

The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, February, 2015

Our Mission Statement

We are here:

To learn and practice true hospitality

To revere the reasoning mind and the generous heart

To claim our diversity as a source of our strength, and

To relinquish the safety of our unexamined privilege for the freedom to engage in transforming justice.

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

So, first, I lost my calendar this week. My datebook. My paper mind. I am in a state of panic, yes, but I do think I can recreate it this week, at least most of it. It does set me back a bit, but I find that I am less frenzied than I would have been just ten years ago. I think age has given me a little bit of that "que será, será" feeling, i.e. losing my calendar is NOT the end of the world.



Still, it will take a while to regroup, so I encourage your patience.

Second, I will be leaving after the Celebration next Sunday (the first), to go out to California, the Monterey Peninsula to be exact. It's our every-two-year Continuing Education Gathering for Unitarian Universalist ministers. We alternate between St. Pete's Beach in Florida and Asilomar in California. You may remember that two years ago I offered one of the major services down in Florida which had me jazzed, because it had an impact far greater than I could have imagined. And, being with my colleagues is always a rich, restoring experience. This year, Jeff Horst from our congregation (a deservedly well known CATCO actor and amazing teacher) and Rev. Kathleen Rolenz from Cleveland and I will be teaching a course to colleagues to help polish and expand their approaches to worship and preaching.

I will be gone for a week, since I am taking an extra day for myself to rest a bit, something I need about this time of the year.

Third, my book *Nothing Gold Can Stay: The Colors of Grief* is out from Skinner House, and sometime in March I hope to establish a time for a formal book signing for those who might want that. It's been gratifying to get kind reviews of the book from colleagues I really respect and honor.

On the last Sunday in February, Rev. Tony Lorenzen will be in our pulpit. He is looking at another Unitarian Universalist congregation elsewhere in Ohio (which I am not naming), and they are looking at him as well, and this is how we do such things. It's called Pre-Candidating, and it's something I think folks need to know about, because not too long from now, our own Search Committee will be asking to use the pulpits in other congregations to audition new ministers. Usually this stuff is hush-hush, but in this case, I wanted you to know just a little bit about this, since he was not in the original schedule. Here is what he wants you to know: The Reverend Tony Lorenzen is a native of Leominster, MA. He is a graduate of Fitchburg State University and Harvard Divinity School. He has served congregations in Massachusetts and Texas since being ordained to the UU Ministry in 2007. He is currently the half-time consulting minister to both the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston and Thoreau Woods UU Church in Huntsville, TX. He is the father of a high school senior and a huge fan of U2, Bruce Springsteen, and the Boston Red Sox. He blogs on liberal religion at www.sunflowerchalice.com and tweets about liberal religion at revtonyuu.

This winter had been surprisingly mild so far, save for a brief arctic blast. Not as much snow as usual. It's been less onerous on my spirit, and I hope that is true of yours as well.

Mark

See The Inner Flame on page 12.

February, 2015

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Beginning on Wednesday, February 18, our pastoral ministries will begin offering a new program. Last year David Maywhoor let us know about the Grief Recovery Method, inviting Suzan McCrystal, Kathleen Fowler and me to sit down with him in October as he gave us a quick overview of the program.



We were so impressed that Kathleen and I both signed up for a training that took place last month over Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. Now we are bringing the program to First UU. Grief Recovery classes will supplement the groups we've been running quarterly the last several years, the Healing Journey.

When you have experienced a significant loss in your life, someone may have suggested that you let go and move on. But how? Grief Recovery provides a clear way forward. Whether your loss is from the death of a loved one, divorce or the end of another significant relationship, the loss of a career, faith or health, this program may be just what you're looking for.

Because of the cost of material for the class, there is a fee of \$25.00 to register, though scholarships are available. The class will be limited to 12 participants. To register, contact me at the church office and have your fee in to the church by February 11. As we need time to order the materials, this is a firm deadline.

Those who have been part of one of our Healing Journey groups over the last several years are especially welcome to take part in the Grief Recovery class. It will build upon, and deepen, what you gained in the Healing Journey.

Based on the experience with Grief Recovery class, we may offer it alongside future Healing Journey groups, but this will be the only grief group we offer during the remainder of this winter and spring. Please contact any of us if you have any questions about this new program. And, of course, you don't need to participate in the class to make use of the congregation's caring ministries. The rest of our Pastoral Team, the Caring Network and I are just a phone call away at any time.

Next, I hope you'll save the date of Saturday, March 21. That's the night our Coming of Age class will hold its first Mystery Dinner fundraiser. More details will follow, but with our Coming of Age youth at the helm, why would you want to miss out?

And finally, I have some personal news to share: Ann and I are engaged to be married. I took a ring with me the last time I visited her, and had worked up a rather ridiculous little speech about it, when our conversation just somehow turned in that direction, and I went running to get the ring. We're still working out what we want for a ceremony, let alone where and when, so I don't have any news for you on that front. But I've been telling folks here and there at church, and I wanted to use this opportunity to let all of you know.

all the best,

Eric

Coming of Age Mystery Dinner
Saturday, March 21, 2015

CIRCLES OF TRUST

This column is a forum where folks who have participated in either a Covenant or Wellspring group have the opportunity to share their experience with our congregation. This is from Rev. Kathleen Fowler:



My participation in Covenant and Wellspring groups has been quite a journey for me over the past six years. Although coffee hour has always been one place to connect, I was seeking more grounded, sustained relationships. The possibility of deeper connections with others motivated my first involvement with Covenant groups and continues with each year of Wellspring I have been involved in. And benefits go well beyond connection with others as I have developed a deeper connection to the energy that calls me into being.

