welcome here and all ideas are valued here. Verily, I say to thee: It is the place to be!"

This one is by Dennis Rankin:

"The UU church is a creed/dogma-free church which promotes an independent approach to thinking in today's religions. It is forward-thinking, providing a liberal approach to questions regarding life spirit with an emphasis on social justice. It is a diverse church that allows the individual to define their love, and family, in a caring and supportive environment. It is a religion that requires participation to grow in spirit."

And this one is by Debra Gray Boyd:

"Unitarian Universalism holds the radical position that you are worthy just as you are, and that together we can create a more peaceful, loving and just world for all. Come and be radically welcomed by a most hopeful group of people who believe that all things are possible, and that all will be well."

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

FOCUUS, First UU's **campus ministry group**, meets every Sunday (except the last Sunday of the month, when is when it meets at First UU for Soulful Sundown) at 7pm at University Baptist Church, 50 W. Lane Ave, near OSU. Contact Chaplain Ben Iten, theitens@gmail.com, 329-2915, for information.



Soulful Sundown Sunday, March 31, 5:30pm

This month's Soulful Sundown is a Spring Festal Celebration! We'll bring the main courses (a mix of veg and non-veg) you bring the sides! We'll be having a secular communion exploring the theme of ***Our Bodies Broken for Justice.***

Contact Ben Iten, theitens@gmail.com, 614-329-2915, with questions.

THE INNER FLAME

from Rev Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

(I found these words by Naomi Shihab Nye which I thought were perfect to usher us into spring) Fuel 1998

A boy told me
if he roller skated enough
his loneliness couldn't catch up to him.
the best reason I ever heard
for trying to be a champion.

What I wonder tonight
pedaling hard down King William Street
is if it translates to bicycles.

A victory! To leave your loneliness
panting behind you on some street corner
while you float free into a cloud of sudden azaleas
pink petals that have never felt loneliness,
no matter how slowly they fell.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity), the local interfaith organization working toward social justice in central Ohio was founded by First UU and eleven other

congregations. Our primary commitment is to work toward having our average worship attendance at BREAD's Nehemiah Action meeting each first Monday of May to have the influence with public officials to get change made. If you have not done so already, please put it on your calendar: **Monday, May 6, 6:45 pm – BREAD NEHEMIAH ACTION (Doors open 6:15 p.m.)**, Celeste Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds. For additional information about BREAD, go to www.breadcolumbus.org and/or contact Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, alice37@insight.rr.com.

Monday, April 8, registration 6:45 p.m.

BREAD Rally

*Congregation Tifereth Israel
1354 E. Broad St., Columbus 43205*

Monday, May 6, registration 6:00 p.m.

BREAD Nehemiah Action (the BIG one)

*Celeste Center, 717 E. 17th Ave.
Ohio State Fairgrounds*

Additional information: Alice Rathburn,
895-2109, alice37@insight.rr.com

Since "**Reproductive Justice**" is a focus of our church's Task Force on Women's Health Issues for two years, and of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Study/Action Issue for four years (see great article in the newest UU World magazine), we will be hosting an **Empowerment Workshop for Reproductive Justice**, with soups and salads for lunch, on **April 27, 10:30-1:30**. Have you ever wondered why we don't always know how to use our voices, as progressive spiritual people, when it comes to a woman's right to make her own decisions about family planning? Attend our workshop to learn how to do that, and more! For details, come to the JAM table on Sunday or contact Jane Larson (614-766-4223 or janelarson47@gmail.com).

Feed My Sheep Food Pantry is in need of canned stew and chunky soup, peanut butter, dried pinto beans, canned meat, and children's books. Bring also aluminum beverage cans. Bring your donations to the Social Justice table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday.

OHIO-MEADVILLE DISTRICT

Out of Bounds: Moving Beyond Our Boundaries

Join us for this historic joint District Assembly with keynote speaker the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the UUA. UUs from both the St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville Districts will gather at the Niagara Falls Convention Center in Niagara Falls, NY April 26-27, 2013. Full information, details, and registration is available at the OMD website -

<http://www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da>.

