

The Discoverer

The monthly newsletter of the
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
93 W. Weisheimer Road, Columbus Ohio 43214

September 2016

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.

COVENANT

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

When I hear the words “best friend,” there’s one person I think of first, and then a few others. The first names are childhood friends with whom I’m still in touch. There was something about us: we were soul mates. We laughed at the same things. We groaned at the same things. Then there was how we treated each other.



Relationship. A friendship that “sticks” for a lifetime doesn’t mean that we always agree or that we have the same talents or that the friends of our friends like each other. There can be awkward moments. But the friendship sticks.

The relationship of friendship is based on the initial connection, frequent proximity, shared experiences. It’s not, so much, intentional.

Adults who are members of a free faith community make friendships within that community. But there’s something more going on. In a Unitarian Universalist congregation, we enter into relationship with intention. We *covenant*.

A covenant is about relationship. As members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation, we make promises to one another to live our values, the [Seven UU Principles](#), in our relationships with one another and with the world. This relationship is not friendship, though we make friends.

Our covenantal relationship is an intentional effort to gather people, not all of whom will “stick” as friends but, because of the shared values, can “stick” as a beloved community.

continued on page 10

Please send articles for the October issue of the newsletter by Sunday, September 25, to office@firstuucolumbus.org.

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Sr. Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Rev. Mark Belletini, Minister Emeritus
Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Minister Affiliated
Rev. Suzan McCrystal, Minister Affiliated

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister, Religious Exploration
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist
Karen Madden, Choir Director
Leigh Mamlin, Children/Youth Choir Director
Cath Saveson, Children/Youth Choir Director

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Susan Roscigno, SYC Co-Associate Director
Amy Rudawsky, SYC Co-Associate Director
Jabar Cole, Sound Technician

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

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Another year in the life of our faith community formally begins with our Water Ceremony.

And our theme for September is Covenant. So what better time to talk about some changes to the format of our congregation's Covenant Groups. For 13 years now, we have had a number of groups meeting twice a month from October through May or June (and some continuing informally through the summer months). Our Covenant Groups are places where seven to ten people gather to share their reflections with one another on some of the questions and challenges of our lives. They are places to build trust and get to know, often deeply, other members of our community.



These are not, however, discussion groups. Over the years, a number of people have hoped they would be, but they are not. These are places where the participants practice their listening skills together. Listening for what others say and do not say. Listening to what we, ourselves, share with the others sitting around the circle. (Those who are looking for discussion groups will find them elsewhere in our Adult Programs catalog.)

Covenant Groups, and others like them in other congregations, have been called places of intimacy and ultimacy, a description that may not roll off the tongue, but is certainly true.

This year, in addition to a few groups that will keep our previous format, we'll be forming groups that pick up where our Path to Membership classes leave off. These groups will not meet for as long, but they will provide a means for newcomers to our community to get to know both each other and the congregation more fully.

At the same time, if you've been wondering about being part of a Covenant Group, but have been worried about the time commitment, look into signing up for one of these shorter, three-months-long, groups. They'll provide a great opportunity for you to meet great newcomers and see if a longer covenant group might be for you.

in peace,
Rev. Eric

Grief Recovery Method Wednesdays, September 14 - November 16, 7pm-9pm, Orange Room. 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. \$40, scholarships available. Contact Rev. Eric Meter, ericm@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946.

Diversity Learning Circle Saturdays, October 1 – November 19, 10am-11:45am. Application required. Led by Rev. Eric Meter and Rev. Lane Campbell. Are you open to engagement in multicultural settings with people different from yourself, but want to avoid the inevitable awkwardness that often accompanies showing up in a completely new context? Join our autumn Diversity Learning Circle, developed in consultation with leaders from the Church for All People and Tamara Lebak, a certified Intercultural Competency Development Inventory ("IDI") administrator and coach. Participants take the IDI, have a one-on-one session with IDI coach Tamara Lebak (phone or Skype), and meet for eight weeks (six preparation sessions followed by two, two-hour volunteer opportunities scheduled outside of class and two debriefing sessions at the regular class time). A class fee of \$25 covers course materials. There is also a \$100 cost for test administration and interpretation of test results, but scholarship funds are available; First UU and the UUA will not let cost be a barrier. The course textbook is Dr. Ruby Payne's *Framework for Understanding Poverty* (5th Ed 2013). Guest presenters: Margaret Madison of the Church for All People and Tamara Lebak.