The Wellspring requirements of seeking guidance monthly from a Spiritual Companion, and engaging in a daily spiritual practice, have encouraged me to be more intentional about my definition of the word *spiritual* and at the same time to broaden it. Reading and meditating on poetry has become a way to encourage me to move beyond my egocentric way of viewing the world and my place in it.

Several years ago I began what historically has been called a “Commonplace Book.” In this scrapbook I keep poems that speak to me, quotes from various writers that offer wisdom, thank you notes I have received, pictures that amplify an image from one of the poems, even a picture of a dog hanging her head out the car window, ears flapping, reminding me not to take myself so seriously. I have a page devoted to signatures torn from greeting cards from loved ones and friends who have died, because seeing these signatures reminds me of the preciousness of my connections, past and present. I turn to my Commonplace book when I want inspiration, encouragement, a new view, or a reminder that life is indeed spiritual, despite what the culture may tell me.

I end with one of the poems from my scrapbook, by Kuroda Saburo, because it fills me with hope, surely a spiritual practice: “I am completely different. / Though I am wearing the same tie as yesterday, / am as poor as yesterday, / as good for nothing as yesterday, / today / I am completely different. Though I am wearing the same clothes, / am as drunk as yesterday, / living as clumsily as yesterday, nevertheless / today / I am completely different. / Ah— / I patiently close my eyes / on all the grins and smirks / on all the twisted smiles and horse laughs— / and glimpse then, inside me / one beautiful white butterfly / fluttering towards tomorrow.”

Rev. Kathleen Fowler

*For more information on joining a Covenant or Wellspring group, please contact:
Rev. Kathleen Fowler (Wellspring) kathleenclarkfowler@gmail.com (614) 263-4404
Chris Sullivan (Covenant Groups) chrimsullivan2003@yahoo.com*

If you have participated in a Wellspring or Covenant group and would like to share your experience by writing one of our columns, please contact Doris Cornell dorcornell@yahoo.com (740) 504-6833.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

John McCrystal

I am enjoying being your Board Chair this year and appreciate your trust and support. It is an honor to be working with such a caring and energized community. There are a few areas of governance and ministry I would like to raise up to you:

- Interim Search Committee: Continuing work from last year’s Board, a fantastic team was assembled. They received their charge from the Board in September and have been doing great work.
- Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO): Work during the past year by several of our members culminated in Unitarian Universalism being added as the ninth IACO faith tradition.
- Strategic Planning: The idea of changing our Board size has been studied. This is something I support. Listening sessions are currently in progress. This will likely be voted on at our Midyear Congregational Meeting. If you have open questions and/or ideas, please attend one of the remaining listening sessions.
- Midyear Congregational Meeting: March 1, following the second service and a light lunch.
- Stewardship: The too-few people we have working in this area of our ministry have great ideas and carry an important responsibility. As a community we want and need to be able to have healthy conversations about money. I fully support our Stewardship Committee’s efforts and hope all areas of our ministry can work together on this.

See page 8 for the wording of the proposed change to the our constitution.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Judy Kleen, Treasurer

Good Intentions – But Still \$33,000 Short

We are a community filled with good hearts and good intentions. However, our good intentions do not always turn into action. So if you are in the group of pledging members and friends who are behind in making your operating pledge payment, please try to get your pledge caught up so that we can continue to fund the good works of our church.

We are happy to add your name and information to our ACH – automatic checking charge process. We can use ACH for your Operating Pledge payments as well as your Green and Growing payments. We charge your checking account on the dates listed below or the closest business day if this is a weekend or holiday.

16th of the month – ACH for Operating Payments

23rd of the month – ACH for Green and Growing Payments

ACH payments are easy for you and good for the Church. You have the convenience of automatic payments and the Church has a predictable cash flow and no service charge from the bank.

If you would like to set up ACH for your payments you will need to send or give a voided check to our bookkeeper, Joe Voltolini, along with instructions about how much you want taken each month or quarter and for which campaign. Thanks in advance for your continuing gifts in support of our mission, our staff, our facilities, our community.

GREEN AND GROWING—FULFILLING THE DREAM

Kitty Jones, Capital Campaign Follow-up Committee

Greetings! The New Year is upon us and there are **many** exciting advancements and changes on the horizon.

Our new doors, skylight and roof are complete. We are moving toward the next phase of the construction which entails many meetings with Lincoln Construction and our architect, Dave Kerr, to hash out details. We will have more of a firm idea of the final construction costs by March, but in the meantime are moving forward on the construction loan that would allow us to match up construction payments with the Green and Growing payments received (approved by our congregation at the June 2014 meeting).

A loan task force was formed this winter with the approval of the Board. This task force was charged with investigating both the construction loan and whether we would be in a position to add on a small amount of money to complete the project if needed. This task force is working with two banks with which we presently have accounts, and both are excited to work with us.

SO! Please come to the mid-year congregational meeting, scheduled for March 1, to learn more about the progress on this very important **expansion** and **renovation** of our public space. We are set to leave a legacy of welcoming and forward-thinking to our future selves, and as a tribute to our minister, Rev. Mark Belletini, who is retiring at the end of June this year.

We will be revising and upgrading our Green and Growing website, available at www.firstuucolumbus.org/green, so please watch for more stories, information and pictures in the near future. Let's keep First UU of Columbus green and growing. Many thanks to those of you who have made this possible!