Hurry, advanced registration closes April 15!

Are You Ready for Leadership School?

UULTI - the UU Leadership Team Institute is back with two offerings this summer - *UULTI by the Lake* July 31-August 4 in Cananadagua, NY, and *UULTI on the Hudson* August 14-18 in Stoney Brook, NY. Youth can explore their leadership skills at *Goldmine Youth Leadership School West*, July 31-August 4 also in Cananadagua, NY, or *Goldmine Youth Leadership School East*, August 20-24 in Stoney Brook, NY. Details can be found at www.cerguua.org/uulti or www.cerguua.org/goldmine.

The **WV Youth Service Learning Experience** is Back! Last year 20 youth had an amazing experience working in the Appalachian mountains of West Virginia providing services to families in need and learning about the unique culture and environmental challenges of the area. This year we return for new experiences the week of July 7-13. Registration is now open for youth who are interested. Adults interesting in chaperoning may also sign up. Learn more at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/590-youthcamp2013>.

General Assembly 2013

This year's General Assembly is in Louisville, KY, an easy drive from all the congregations in the OMD. This year's theme is covenant and the social justice focus will be environmental justice. Local ministers from West Virginia and Kentucky are already working on programs and opportunities in this year. We'll be electing a new moderator as well as other positions. Learn more about the schedule, registration, housing and more at www.uua.org/ga.

FIRST UU MUSIC

Tony McDonald, Music Director

BREAD Youth Choir

BREAD is looking to have a youth choir sing again at its annual Nehemiah Action Meeting on Monday, May 6, at the State Fairgrounds. We did it for the first time last year and it was a success and we want to build on that going forward.

There will be one rehearsal with the whole choir on Monday, April 22, at 7:00 pm, at Christ the King Church, plus we will have an earlier run-through here to get familiar with the music. The choir will sing “Lean On Me” and “This Land Is Your Land.” Yours, truly will not be one of the directors this year.

We are now looking for young singers from First UU, ca. ages 10 - 16, to join the group. We had about 12 participate last year and even more this year. Any young person interested, whether you are in a choir here or not, should contact me as soon as possible at: musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org. More details to come soon. The Nehemiah Action Meeting is a great experience, especially for anyone interested in social justice, and it is a thrill to be part of it.

Adult Talent Show

The Adult Talent Show (as opposed to the Youth Talent Show) will be on **Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 pm**, in the Worship Center. It, too, debuted last year and was a big hit so let's do it again. At this time we are looking for all types of talent to put on display: singers, dancers, musicians, standup comedy, magicians, etc. Note – in order to make it a really good show, we ask for people with some experience in their area, so no beginners, please. Anyone considering participating should contact me very soon at the above email address. Thanks in advance for all those brave enough to sign up.

CARING CORNER

The March 14 **Senior Gathering** had about 50 attendees. Many were seniors, but some are family members or Pastoral Team folks who provide rides. Then, there are the cooks and helpers and the church staff. I would like to thank some special people who made this event possible: Florence Jain, Josette Bodonyi, Karen Keenan, Suzanne Koebel, Paula Hook, Eve Catus, Joe Pierce, Don Hippensteel, Dick Dawson, Bob Mills, Dave McDonald, Bill Keating, Sandy Coen, Oliver Jones, John Schumacher, Farrell Brody, Carl Faulstich, Brian Hagemann and David Krohn. Member poets,

Dotte Turner, Liz James Shibliq and Farrell Brody, read, and Karen Thimmes provided some Irish music.

We send birthday wishes to **Don Jones**, who celebrated his 90th birthday on March 15.

Congratulations to **Jack Phoenix**, whose novel has been accepted for publication; he will be donating the proceeds to women's shelters. And to **Barb Magle** and **Steve Molk**, who have announced their engagement; they plan to be married this summer.

We welcome **Sydney Chamberlain Horner**. Her family, **Suzanne** and **Sam Horner**, participated in her naming ceremony March 3.

We send caring thoughts to **Doris Oursler** and **Will Smith**. Doris' sister and Will's aunt, Lydia, suffered a major stroke last week, and is at Riverside hospital.