GROWING AS WE GO

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Exploration

Promises

What is in a promise? Is it something we say, something we do? In my life, I usually say I will promise to do something. Most of the time, when I make a promise I am making a commitment, and that thing gets done. Sometimes, I forget, especially if I don't write the promise down somewhere. Promises are lived. They are in the agreements we make with friends and family to be somewhere at a specific time. They are in the unspoken ways we promise to care for one another—a parent cares for a child, a friend is there to listen, a partner offers support, a community is consistently present for those who take part.



In my life recently, I have been thinking much about trust, specifically how to build trust with others. Promises can be a foundation of trust, especially when they are kept and followed through on. And I know that when we break an agreement we have with someone or with an entire community, it takes time to rebuild trust and to rebuild relationship.

A few years ago, I had a family member who broke trust with our family. Through a course of events, she began spending less and less time with our family and more and more time with a very controlling partner. It was sad to see this person I loved drawn further and further away from the family. When the relationship ended, many amends needed to be made, and, thankfully, she began spending more time with our family again. Trust was rebuilt. Promises were remade. I often wonder what promises she had made to herself that were broken over the course of this bad relationship. And it is my hope she could remake promises to herself about caring for herself, spending time with those she loves, and other promises I will never know about.

See, a promise can never be perfect, and it cannot be completely binding. We all make promises, and we all break promises. As I read that line, so many situations flood to my mind, times when I made promises and kept them and times when I broke promises, both big and small. A promise can have unspoken conditions, like I care about you, but only if you share the same political views as me. Those moments of finding out the full scope of a promise are decision moments for us. We can choose whether we want to keep a promise or to break it. Not all promises are meant to be kept, whether we intend to break them or not.

For a promise to be made, a relationship must exist. Promises made to a community keep us together. Each week, we promise to come together, to worship together, to be here for one another. We promise to do good in the world, to live out our values of respect, dignity, and interconnectedness in all of our relationships. Sometimes we do better than others. But these promises are the foundation blocks to building relationships in this community. These promises to each other and to this community are our covenant.

Rev. Lane

Sunday School begins September 18!!

The official fall beginning of Sunday School is September 18 at 9:15am and 11:00am. First UU is excited to begin the year again with engaging classes, creative activities, stories, and social justice. Sunday School can't wait to welcome you and your family! [To register your child for Sunday School, please click this link.](#) See you September 18!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ginnie Vogts, Board Chair

Dear First UU Congregation,

This is my first communication to you as Board Chair, and I hope it will be the beginning of a meaningful exchange. I am honored to be in this role.

I attended GA for the first time this year, and was impressed by the message of cohesion, course-correction and justice. It was a powerful experience. I was so proud to see so many of our members as volunteers, the leadership of Rev. Jennifer facing the Westboro protesters, the UUSC and JAM demonstrating against Wendy's unfairness, and Rev. Lane leading the public witness for racial justice. Ten of our youth were at GA and all our delegate positions were filled. We were so lucky to have been the host congregation for GA, and we did very well. Those who hosted out of town guests made additional connections which helped the visitors and our budget.

As we look to this new church year, I anticipate a busy time, with the Search Committee swinging into full gear, and the rest of us continuing the work of transitioning to new and different times. We are getting accustomed to the changes brought by our Interim Senior Minister, which were designed to upheave us a bit. We have implemented most of the governance changes adopted in June 2015. So now we can turn to other goals, such as finding a terrific settled minister, becoming more connected to the community around us as we fight for justice, and figuring out how to support the many things we love about this church, especially **our staff**, who deserve fair compensation. These are challenges we are up to, but they won't be met automatically, or without a lot of attention from all of us. We will be having some serious conversations in the near future about maintaining good financial health, and I encourage you all to come to that discussion with openness and from a place of abundance. I believe we can do anything we set our minds to, and I look forward to working together to make sure this congregation stays healthy, and embarks on a positive journey into the future, strong, confident and united.