Kitty Durham Jones, Green and Growing Follow-up Chair

GROWING AS WE GO

Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Education

Coming Back From the REA Annual Meeting

Have you ever had a moment where you knew you were doing what you were born to do? A time when everything clicked and came together for you, and you just became clear about your life's purpose? These moments are rare and ever-shifting in each of our lives. I have to tell you, members and friends of First UU, I have been experiencing this sense of purpose and power lately in droves, and I want to share where I know this feeling with you.



Much of my life has been a journey towards becoming a minister, serving this inspiring faith we call Unitarian Universalism—ever since I was 16. Many speak of a higher calling, and I didn't see it that way until I was serving this church, on the ground and part of your lives. At first, it was a decision. When I got here, it became a calling, a calling from a community to minister alongside you all: through listening, providing safe and accessible containers where people can learn, through serving justice, through leading worship, and making mistakes. Through your involvement in my life, I realized a calling to minister in community, to minister with a congregation. There are days when I just know I was meant to be here, to be a leader in this church, and to serve you.

It has been quite a process to get to a point where I am qualified to be ordained. This past September, I was granted Preliminary Fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, meaning I was given the green light to become an officially ordained minister.

In our denomination, we value the voices of our congregations. This means that a congregation is the only body that has the power to say, "This person is fit for ministry. We bless the beginning of their service." It is with great humility and deep love for First UU that I have brought forward a motion to ordain me, which will be voted on March 1, during our congregational meeting. Pending your approval, a ceremony would follow, in the beginning of the Fall, where we would gather together to recognize the importance of ministry, and to recognize me as a minister.

This act would be one to bless the beginning of my ministry. It would not yet mean I am a Minister of Religious Education in this congregation. There is a distinction between ordination and installation. Ordination comes at the beginning of one's ministry, and sets them aside to serve a church as a minister. Installation is the act of a church calling a minister for a particular role. There is a whole separate process for installing a Minister of Religious Education, which is one we have not yet gone through together.

I can't think of a better community to be ordained by. In the many ways I have sat alongside you and learned from you and cherished this congregation in the last year and a half, it means so much to me that First UU will be taking a vote on whether or not to ordain me. Ours is a congregation that serves as a beacon of liberal religion here in Columbus, OH. We have a unique community that is both diverse and growing, while keeping true to the values we held when this church was first founded. I would be honored to be ordained here.

Adult Programs

UU Parenting Five-week series: February 2 - March 2, 7:00 to 8:30pm. Would you like to deepen your understanding of your own religious beliefs? Increase your understanding of Unitarian Universalism and put those values into further practice at home? This group will provide information and act as a parent support group. Come to explore just what it means to be UU parent. The first part of class is spent in a theological exploration moving into an examination of ways we can encourage a greater sense of our religion in our family lives; finally there will be opportunity for parents to raise and discuss questions and challenges. Childcare is provided. Please contact Christine.Davidson@outlook.com or the RE Office ([614-267-4946, ext. 28](tel:614-267-4946)) to register or ask questions. Suggested donation of \$10 for childcare and materials.

Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive, facts-based sexuality education curriculum offered at many UU congregations. We are delighted to be offering OWL for adults this year! This six-session course will explore sexuality issues for adults of all ages through healthy communication, spirituality, and values. Facilitated by Jennifer Nichols and Erin Voithofer. Adult OWL meets February 8-March 15 on Sundays in the evening. To sign up, please visit our Adult Programs Table or sign up online at <http://www.firstuucolumbus.org/our-community/adult-enrichment-courses/aep-registration-form>.

Dialogues with Dads

Interested in connecting with other dads at First UU? We will be exploring what it means to be a UU dad using the book *Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting* by Michelle Richards as a starting point. Facilitated by Ryan Agnew, who can be contacted at agnew.ryan@gmail.com. Group begins Monday, March 9, at 7:00pm.

Expressive Collage is ready to ring in the new year, and is ready to welcome new collagers. We would like one or two new members to join us. Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176, or jeanni1954@gmail.com

For more information and to register for Adult Programs, please visit our table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, or use the registration form available through the First UU website, www.firstuucolumbus.org.

Children and Youth

For Youth: Social Action CON

March 6-8, our youth ages 12-19 are invited to a Social Action CON, which is a weekend dedicated to social action here in Ohio and in Eastern Pennsylvania. Interested in attending? Contact Katie Swett at kswett60@sbcglobal.net.

For Youth and Young Adults: Peer Chaplain Workshop

April 24-26, youth and young adults are invited to a district-wide workshop that will prepare you to provide a chaplain presence with your peers. This workshop is specifically designed for youth or young adults who are a part of a broader community of UUs, but also provides skills that can be used in many settings. If you are interested in learning more about how to provide a compassionate presence to your peers, please join us. Contact Lane at lane@firstuucolumbus.org.

High School Covenant Group: 7th Principle Class

Starting February 1, youth in grades 10-12 are invited to join our High School Covenant Group during the 11am worship service. We will be exploring the 7th Principle of UUism: Belief in the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part. We will explore justice for all, alongside self affirmation and what role we have in the interdependent web.

RE Open House and Teacher Appreciation February 15

Join us following both worship services on Sunday February 15, for a Religious Education Open House. Coffee and snacks will be served in our classrooms, instead of in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come back and see what we have been doing in Sunday School this year. February 15 is also Teacher Appreciation Sunday, and we will have a card station for folks to write thank-you notes to our wonderful Sunday School teachers.