Caring thoughts also to **Marge Lynd**, whose daughter Rose is receiving treatment in New York for leukemia, just diagnosed. And to **Dave Gill**, who broke both a knee and a hand in a sporting accident on Wednesday. We offer our sympathy to **Laura Adams**, whose step son-in-law, Jeff Cranston, died suddenly February 16, and to **Tim Shafer**, whose uncle, Kevin Shafer, died Saturday, March 2, after a sudden illness.

Congratulations to **Chris** and **Eileen Colgrove** and family. Eileen gave birth to a son on Thursday following some complications.

Caring thoughts to **Laura** and **Chris Carr** who are experiencing a number of challenges.

Healing thoughts to **Kathleen Boston**, who had shoulder surgery this past Tuesday, and Joanne Wiggins, will have shoulder surgery on March 21.

Church member **Scott Robinson** died unexpectedly early Sunday morning, March 10. A memorial service for Scott was held on Thursday. There were many volunteers for the reception: greeters, servers, food donors, and those setting up and cleaning up. I thank them all: Chris Hardin, Jo-E. Miller, Olwen Firestone, Linda Royalty, Paula Hook, Linda Weigelt, Ben Iten, Linda Cox, Lisa Daris, Pat Marida, Karen Thimmes, Dotte Turner, Joan Shkolnik, Joan Matyskella, Beth Meekison, Don Hippensteel and others.

Some folks have a role to play and bring food. Others are appreciated for what they contribute in any way. If you would like to help out sometime, please let me know —889-1182.

Carole Wilhelm, co-coordinator of receptions.

AUCTION CORNER

Danya Furda, Auction Chair

We still have some auction items available. If you are interested in any of these events or items, please contact Danya Furda at dfurda@gmail.com or 614-471-3786.



Item No	Item Name	Donor	Qty Left	Event Date
MM48	Mediterranean Lunch and Isha Kriya Meditation Workshop	Dena Denis	14	Fri Mar 22 11:00 AM
FA17	Game Night with Agnes and Gleb	Agnes Vishnevkin and Gleb Tsipursky	10	Sat Mar 23 5:00 PM
EX1	Guided Highbanks Hike	Erica Scurr	8	Sun Apr 7 1:00 PM
EN11	Movie Night #2 - Paul Newman	Debbie Shaw	1	Fri May 3 7:15 PM
MM29	Soup, Salad, and Games	Karen & Dick Dawson	5	Sat Jun 22 6:30 PM
FA20	Parents' Day Out	Beth Jewell	8	Sun Jun 23 1:00 PM
FA19	Game Night with the Boyd Girls	Melanie Boyd & Debra Boyd	9	Fri Aug 2 7:00 PM
EX6	Birding at Blendon	Karen McGuire	3	Fri Sep 20 2:30 PM
EX8	Annual Fossil Hike	Steve Molk	11	Fri Sep 20 2:30 PM
EX9	Spring Nature Hike/Mound Excursion	Steve Molk	13	Fri Sep 20 2:30 PM
MM20	Mindful Eating	Tina Thonnings, E.M.P.	3	Sun Oct 13 4:00 PM
ED15	Basic Self Defense for Women and Girls	Deschenes/ Roussi Family	9	
ED16	Authentic Movement for Women	Peggy McKee & Beki Test	10	
EN6	The William Wyler Film Festival	Tony McDonald	6	
FO1	Hello Dolly Cookies	Karin Erickson	13	
FO2	Pecan Balls (or Mexican Wedding Cakes)	Karin Erickson	17	
FO23	Turkish Coffee, Brewed in Your Kitchen, and Terry's Shortbread	Bob Letcher	1	
SE24	Your Life Story on DVD	Daniel Smith/Familyography	1	

"What Do I Gain from the Young Adult Covenant Group?"

By Julie Grawemeyer and Gleb Tsipursky

To help shed some light on this question, two participants of the Young Adult Covenant Group decided to share their individual experiences in the group. They hope their diverse perspectives, as well as styles of writing, will illuminate what they gain and why they are committed to spending two Sunday evenings every month at First UU.