I sincerely hope to be interacting with you over the course of the year, as we continue to clarify our mission and vision. I will do my best to answer your questions. If you come to me with a topic that is not under Board province, I will point you toward the appropriate resource. I've been a member of First UU since 1996, and have raised my daughter in this religious community. I have sometimes thought it was hard to figure out what was going on. We are always working on improving communication. Look for regular articles from me here. I will also be at most services and stay for coffee and conversation afterwards. Other Board members will also be available to talk. Board meetings are open to all who want to attend.

Together, let's make this a great year for First UU.

Ginnie Vogts
Board Chair

MUSIC PROGRAM

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Welcome to Choir

As the church begins a new year in the fall, so the choirs start up again after a summer recess. If you are not a member of a choir but have thought about joining one, now is a good time. It's a great way to serve the church, meet new people and have fun making music. Remember, there is no audition for any of the choirs at First UU. If you want to join, just come to a rehearsal and talk to the director, or email me at:

musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org. Here is the basic information:

Peace Pals, (kids, ages 5–10), Cath Saveson and Leigh Mamlin, Directors. Rehearses between the services, 10:25–11:00 am Sunday mornings, and sings about once a month for either service.

Rising Voices (teens), Karen Madden, Director. Rehearses every Tuesday, 6:45–7:30 pm and sings about once a month for either service.

Chalice Choir (adults), Brandon Moss, Director. Rehearses every Thursday, 7:30–9:30 pm and sings for the 11:00 am Sunday service three times a month.

Spirit of Life Choir (adults), Karen Madden, Director. Rehearses every Tuesday, 7:30–9:00 pm and sings for the 9:15 am Sunday service twice a month.

Concert Series is coming

We, the Music Committee, have an exciting concert series for you this year. The past few years have been very successful with good audiences, and we expect to continue that trend this year. This is just a preview, as all the details have not been worked out yet, but here is what we are planning:

Halloween Sing-along, October 21. Cath Saveson and Leigh Mamlin, the Peace Pals Directors, will host a sing-along for young people, in Fellowship Hall, with fun songs, costumes, seasonal food and ghost stories.

Scioto Valley Brass Christmas, December 4. One of Columbus' finest brass bands will give a Christmas concert here, featuring traditional favorites, plus some skits and humorous pieces. Fun for the whole family.

The Choirs Holiday Concert, December 18. Our famous holiday concert that includes all four choirs of First UU.

These concerts do not yet have dates set. Keeping watching this spaces for more information:

Eric Paton and Taiko Drumming

Chamber music featuring advanced students from our local colleges

Lara Colby, First UU's own professionally-trained soprano, in concert

The annual All-Church **Talent Show**

High School Choral Concert. Choirs from Central Crossing High, plus the show choir from Whitehall High

The annual **Spring Concert** of the Choirs at First UU

There will be a **Peace Pals Singing Workshop** Saturday, September 17, 9:30-11am, for children ages 5-10. Activities will include songs, movement, vocal exercises, games and snack. Designed to help prepare new and returning Peace Pals choir members for singing in the Peace Pals childrens' choir this year. For more information about the workshop and Peace Pals, contact Cath Saveson (cath@windfish.net) or Leigh Mamlin (mamlin1@gmail.com).

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Susan Roscigno, Co-Director

While spring is traditionally thought of as a time of renewal, summer plays that role in the life of a teacher. It's a chance to step back from the routine of the school year to catch your breath, to spend time with family and friends, to renew and ready yourself for the year ahead. Sometimes that renewal comes from time alone, or with old friends. It may come from travel to new places, or return visits to special places, or simply time at home. But the result is hopefully the same—that we come back together at the end of the summer ready to be in community once again.