Justice Sunday, February 22

This month's Justice Sunday for children and youth in Kindergarten through 7th grade will be dedicated to the Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resource Center (CRC). CRC provides food for many families here in our neighborhood, as well as educational programs for at-risk children and youth. We will be taking part in an activity to support CRC during both worship services on February 22.

Families with Young Children

Are you the parent of a toddler or infant? If so, join us for our Families with Young Children program, a time to support one another and invite our kids for a play date. The group meets February 14, from 11am to 1pm. No sign-up required.

Snack Time!

Parents with children or youth in Sunday School are asked to provide snack 1-2 times throughout the year for our entire program. We have a new sign-up sheet for the winter and spring. Sign up at <http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/cqktu>

General

Third Sunday All-Church Potluck February 15

Join us for our monthly all-church potluck February 15, at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish or a drink to share. Come enjoy some conversation and good food with the folks of First UU.

FIRST UU MUSIC

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Talent Show

The annual **All-Church Talent Show** is coming up, on **Saturday, February 7 at 7:30 pm**. This is the time when the members and friends of the church get to show off their abundant and incredibly varied talents. There will be lots of music and poetry and a few unusual acts as well, from kids to senior, from those still learning their craft, to those who have doing it for decades. So please come out and support your fellow UU's at this fun, lively event. No admission.

Chamber Music

The Singleton Duo is set to perform here on **Sunday, February 15, at 3:00 pm**. The Singleton Duo consists of husband and wife Edgar and Lynn Singleton, cello and piano, who have been performing together for 35 years. Both received their Master of Music degrees from Bowling Green State University. Lynn is particularly well known locally, maintaining a teaching studio on N. High Street in Clintonville where she has taught piano to many at this church, young and old alike. She is also part of the keyboard faculty at The Ohio State University, where she teaches class piano and keyboard harmony courses. Edgar is a member of the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra and the Tallis Chamber Orchestra of Wilmington, NC. In his day job, he directs the First-Year Writing Program in the Department of English at Ohio State. The Duo will play a classic program of music for cello and piano by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Beethoven, Schumann and Samuel Barber. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Donations Requested

You may be surprised to know that there is no actual budget for the church's concert series. The general music department budget was designed, and is used almost exclusively, for the choirs, their music and concerts. In order to bring in outside performers for events such as the Singleton Duo, above, or the Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra, a few weeks ago, we have to also bring in some funds. You cannot ask or expect outside musicians to play for free, even though they often give us a reduced rate. And organizations that sponsor (often young) musicians, like Chamber Music Connection, or the CYJO, have expenses in order to put on their concert. In the case of the latter, the requested donations went for scholarships for the kids in the band, so that fees do not prohibit anyone with the talent from playing. In any case, we have to ask for donations at the door to make the concert series possible. We try to keep the requested amount down, no more than \$10, and most of our audience does not mind the expense. But we are also a church, so any donation is simply a request, and that means it is always optional.

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Stephanie Rottmayer, Director

SYC Registration Info

School for Young Children will be processing priority applications (currently enrolled children, siblings of children who have attended SYC, children of SYC alumni, and children of First UU members) for the 2015-16 school year on Friday, February 13, 2015. Children of MEMBERS of First UU church, as of September 1, 2014, receive priority consideration only if their applications are received by 3:00 p.m. on that date. Non-priority applications (families new to SYC) will be processed on Friday, February 20, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

SYC is a social outreach program of First UU, offering 2½ hour classes 2-3 days a week for children aged 2½ through 5. For more information about the program you can check our website, and you can download a registration by following this link: [SYC 2015-16 Registration Packet](#)

If you have questions, call SYC at 267-0254.

SYC Auction Info

SYC's Scholarship Service Auction this year is on Saturday, March 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m. An adult-only evening for SYC teachers, parents, extended family and SYC alumni families to come together for a night of socializing, eating and raising money. This annual event is a silent auction where all the proceeds go directly to the SYC Scholarship Fund so families who could otherwise not afford it can send their children to SYC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Mid-Year Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled to **Sunday, March 1, after the 11am service.**

The agenda includes:

- Constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the Board of Trustees
- Approve ordaining Lane Campbell into the UU ministry
- Capital campaign loan

Constitutional amendment:

Article V – Member Elected Leadership. Board of Trustees

A. The government of this church, including the conduct and control of its corporate powers, business and property, shall be vested in a Board of Trustees consisting of ~~twelve~~ **six** elected members, ~~four~~ **two** of whom shall be chosen by the members of the church at each Annual Meeting to serve for three years each. Trustees shall be elected at large and not for particular positions. Trustee shall take office on the first day of July. No Trustee who has served a full three-year term shall be eligible for reelection until one year after that term of office has expired.

B. In addition to the ~~twelve~~ **six** members specified in section A above, the youth of the church (14 to 19 years of age) shall select a youth to serve as a representative to the Board of Trustees. The youth representative shall serve a one-year term, beginning July 1 and running through June 30 of the following year.

FIRST UU AUCTION CORNER

Paula Hook, Committee Member

Tired of being confined by the winter? Want to meet with other First UUs at fun and interesting events? Why not attend one of the following Auction gatherings for February, March or April. The info below includes the date, the number of spots remaining and the cost per person. To learn specifics about a particular opportunity and sign-up, visit: <http://firstuucolumbus.org/auction>. More for May and beyond – check online or in the next month's newsletter. Enjoy!!