Gleb Tsipursky:

The covenant group creates a space where the typical barriers between individuals are lowered, and we can all get insights into the perspectives, experiences, emotions, and worldviews of other people around us. This is a very valuable experience that I do not get in any other setting. The group gives me greater insights into how different other people are, and yet how much we are all the same. It makes me more tolerant and accepting of others and their diverse perspectives. The covenant group strengthens my sense of connection to other young adults, and I value highly the relationships with other young adults that I developed and continue to develop through the group. Overall, the covenant group greatly aids my personal development and my sense of community integration.

Julie Grawemeyer:

In her poem found in *Singing the Living Tradition*, Marge Piercy writes about connections being made slowly. This poem has helped me articulate my world view. I read it to remind myself of the faith I want to cultivate, the way I read Whitman to recall enthusiasm for the details of the world back to my body.

Piercy's line "*More than half the tree is spread out in the soil under your feet*" was grounding to me as a young adult who felt unrooted. I joined the Young Adult Covenant Group as a 25 year-old bringing my authentic struggles and ideas and transitions. I attend now as a 30-year old who is thankful for her community and for the quiet friendships and loud laughs that have bloomed in that space.

"*You cannot tell always by looking what is happening,*" she writes. The Young Adult Covenant Group is a place to remind myself of "what is happening" – the things that may have gone unnoticed in my life. It's a place for disclosure, for witness, for caring in silence, for watching sparks of connections flare up and grow around a quiet chalice. The YA Covenant Group members have been able to hold everything I have brought to them, and woven even more threads into what I started with. The group reminds me to, as Piercy writes, "*weave real connections, create real nodes, build real houses [...] Reach out, keep reaching out, keep bringing in.*"

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES

Jolinda Stephens, Religious Education Director



Exciting Things Happened While I Was Gone

It's great to be back. I still have to take it slow, but it's so great to have decades of pain gone and to be able to stand up straight again for the first time in four years. While I was gone, the DRE Search Committee identified a great candidate to be your next DRE. I was able to meet with her, but I missed a great Sunday School presentation in worship. The older kids at 9:15 (grades 4 through 7) have a project to influence the leaders of Kroger and Wendy's to sign Fair Food agreements with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (<http://bit.ly/16tkjci>). They invited the adults of the congregation to participate with them in creating squares for quilts that tell of story of the tomato pickers' struggles for justice. As a part of their presentation, they used an app to write and illustrate a hard-bound story book about the struggle. Stop by the Sunday School Table to get a peek at this book.

The ingenuity of kids is not to be underestimated. They are creative, bold, resourceful and loving. Susan Carter is a leader in the Fair Food struggle. Cath Saveson is a talented seamstress. Morgan Patten brings great skills in facilitating brainstorming and development with youth, and Faith Development Associate Carolee Noonan championed using the techie interests of several in the group in the service of justice.

Exciting things happen every week in Sunday School because the people there of all ages make them happen. (Gentle hint: Sign ups for Sunday School volunteers for next year: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S8V8V8Z>)

I have returned to work part-time for the next few weeks. It is still difficult to do a lot of computer work, so please call me rather than email. I'm in the afternoons except Monday.

Jolinda Stephens
jolindast@gmail.com

Faith Development News

March Justice Sunday for Families of Young Children March 24, at 10 am

In our Seventh Principle is a promise to promote respect for the web of all existence. Many who study our relationship with nature believe that our earliest years are when we develop a lasting connection with nature. This month's opportunity takes us to Inniswood Metro Gardens, 940 S Hempstead Rd. in Westerville. Bring the whole family and meet at the entrance to the gardens. As the group moves through the gardens, naturalists will highlight insects, wildflowers and other plant and animal life, as they begin their lifecycles after the winter.

April's adventure? A tram ride through Sharon Woods.

Need a ride? Contact the RE Office, ext 28.