This summer I found renewal—both personal and professional—at the Green Mountain Teachers Camp in Dummerston, VT. Attending camp was a big step outside of my comfort zone; I knew no one there and wasn't sure what to expect. I was reminded of what my students might feel like on their first day at SYC: Where do I put my stuff? What if it all gets wet in the rain? Who will I sit with at dinner? Will I find my place? Will I belong?

Fortunately, the other teachers at the camp were very welcoming and easy to talk with. I met teachers of all stripes—preschool, elementary and even college—from all over the US including Alaska. We talked about the role of mindfulness for both teachers and children, and ways to get more play into the classroom. We discussed the role of technology in our personal and professional lives and used the framework of photography to examine the lenses through which we all view the world, including the lives of our students. We sang every day, laughed and talked at meals, shared stories of our schools, hiked to a waterfall and swam in a river, and created beauty. It wasn't always easy. There were moments when I had to take a deep breath and make myself approach someone I hadn't talked to yet, times when I forced myself to say yes when I could have easily said no. But it was so worth the effort and I grew both as a person and as a teacher, renewed with appreciation for the amazing communities of both First UU and SYC and for the year ahead.

As we welcome the teachers and families back to SYC and to First UU, we hope that your summer has left you with a sense of renewal and an eagerness to rejoin the community. It's not always easy to start things up again and sometimes we have to step outside of our comfort zones to welcome others and allow change to happen. But it's so worth it when we do!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Senior Minister Search Committee Update: Survey Coming Soon!! Your Search Committee kicked off with a planning retreat with Rev. Lynn Kerr, our ministerial settlement representative. We'll be working hard this fall and we'll need your help. Watch for our timeline and events on the bulletin board next to Fellowship Hall that the Green and Growing Team has so graciously allowed us to adopt. The first thing we will need from you is the SURVEY. The survey is for all members, non-members, and friends. There will also be a special survey for children. Please take the time to thoughtfully complete the survey so that we get the best picture of our congregational makeup and preferences for our new Senior Minister. Watch for access to the online survey coming very soon.

Judy Kleen, Chair
Lou Bernard
Larry Drake
Donna Greenman
Christine McDevitt
Emma Merchant
Willow Otten
Morgan Patten

Film Viewing Party at First UU: Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War. September 20, 9pm. PBS will air this new documentary directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky. There will be a short discussion after the viewing party for those who are interested. WOSU will air encore presentations Wednesday morning, September 21, at 2am on WOSU TV and that evening at 9pm on the WOSUplus (34.3) service. The 90-minute film tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, and their dangerous work to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe. For more information, see: <http://www.defyingthenazis.org/>.

Chris Johnson, chris@underspecified.com

Entertainment Books From September through mid-December, Entertainment Books will be available on Sunday after the services. These books include many coupons for restaurants, stores, the ballet, and many more places. \$30 (\$7.50 of this goes to our church's Coming of Age group.

Karin Erickson, 614-834-3988

First Friday Potluck September 2. Potluck starts at 6:30pm. At 7:30pm, kids' movie and board games for older kids/adults.

Laurie Brown, [614-246-0170](tel:614-246-0170).

Bookbites Tuesday, September 20, 7-9pm, Slowter Lounge. Topic: Politics. Topic for October 18: Humor. Kathleen Boston, [614-262-4025](tel:614-262-4025).

Calling all UU Poets! The Artists and Poets Show *Driven to Distraction 2*, starts August 28. The poets will read their selection at First Friday, October 7, after the potluck. To participate: Check out the show and choose one piece, or the entire show, and write a poem (one poem please). Contact Jeanni Ray by September 27, with poem title, artist, and title of the piece. We will meet Friday, October 1, at First Friday and read our piece at 7pm.

Jeanni Ray, jeanni1954@gmail.com

Expressive Collage Second and fourth Thursdays at First UU, 7-9pm. Want to have fun and create? Feel free to join us. Next meeting: Thursday, September 8.