EN4 Music of Civil Rights Film, Feb 6 (1-2 left) \$15 ea
EN6 Wine & Bohemian Music, Feb 7 (18 left) \$20 fixed
MM28 Gluten-Free Greek Dinner, Feb 20 (3 left) \$25 ea
MM53 Euchre Dinner, Feb 21 (4 left) \$20 fixed
MM10 Champagne Low Tea, Mar 1 (2 left) \$25 ea
EN11 Strong Women Movie, Mar 7 (3 left) \$15 fixed
SE25 Women/Girls Self-Defense, Mar 8 (7-8 left) \$15 fixed
MM54 Early St. Pat's Party, Mar 13 (13 left) \$25 ea
FA 4 Board Game Nite, Mar 14 (5 left) \$15 fixed
MM52 Euchre Party, Apr 10 (4 left) \$30 fixed
EN12 Unusual Comedy Movie, April 11 (4 left) \$15 fixed
FA3 Guided Highbanks Hike, Apr 11 (10-11 left) \$15 fixed
MM 41 Heart Healthy Dinner, Apr 11 (6-7 left) \$20 ea
FA11 Spring Nature/Mound Trip, Apr 18 (9-10 left) \$10 fixed
FA1 Sharon Woods Walk, Apr 18 (4-5 left) \$10 fixed
FA15 Blendon Woods Birding, Apr 25 (7-8 left) \$15 ea
EN 16 4 Portuguese Films, Apr 25 & May 16 (1 left) \$15 fixed
MM 31 Italian Fiesta Nite, Apr 25 (1-2 left) \$15 fixed.

Receipts for auction donations are available on the table in the Volunteer Workroom. Call Phyllis Byard, 886-2257, with questions. **The date has been set for the next auction:** Saturday, February 20, 2016.

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
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Education
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Deb Cannon, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist
Karen Madden, Choir Director

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant

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

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Member of the Month To acknowledge the great and small volunteer activities that comprise church life, and to encourage others to make their own contributions, First UU is instituting a "Member of the Month" recognition. Each month, the Leadership Development Committee and the Membership Committee will honor a member or members who have worked behind the scenes, often for long periods of time, to make our church what it is.

Because these volunteers' activities are smoothly woven into the fabric of the everyday, we often overlook important work that keeps First UU attractive or ensures that important events run smoothly. Volunteer service is appreciated in the abstract, but we generally fail to acknowledge that it takes a person and his/her time and effort to produce the small but significant things we take for granted in our worship, building, grounds, and events.

The first honorees are **Su Farnlacher** and **Sandra Aska**, whose quiet but obvious work has been a significant part of each Sunday's worship. Be sure to check out the frame in the hallway next to the church leadership display. It will contain their photos and a brief description of their contributions to First UU's community life.

Third Sunday Potluck Sunday, February 15, at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. New to the church? Come and share community! Forget to bring a dish? Come and share your company. All are welcome! Dish drop-off in Fellowship Hall before the 11am service.

Grief Recovery Class 7 to 9 pm each Wednesday from February 18 - April 22. When you have experienced a significant loss in your life, someone may have suggested that you let go and move on. But how? The Grief Recovery Method provides a clear way forward. Whether your loss is from the death of a loved one, divorce or the end of another significant relationship, the loss of a career, faith or health, this program may be just what you're looking for. Because of the cost of materials there is a \$25 fee, though scholarships are available. The class is limited to 12 participants. To register, contact Rev. Eric, and have your check (written to First UU) to the church by February 11.

Funeral Consumers Alliance Info Meeting Have you ever wondered what happens after you die? Come and find out; we'll fill you in. Sunday, February 8, 12:30pm, Room 7. For information, contact Cathy Elkins, cathyelkins2975@gmail.com. Refreshments provided.

First UU's 75th Anniversary May 29-31, 2015. Watch for announcements of other events and ways to help.

BUUkstore Free Book Exchange Sunday, February 8. Bring one or more, take some home, no money needed.

New art exhibit: *C-SCAPES* photography by Allen Zak is on view in the Gallery and Worship Center. Take a moment to view his photos of past days in Columbus and the social issues that surround us then and now.

The **Building and Grounds Committee** meets at 7pm on the first Monday of the month, February 2. Our major focus will be our next semi-annual Work Day scheduled for Saturday, May 9. New members are welcome. If interested, contact Tom Wheeler, 614-882-5079, or Dave Richter, 614-459-5206, for additional information

New doors have been installed in the Gallery and the Worship Center. This is the first major project funded entirely by your contributions to the Green & Growing Capital Campaign. The doors are made of fiberglass with thermopane windows and extensive weather sealing. They should last for decades and require minimal maintenance. The project came in under budget. Contractors for the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems for the classroom addition and renovated restrooms have been selected; most of the engineering has been completed and architectural drawings prepared. Contracts are expected to be signed in February, and construction is anticipated to start June 1.

Book Bites will meet Tuesday, February 17, in Slowter Lounge, 7-9 pm. Our topic will be Black History Month. Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025, with questions.

From your Library Team: Did you know that *your* First UU Library has a section for the UUA Common Reads since 2010? One such book is chosen at the national level for individuals, congregations and districts to study for one year. Our most recent acquisition is the 2014-15 Common Read, *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square*, by theologian Paul Raser. The book was published in 2012 by Skinner House, a segment of the UU Association. The author considers the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice. He shares the tools we need as religious liberals to reclaim a place in the public arena. The book explores five dilemmas affecting liberal religious social justice work and concludes with reflections on religious identity. Visit the First UU Library to follow posted guidelines for checking out this or any other offering. Paula Hook, Team Member

Rev. Mark Belletini's retirement All-church dinner and celebration Sunday, June 14, 2015, 6-9pm, at First UU.