Now is the time to get ready for the new DRE

Nothing says "Welcome" to a new DRE like a full roster of adult volunteers

- Have you ever had the experience of exploring nature with a 5 year old? Do it again with 15 five year olds.
- Have you wanted to explore other religions? Do it with curious, skeptical 11 and 12 year olds.
- Have you wondered about our top-rated sexuality education, OWL? We are looking for trainees.
- How about Covenant Groups with high schoolers?

All this and more awaits you in Sunday School next year. Sign up at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S8V8V8Z>

Get Ready for Spring Holiday Fun!

Easter/Flower Ceremony, March 31.

Youth participate in the full service and elementary and younger children enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt and a story about the Flower Ceremony during the center of the service, returning at the end to help with the Flower Ceremony.

We need a few more volunteers for the Easter Egg Hunt at 9:15 to bring eggs and/or to help hide eggs and supervise the hunt during worship. At 11 we could use a few more volunteers to bring eggs - hard boiled or plastic with treats inside.

Children may bring baskets and don't forget a flower for each family member

Get into Spring and Get Covered in Color! Holi, April 7, for Elementary and Younger

In India Holi began as a celebration of Spring, tossing flowers and playing pranks. Observed by Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs, it is a celebration of the triumph of good over evil. In a practical sense it is a way to bring extended families and communities closer together in fun. Can you ever have too much fun? Call 614-267-4946, ext 28 to volunteer.

March 20 – April 2, 2013

GREETINGS FROM THE AEP (Adult Enrichment Programs) COMMITTEE

Here is our spring selection of activities. For all classes, class size is limited, so please register, either in person at our table on Sunday morning, or online through the church's website, www.firstuucolumbus.org.

- **Intro to Modular Origami:** Facilitator: Mitch Gross, ohmitchg@yahoo.com. Thursday, April 4 from 7-9pm, in Rooms A/B.
 - Learn how to fold a stunning Chinese Wheel
 - All supplies are provided
- **Taking Great Photos with your Cell Phone Camera:** Facilitator: Thom Pegan, tpegan@gmail.com. Thursdays, April 11, 18 & 25, from 6-8pm, in Rooms A/B
 - April 11: getting acquainted with your cell phone camera, its controls and available apps
 - April 18: the top ten techniques for taking superior photos
 - April 25: getting your photo out of the camera and onto the Internet or onto paper prints
- **The Interdependent Web: Ecology and the Human Spirit:** Facilitators: Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org, and Tom Baillieul, tbailleul@gmail.com. Mondays, April 8 & 15, Saturday, April 27 (offsite), and April 29, from 7-9pm, in the Conference Room (except for April 27).
 - April 8: the science of ecology; earth systems and the ecosystems that make up the interdependent web
 - April 15: how aware are we of our surroundings and the natural systems that sustain us?
 - April 27 – putting ourselves within nature. We'll make a Saturday morning journey to the Highbanks Metro Park.
 - April 29: making awareness of nature a more central part of our lives.
- **How We Became Who We Are Still Becoming: Unitarian Universalist Roots and History:** Facilitator: Rev. Mark Belletini, marcobell@firstuucolumbus.org. Tuesdays, April 9, 16, and 23, from 7-9pm.
 - April 9: how different can we be as individuals and still weave loving community?
 - April 16: serfs, slaves, sin, sexism, singing and sincerity: what does theology have to do with justice?
 - April 23: identity, individuality, and community: can you really be a Unitarian Universalist without knowing it?

In the final stages of planning are: **Great Speeches**, with Chuck Wolfe; **Judaism**, with Alison Katz; and **Arab Spring**, with Jennifer Nichols.

To learn more, stop by the Greeters Stand near the front door, check out the church's Facebook and website pages, or visit our table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays. Our AEP Spring Brochure will be available shortly

Do you have an idea for a class? Stop by our table and let us know about it. Or if you would like to be a member of our team, please stop by our table and chat. We meet on the second Monday of each month, at 7pm.