Jeanni Ray, [614-985-6176](tel:614-985-6176),
jeanni1954@gmail.com

The First UU Library is open for browsers and readers. Come check out the holdings on the north wall, which can be circulated. The south wall holds Rev. Mark Belletini's collection, which is not ready for circulation yet but you can browse.

Men's Meditation and Yoga Sponsored by First UU Men's Spirituality Groups, and offered by Isha Foundation, an international non-profit dedicated to human wellbeing and raising human consciousness.

→ **Free Guided Meditation** Thursday, September 15, 7:15-8:15pm in Fellowship Hall. Learn a simple and powerful 12-18 minute practice for clarity, health, and joy. Isha Kriya is a tool that you can use anywhere to become meditative effortlessly.

→ **Free Upa Yoga Session** Thursday, October 13, 7:15 pm-8:45 pm in Fellowship Hall. Learn a simple yet powerful system of exercise that activates the joints, muscles and energy system. No prior experience necessary. This yoga for beginners takes only 5-10 minutes, and can relieve back pain, stress, anxiety and tension.

Contact Stephen Lovejoy,
stephenqx5@gmail.com, [740-427-3957](tel:740-427-3957).

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)

Steve Palm-Houser, Chair

BREAD (*Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity*), 614-220-9363, www.breadcolumbus.com, www.facebook.com/breadorganization)



is Central Ohio's congregation-based, multi-faith community organization that holds local officials accountable for serious community problems.

BREAD's Fall Listening Process kicks off this month, running from September 19 to October 20. Our congregation will hold several listening sessions, also called "house meetings," though most take place at church. In these small group meetings, we'll share our personal stories about what we're worried about and the community problems we see around us. This is a chance for you to deepen your relationships with members of the First UU community and learn more about how BREAD works. The information and stories we gather will help shape BREAD's work over the coming year.

We're very happy to report that BREAD's Investment Drive is going well. At last count, First UU has raised over \$11,000 from 54 families! If you have not yet invested in BREAD's work, please consider doing so.

The accredited Clubhouse BREAD pushed for in our mental health campaign is becoming a reality. The grand opening will be in October; we'll have more details in the next newsletter. BREAD rises!

Contact Chris Johnson, chris@underspecified.com, 614-946-1287, for further information or stop by the BREAD table in Fellowship Hall this month.

The Feed My Sheep food pantry

needs items such as peanut butter, feminine hygiene products, chunky soup, dog food, cat food, canned meat, and children's books. Bring these to Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning.



Day of Action Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio

Higher Ground Moral Declaration Day of Action

Monday, September 12, 11am-12pm*
at Ohio State House in Columbus

*Note: The time is likely to be changed to 2pm.
This will be confirmed later.



Following the inspirational speech by Rev. Dr. William Barber at the 2016 General Assembly, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO) invites you to join people of all faiths and moral courage in delivering the "[Higher Ground Moral Declaration](#)" to leaders of the Ohio government. Similar public events will take place the same day and time in 24 states and the District of Columbia.

The Declaration states in part:

"...We declare that the deepest public concerns of our nation and faith traditions are how our society treats the poor, those on the margins, the least of these, women, children, workers, immigrants, and the sick; equality and representation under the law; and the desire for peace, love and harmony within and among nations..."

"...We believe in a moral agenda that stands against systemic racism, classism, poverty, xenophobia, and any attempt to promote hate towards any members of the human family."

"...We claim a higher ground in partisan debate by returning public discourse to our deepest moral and constitutional values."

If you believe these words and want action, please join us on Monday, September 12, at 11am at the Ohio State House. (The time is likely to be changed to 2pm. This will be confirmed later.) We look forward to seeing you there!

For information, contact Rev. Jennifer Brooks, jennifer@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946, ext. 22.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to:

Beth Greenfield, 91 on July 9.
Sue Vierow, 80 on August 5.
Marian Clover, 87 on August 13.

Brandon Moss, incoming Chalice Choir Director, who was married to his partner, **Josh Shipley**, at First UU July 9.

Chris Hardin who has been elected to the Board of Directors of Inniswood Gardens, and also to the Board of Simply Living, a local group advocating sustainability and support for local economies.