A musical and social event offering from the church's October auction still has space for ten folks at \$20 each (proceeds going to church, like all other auction sales). Beki Test and her folk band Bohemian Highway, along with libations and hors d'oeuvres, will entertain you at her place, Saturday, February 7, at 7:30pm. Call [614-753-1486](tel:614-753-1486) or email Beki at good2bbek@yahoo.com.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)

Steve Palm-Houser, Chair



First UU is a founding member of **BREAD** (Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity,

www.facebook.com/breadorganization,

220-9363), Central Ohio's interfaith community organization that holds local

officials accountable for serious problems in our community. First UU is one of its strongest supporters.

Important Dates: Be sure to put the following on your calendar **now**—ink, not pencil:

-Sunday, March 22, 1pm, First UU's BREAD Justice Network Meeting—for all Justice Network members and anyone else interested

-Monday, April 13, 7pm, BREAD Rally, Location TBA

-Monday, May 4, 6:45 pm, BREAD Nehemiah Action (**The BIG One**), Celeste Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds. BREAD's goal: 4,000; First UU's goal: 372.

Research Update: The **Crime and Violence** Research Committee is continuing its research into both the problem and best practices that have helped to alleviate it elsewhere. The research includes interviews with both professional and lay people, and will lead to the development of a specific issue for action.

Issue Updates:

- **Care, Not Crisis** (Mental Health)—Two new ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Teams. BREAD is also continuing to press for establishment of the Clubhouse International model.
- **Welcome Columbus** (Discrimination Against Immigrants)—Six "Know Your Rights" forums were held in English and Spanish. City Council President Andrew Ginther and Councilman Zachary Klein have agreed to meet with us to discuss legislation that would accept the Matricula Consular as identification in the City of Columbus.
- **Keeping Kids in School** Only 14 Out Of School Suspensions (OSS) for Truancy/Tardiness during the first quarter of the 2014-2015 school year (compared to 187 during the same period last year), a significant decrease from over 5,000 per year eight years ago. Also a 20% decline in OSS for disruptive behavior. We will receive 2nd quarter figures at our February meeting with the Superintendent as well as additional information about PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategy) training and follow-up.

· **Neighborhood Blight** Because BREAD pressed the Franklin County Treasurer to establish an active land bank, 1,294 vacant and abandoned properties were demolished last year (Columbus Dispatch, January 15, 2015). This will help to reduce crime and raise property values in our neighborhoods. BREAD rises!

· **Juvenile Crime** BREAD was instrumental in getting Franklin County Juvenile Court to establish a Restorative Justice Circle diversion program designed to keep first-time youth offenders out of the court system. Community volunteers are needed. Contact Rachelle Randolph, Juvenile Justice Coordinator at 525-3130 or RJ_Circles@fccourts.org

Thank you to Karen Lewis, Stephen Lovejoy, Rev. Eric Meter, Susan Musick, and Tom Wheeler, whose contributions moved First UU members and friends' 2014 investments in BREAD's work to over \$13,000 for the first time ever! Congratulations!

Contact Alice Rathburn, eulala1905@me.com, 895-2109 or 563-0536, for further information.

RESULTS book discussion Join us to discuss Nicholas Kristof's new book, *A Path Appears*, and to learn how you can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people, here in the U.S. and around the world. Saturday, February 14, Room 7, 1:30. Learn more about RESULTS at www.results.org



Feed My Sheep Food Pantry needs canned food for our friends in Athens County. Bring donations to the Justice Action Ministry table in Fellowship Hall Sunday.

Want to learn or improve your capabilities in Spanish, French, or German? The Care and Share Time Bank (CSTB), with the Adult Enrichment Program, offers a weekly no-cost class with the help of fluent language speakers in Spanish, French and German. Schedules vary from time to time. Participants are encouraged to register for the CSTB so they can receive communications regarding class times and locations (field trips are a frequent feature). Contact Michael Greenman [898-5825](tel:898-5825), (mgreenmanoh@gmail.com) for more information.

CARING CORNER

Getting Acquainted with General Assembly will be presented by the Caring Committee, Sunday, February 22, 1pm to 2:30pm, in the Worship Center. A light lunch will be provided. Call 267-4946, ext. 21, to arrange childcare. Laura Howe (North UU Church, local planning chair), Debra Boyd (First UU, national planning committee), and Rev. Eric Meter will describe what we can expect from the Unitarian Universalist Association's General annual meeting and what will happen when 3500 UUs come to Columbus in June 2016.

Memorial Service Reception Appreciation to:

Olwen Firestone, Nan Beamish, Cathy Elkins, Erica Scurr, Vanda Hughes, Suzanne Koebel, Karen Townsend and Sue Vierow for Amy Longar on January 3; Olwen Firestone, Marguerite Molk, Cathy Elkins, Jeannie Sperling, Sam Kiner, MaryLou and Dave MacDonald, Eve Catus, Holly Adams, Karen Thimmes and Florence Jain for Hans Kohles on January 7; and Jo-E. Miller, Sandy Aska, Ohma Willette, Karen Nekervis, Debbie Shaw, MaryLou and Dave MacDonald, Marilyn and Tom Beerman, Karen and Dick Dawson, Chikako Cox, Linda Thompson, Donna Greenman, Carol and Robert Hughes, Paula Hook, Alice Rathburn, and Karen Keenan for Pam Argus on January 10.