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

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Don Hippensteel, Sexton
Beth Jewell, Chair, Board of Trustees

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

CALENDAR March20 – April 2, 2013

Wednesday, March 20

- 5:00pm Campfire Girls & Boys
- 7:00pm Board of Trustees
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality; Yoga (Winter Session)
- 7:30pm Men's Spirituality

Thursday, March 21

- 9:30am Improvisational Dance
- 11:00am Hispanohablantes Aspirantes
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do (DOV)
- 7:30pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 22

- 6:30pm Hungarian Feast and Dancing

Saturday, March 23

- 8:30am Zen Meditation

Sunday, March 24

- 9:15am Worship Celebration
- 10:30am Getting to Know UU
- 11:00am Worship Celebration
- 12:15pm Getting to Know UU
- 12:30pm Sunday Forum: Polarization Within America
- 1:00pm Youth Group
- 2:00pm PFLAG
- 4:00pm Community Drumming Circle
- 6:00pm Bridge Group (call 499-2434)
- 6:30pm Young Adult OWL
- 7:00pm FOCUUS (OSU area)

Monday, March 25

- 4:00pm Art Journaling; AA Meeting
- 7:00pm UU Dance Fellowship; Justice Action Ministry
- 7:00pm Funeral Consumers Alliance

Tuesday, March 26

- 9:30am Archives Organizing
- 1:00pm Cancer Support Group (contact se.schofield@hotmail.com)
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do
- 6:30pm Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Goddesses in Training; Zen Meditation
- 7:00pm Being an Atheist or Agnostic
- 7:00pm Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:45pm Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 27

- 1:00pm Archives Organizing
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality
- 7:30pm Yoga (Spring Session); Men's Spirituality

Thursday, March 28

- 9:30am Improvisational Dance
- 11:00am Hispanohablantes Aspirantes
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do (DOV)
- 6:30pm Socinian Communion
- 7:00pm Expressive Collage
- 7:30pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 29

- 6:30pm Passover Seder

Saturday, March 30

- 8:30am Zen Meditation
- 1:30pm Art of Developing Meaningful Conversation

Sunday, March 31

- 9:15am Worship Celebration
- 10:30am Getting to Know UU
- 11:00am Worship Celebration
- 12:15pm Getting to Know UU
- 5:30pm Soulful Sundown Worship Service

Monday, April 1

- 4:00pm Art Journaling
- 4:00pm AA Meeting
- 7:00pm UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, April 2

- 9:30am Archives Organizing
- 10:00am Newsletter Folding
- 1:30pm Library Team
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do
- 4:30pm The Personal Essay
- 6:30pm Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Caring Committee
- 7:00pm UU History
- 7:00pm Zen Meditation
- 7:00pm Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:45pm Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00pm Worship Committee

Next newsletter deadline: Sunday, March 31. Please send articles to marian@firstuucolumbus.org, or leave them in the Office Manager mailbox in the workroom.



The
DISCOVERER
March 20 – April 2, 2013

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

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

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP SERVICES

Theme for March: Meanings of God and Grace for Religious Progressives

March 24, 2013, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

“On Wonder Alone”

A tribute to Carl Sagan as a theologian

Rev. Mark Belletini

Thursday, March 28, 2013 6:30 P.M.

Socinian Eucharist

You do not need to sign up for this.

Rev. Mark Belletini

Friday, March 29, 2013 6:30 P.M.

The Passover Seder

Ceremony at 6:30, meal at 7:30.

*You DO need to sign up for this, at 267-4946 x 21,
or with Carolyn Aurnou at Coffe Hour on Sunday.
Vegetarian and gluten free options available.*

March 31, 2013, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. *Easter Day*

“Would I Want to Live Forever?”

The Flower Ceremony

Rev. Mark Belletini

Theme for April: Life and Death

April 7, 2013, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

“Experiencing a Wellspring Journey”

*Rev. Mark Belletini will be preaching at Akron, in
exchange for Tim Timerson preaching here while he
was on Sabbatical.*

Rev. Eric Meter

Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is provided at the 11am service. Hearing assisted devices, large print materials are available at the rear of the Worship Center. Copies of CDs of our worship services will become available for sale at the bookstore. Recent sermons can be found on the church website.



As part of our commitment to caring for the Earth (our UU Seventh Principle), this publication has been printed on 100% recycled paper.