Mary Vietmeier who has received a full scholarship to the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio.

Wendy and Steve Boortz who have moved back to Colorado. Wendy sends her thanks to all the people at First UU who help make it such a wonderful place.

Margaret Allen, Carlos Hoyt and their daughter, Isabel, who have moved to Williamsburg, Virginia.

Bill Hurley who celebrated the second year of living with cancer the same way he marked the first year, by riding in this year's Pelotonia, raising nearly twice his required goal for The James Cancer Hospital, bringing his two year fundraising total to over \$4,500.00.

Hospitalizations:

Leslie Partridge (hip replacement)
Karen Jones (hip replacement)
Barb Avery (hip replacement)
Nancy Powlick (knee replacement)
Carolynn Aurnou (stomach obstruction)
Jo Anne St. Clair (rehab after knee surgery)
Judy Buckinger (cancer treatment)

Our sympathy to:

Sue Carter on the death of her brother, Phillip Tangeman of Troy Pennsylvania.
Tom Roberts and Melissa Karas, on the death of Tom's Mother, Kay, in Illinois.
Alison Easter on the death of her mother, Shannon, who died on June 20. A memorial service was held here on August 20.

The Caring Network strives to help our members and friends in times of need, after a health issue or family crisis. We provide those people with meals, rides, and sometimes other services that are volunteered by members of the congregation. This is on a moderately short term basis, but flexible depending on needs.

Coordinators:

Gail Baxter: gailsporch@gmail.com
Karen Torvik: kptorvik@gmail.com,
[614-262-3010](tel:614-262-3010)

Thank you to the following, who helped with the Tex Kohles' memorial service held on July 5. A note of appreciation for those who helped with the service and reception: Jo-E. Miller, Sue Vierow, Erica Scurr, Suzanne Koebel, MaryLou and Dave MacDonald, Sam Kiner, Bob Wilhelm, Jeannie Sperling, Marcia Canter, Paula Hook, Su Farnlacher, Linda Royalty, John Reisman, Karen Thimmes, Alice Rathburn, and Karen Keenan.

If you would like to be among the volunteers who donate time and refreshments to make this a gift to the family of the deceased, please let Carole know ([614-889-1182](tel:614-889-1182))

Chris Sullivan and Carole Wilhelm,
co-coordinators

You Can Do It: We want you to know it is easy to submit a request for a **caring card**. Near the top left of the church home page (www.firstuucolumbus.org), click on Joys and Sorrows Form/Caring Card Request. We recognize: births, weddings, deaths, surgeries, hospitalizations, awards, and such. The ministers, Caring Network coordinators, and those responsible for the cards get this information quickly. After completing the form, remember to press "submit," and you will receive a "thank you." Caring Team volunteers or Marian Garcia can help, if necessary. If you request a card for someone else, we check for their permission.

DENOMINATION

Mindful Journey in 2017, for UUs and friends

Peru: Always wanted to experience Machu Picchu? Join us March 25-April 5, 2017. Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, Shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas and reflections while sitting on a mountain top. Journey led by UU minister, Wayne Walder, Toronto, Canada, www.nuuc.ca. To receive a detailed itinerary for the journey, please email Beverlz@me.com. To learn more about Mindful Journeys go to <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/>

The **World Day of Prayer** September 8, is an interfaith event that invites people everywhere to light a virtual candle at worlddayofprayer.org. The candles will be displayed as points of light on a global map. The virtual candlelighting experience will continue through September 8. This event brings together many world faith traditions, including atheists and agnostics. (Note that, as in the Buddhist tradition, belief in a deity is not required for prayer.)

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

COVENANT

continued from page 1

In September, as we return to our routines at summer's end, we renew our covenant together during the ingathering ceremony, when the mingling of waters symbolizes the mingling of our gifts and needs, our joys and sorrows, our passion and our reason. The water we bring may be from far away or from the kitchen tap. Like us, each drop is diverse and has its own story. Just as we combine these waters intentionally, we combine ourselves in covenant.