Chris Sullivan and Carole Wilhelm, co-coordinators

Morgan Patten and Cara Greenberg became parents of Tavi Ann Patten on December 15. **Carey and Sarah McDonald** became parents of a baby boy on January 12.

Don Hippensteel will celebrate his 87th birthday on February 1, and **Myra Hine**, her 86th on January 30. Belated 80th birthday wishes to **John Friedman**.

Rev. Carol Brody became our Minister Emerita on January 17, 1999. **Rev. Suzan McCrystal** was ordained at First UU December 5, 2009. **Rev. Eric Meter** was called to our church five years ago, December 6, 2009.

Jim Davenport, First UU member and BUUkstore manager, published his first solo work for the tabletop RPG market. *Savage Characters* presents twenty characters with histories, portraits, game rules, and ideas for adventures for gamers. drivethrurpg.com

A video of **Gleb Tsipursky's** *Finding Meaning and Purpose: A Reason-Based Perspective*, is available at <http://bit.ly/1xAW7n4>. Gleb is a First UU member, Ohio State professor, and president of [Intentional Insights](http://IntentionalInsights.com).

Jean Werts is under hospice care at The Forum. **Edgel Alley** is recovering from back surgery. Two-year-old **Minna Clark**, daughter of **Chris and Greg Clark**, broke her leg. **Sherry Osbeck** had a heart catheterization that showed two blockages. **Carolynn Arnou** had surgery for abdominal cancer. **Dotte Turner** was admitted to Riverside Hospital for tests. Ameer Payne, daughter of **Cathy Hausmann**, First UU employee, recently learned that she has thyroid cancer. She would appreciate caring thoughts and prayers.

Pam Argus, longtime creator of the artistic focus in the chancel, died in early January, after struggling with Alzheimer's for a long time. A memorial service was held at First UU on January 10.

Former member **Amy Longar** died under hospice care December 26, as a result of breast cancer that had been diagnosed seven years ago. A memorial service was held January 3, here at First UU.

Carol Aldridge's aunt, Doris E. Roof of Circleville, died January 5. **Kevin O'Neil's** brother, Daniel, died recently. **Leslie Partridge's** father, Clarence, died December 4. **Marguerite Molk's** son David's wife, Gayle, died recently. Diana Cox, former partner of **Linda Cox**, died on December 17. **Candyce Walchesky's** husband, Steven Bornstein, died December 13.

Terry Grzebielski, friend of **Carol Anelli and Bill Styer**, died in a shooting at the UU Church of the Palouse in Moscow, Idaho, January 10. Carol and Bill were members of the Moscow church before moving to Columbus a year and a half ago.

YOUNG ADULTS

Ben Iten, Campus Ministry Chaplain

FOCUUS, First UU's campus ministry group, meets monthly. Contact Ben Iten, ben@firstuucolumbus.org.

Soulful Sundown

Sunday, February 22, 5pm

Join us for a dynamic, contemporary service in the Worship Center, followed by drinks and snacks.

Questions? Contact Ben Iten, 614-329-2915,

ben@firstuucolumbus.org.

ARCHIVES TEAM

Linda Royalty, Archivist

Anniversaries: As the church celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, we plan to integrate our Universalist roots. Universalists were active in Columbus as early as the 1830s. Universalist ministers would visit the area and hold services from time to time in public buildings. By 1844, there was a Universalist Society and in 1845 the First Universalist Church was chartered by the State of Ohio. There is some difference of opinion on the actual beginning of the society; some say 1844, but others say 1840. We can document the 1844 and 1845 in our files, but a Universalist book of signatures we have has a collection of signatures for a 100th anniversary celebration in 1940. Indeed, there was a Unitarian presence in the 1880s, according to First UU member Mrs. Frank Kelton who recalls, as a child, accompanying her mother to a Unitarian service in a building across from the State Capitol.

We will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Unitarian church on May 30, 2015. Considering the Universalists, the 175th anniversary.

First Unitarian Universalist Church 75th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, May 30, 2015, 7:30 pm.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Chalice deadline February 1 is the deadline for submissions of art and words for the next issue of *Chalice*, the UU arts magazine started at West Shore UU Church. This issue has no specific theme, so submit your poetry, prose, photos and artwork on any topic by February 1, to chalice@wsuuc.org.

Ohio Meadville District Chalice Lighters Would you like to help spread the Good News about UUism? Become a Chalice Lighter. Members contribute \$10 quarterly to benefit UU congregations and those we serve at the district or regional level. The November 2014 Chalice Lighter's call is to benefit the Allegheny UU Church in Pittsburgh, to soundproof their Founder's Hall with acoustically-absorptive panels along the ceiling. www.ohiomeadville.org/challight/clgrants.

Rev. Kathleen Fowler, 263-4404.

Join a **UU College of Social Justice** summer program for high school youth! Put your faith to work in Boston, New Orleans, or along the Southwest Border. Come grow, learn, and explore with us. Learn more and apply at uucs.org/youth!

Faithify is the new UU crowdfunding platform where UU organizations can propose ideas, and interested individuals can donate money to them. www.faithify.org

Winter Institute February 13-16, Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, OH. Community worship services, great conversation, and sledding, hiking, skiing, etc. Registration now open. Details and links at ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/552-wi2015

District Assembly 2015 *Strong Roots, Broad Wings* March 27-28, Niagara Falls Convention Center in NY. Jointly with the St. Lawrence District. Keynote speaker is Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life of the UUA. Rev. Tom Chulak, retired District Executive of the OMD and SLD districts, will present the Gould Lecture. Some very important votes will be taking place, as well as discussion on the topic of regionalization. Register at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da>

Youth Trainings Available *Fundamentals of Healthy Youth Ministry* is being offered at the Toledo congregation March 20-22, 2015. *Chaplain Training* (for youth, young adults and adults) is being offered at the Kent church April 24-26, 2015. Registration is open for both events. Learn more and register at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/events/events>

Looking for Resources and Help? The CERG On Demand Learning Center offers videos of webinars and workshops on your time schedule. All congregational life topics covered. Newly redesigned and updated! Check it out at www.cerguua.org/ondemand

THE INNER FLAME

from Rev. Mark Belletini

I love this poem by the Moroccan poet Fatiha Morchid, b. 1958. She does not want to be remembered for what she did, but for what she did not do, and she wants her daughter to refrain from doing the same thing in her life.

A Will

To you my little daughter, the ringing
of the murmurs I silenced,
the sad laughter I drowned,
the ecstasy of the scents I buried
when my youth wandered away.
To you, all the paths I never trod.
All the waves, I never struggled with.
Fear, O my dear, is the sailor's enemy.
To you, all the fruit my hands forbore
from picking.

(translated by Norddine Zouitni)

Event Calendar, February, 2015

Recurring Events:

- Adult Enrichment Committee: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm
- Adult OWL: Sundays, 7pm (2/8 – 3/15)
- All-Church Potluck: 3rd Sunday, 1pm
- Archives: Tuesdays, 9:30am
- Book Bites: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Board Executive Council: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4th Wednesday, 7pm
- BREAD Team: 3rd Monday, 7pm
- Breakfast: Sundays, 8:45am
- Bridge Group (call 499-2434): 4th Sunday, 6pm
- Building and Grounds: 1st Monday, 7pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Sunday, 7pm
- Caring Committee: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- Chalice Choir: every Thursday, 7:30pm
- Committee on Shared Ministry: 2nd Sunday, 1pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Steering Team: 3rd Wednesday, 6pm
- Creative Open Studio: Monday, 3-5pm
- Executive Committee: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- Families with Young Children: 2nd Saturday, 11am
- Family Fellowship: 2nd Saturday, 5:30pm
- Finance Committee: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- First Friday Potluck/Activities: 6:30pm
- First Sunday Discussions (RE): 1pm
- Green Team: 2nd Sunday, 1pm
- Hispanohablantes: Saturday, 11am
- Improvisational Dance: Thursday, 9:30am
- Justice Action Ministry: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Memoir Writing: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Men's Spirituality: Wednesday, 7:30pm
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- Personnel Committee: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- PFLAG: 4th Sunday, 2pm
- RE Council: 2nd Thursday, 7pm
- Soulful Sundown: last Sunday, 5pm
- Stewardship Committee: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- UU Animal Ministry: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Monday, 7pm
- UU Food Co-op: (varying) 4th Wednesday, 11am
- UU Parenting: Mondays, 7pm (until March 2)
- Women's Spirituality: Wednesday, 7:30pm
- Worship Committee: 1st Tuesday, 8pm
- Youth Group: 1st & 3rd Sunday, 1pm
- Zen Meditation: Saturday, 8:30am; Tuesday, 7pm (orientation 2nd Saturday, 8:30am; discussion 2nd Tuesday, 7:45pm)

Friday, February 6

- 6:30pm First Friday Potluck
- 7:30pm First Friday Activities
(Cara Greenberg, 614-364-1539)

Saturday, February 7

- 7:30pm All-Church Talent Show

Sunday, February 8

- Free Book Exchange (after the services)
- 12:30pm Funeral Consumers Alliance Info Meeting

Friday, February 13

- 7:30pm All-Soles Contra Dance

Saturday, February 14

- 1:30pm RESULTS Book Discussion

Sunday, February 15

- 1:00pm All-Church Potluck
- 3:00pm Chamber Music Concert

Monday, February 16

- 7:00pm Program Council

Sunday, February 22

- 1:00pm Caring Committee Program:
Getting Acquainted with General Assembly
- 5:00pm Soulful Sundown Worship Service

Sunday, March 1

- 12:30pm Mid-Year Congregational Meeting
For childcare, call 267-4946, ext. 21.
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The deadline for newsletter submissions is the third Sunday of the month (except for August and December, which are included with the July and November issues).

Please send articles to office@firstuucolumbus.org

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February, 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

February's Theme: Remember

Sunday, February 1, 9:15/11am Rev. Mark Belletini
**Re-Membering: What Kind of Community
Do We Want To Be?**

Sunday, February 8, 9:15/11am Lane Campbell
(Mark at Institute in Asilomar, Carmel, California.)
Remember or Repeat

Sunday, February 15, 9:15/11am Rev. Mark Belletini
Remembering How We Learned

Sunday, February 22, 9:15/11am Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Remembering the Second Stone

also on Sunday, February 22, 5pm Chaplain Ben Iten
Soulful Sundown

*Note: On March 1, we will have our Mid-Year
Congregational Meeting (delayed from February 1).*

Hearing devices, large print materials are available
at the rear of the Worship Center. Past sermons can
be found on our website.



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