It seems like such a simple thing. The Seven Principles, officially reviewed and renewed every generation, suggest paths of ethical conduct, encourage a search for meaning, and affirm the importance of embracing both each person's difference and their ultimate worth.

Yet there is a deep complexity to this covenant. Our promises, our intentions, are what bind us—not shared doctrine or shared theological beliefs. Our covenant gives each one of us freedom, while linking us with a bond greater than friendship. Greater because this bond isn't based on being soul mates or having multiple shared experiences. Instead, it's based on an intentional commitment to a way of being in relationship. Covenant.

May we do it well and make it contagious.

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

9:30 am–12:00 noon Saturday, September 8

Help clarify our mission & vision

First UU Columbus

Visioning Workshop



CALENDAR

- Adult Programs: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm
- Atheists/Skeptics/Humanists: 4th Tuesdays, 7pm
- Book Bites: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Board Executive Committee: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4th Wednesday, 7pm
- Book Discussion: *Between the World and Me*: Wednesdays, 5:30pm
- BREAD Team: 3rd Thursday, 7pm
- Bridge Group (call 614-499-2434): 4th Sunday, 6pm
- Building and Grounds: 1st Monday, 7pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Sunday, 6:30pm
- Caring Team: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- Contra Dance: 2nd Friday, 7:30pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Facilitators: 1st Wednesday, 7pm
- Creative Open Studio: Mondays, 3-5pm
- Family Small Group Ministry: 2nd & 4th Thursday, 6pm
- Finance: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- First Friday, Potluck/activities, 6:30pm
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after each service
- Healing Journey: Tuesdays, 7/12 – 8/ 2, 7pm
- Hispanohablantes: Saturdays, 10:45am
- Improvisational Dance: Thursdays, 9:30am
- Intergenerational Book Group: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- Job Seekers Support Group: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Justice Action Ministry: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Library Team: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30pm
- Meditation: Farrohk & Jean, Thursdays, 6:30pm
- Memoir Group: 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- Nominating Committee: 1st Sunday, 8:30am
- PFLAG: 4th Sunday, 2pm
- RE Team: 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Stewardship: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- TED Talk Tuesdays: 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Mondays, 7pm
- Wednesday Women's Book Group: 4th Wednesdays, 1pm
- Wi\$dom Path: Wednesdays, 7pm
- Worship Team: 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Zen Meditation: Saturdays, 8:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm

Thursday, September 1

6:00pm Chalice Choir Potluck

Friday, September 2

6:30pm First Friday Potluck (activities at 7:30)

Saturday, September 3

10:00am RE Teacher Orientation

Wednesday, September 7

6:30pm Covenant Group Facilitators

Saturday, September 10

10:00am 8th Grade OWL Orientation

11:30am 1st Grade OWL Orientation

Sunday, September 11 Ingathering

12:15pm Building & Grounds Garden Share

Wednesday, September 14

5:30pm Book Discussion: *Between the World and Me*

Thursday, September 15

7:15pm Guided Meditation (for men)

Saturday, September 17

9:30am Peace Pals Skills Workshop

9:30am Visioning Workshop

Sunday, September 18

12:30pm Youth Group Executive Committee

Tuesday, September 20

8:45pm Film Viewing Party: *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*

Sunday, September 25

12:30pm Difficult Conversations Workshop

1:00pm BREAD Listening Session

Thursday, September 29

10:45am Senior Gathering

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
93 West Weisheimer Rd.
Columbus OH 43214

614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924

office@firstuucolumbus.org

<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org>

September 2016

WORSHIP SERVICES

September's Theme: *Covenant*

Sunday, September 4, 10am

Good Without God

Atheist-Skeptic-Humanist Team

Sunday, September 11, 9:15am & 11am

Borne on the Waters

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Rev. Eric Meter, Rev. Lane Campbell

Ingathering service (water ceremony); service for all ages; two services begin

Sunday, September 18, 9:15am & 11am

The Heart of the Church

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, September 25, 9:15am & 11am

Say Goodbye to the Lone Ranger

Rev. Eric Meter