

The Discoverer

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

July/August 2017

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.

ROADS FOR TRAVELING SOULS

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

“However sheltered this port, and however calm these waters, we must not anchor here; however welcome the hospitality that surrounds us, we are permitted to receive it but a little while.” Those words are Walt Whitman’s, from his iconic poem, “Song of the Open Road.” My time has come to set sail.

July 9 will be my farewell worship service with you. As I’m preparing for that Sunday, I’m recalling the joys and challenges of our two-year journey together. Now it’s time for our paths to diverge. My journey, shared with First UU Columbus for two remarkable years, continues. So does yours. I’m setting off for the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, Iowa (like First UU, a flagship congregation in its region). You’ll soon be welcoming Rev. Marian Stewart as your settled Senior Minister.

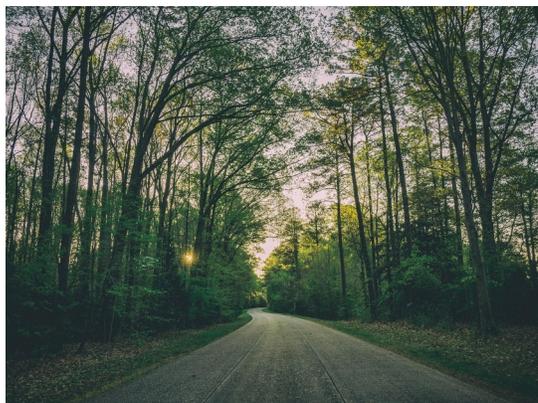


Roads for traveling souls.

It’s been a joy to serve this congregation, to experience the warmth and commitment of the people who make this their spiritual home. I’m grateful to my colleagues who have ministered with me here: Rev. Eric Meter, Rev. Lane Campbell, and Brian Hagemann, First UU’s Director of Administration. I’m happy for First UU and for my long-distance colleague, Rev. Marian. I know that this wonderful community, with renewed zest for its mission, looks forward to a future of great promise.

Whenever human beings travel from one place to another—when they leave behind friends and familiar places for somewhere new—they cannot help but carry with them part of the place they’ve left behind. Something of my hopes and my love and my longing will remain in Columbus. And, forevermore, I’ll carry in my heart a great big chunk of who you are and your deep embracing love. I am grateful for this time among you.

While it’s painful to bid farewell to so many good and vibrant souls, it has also been heartwarming to acknowledge mutual appreciation and a shared sense of belonging to one another. I remind myself that in every new endeavor, in every step a human being takes (no matter how small), our little forays into Life are buoyed and supported by the people and experiences that have readied us for the next passage. What marks our human journey is not a change of location, but the growth we achieve along the way: compassion, courage, patience, open-mindedness, and the willingness to learn from experience. We’re all on that road, and if we’re persistent it leads to spiritual transformation. I seek it for myself; I wish it for you all.



And so, onward! Onward, as Whitman says, to “know the universe itself as a road—as many roads—as roads for traveling souls.”

With love from this traveling soul,

~Rev. Jennifer

July/August 2017

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

This summer we say “Goodbye” as well as “Hello.”

On July 9, we will bid a fond farewell to Rev. Jennifer Brooks at the close of her two years of interim senior ministry with us. While I trust she will prove me wrong before long, Rev. Jennifer seems to be in a westward migration pattern. She came to us from Fairfax, VA and will soon head off to Des Moines, IA.

Having begun my undergraduate years at Iowa State University, just thirty or so miles north of Des Moines, I have no doubt she’ll find great people and a rich landscape in Iowa. And I know that I will miss her. As I’ve said many times, serving with her was like a two-year-long master class in the ways of large church ministry, and I am sure that we’ll be thanking her, for things small and large, for her work with this faith community, for years to come.



This summer, we’ll also be saying “Hello” to Rev. Marian Stewart, our new settled Senior Minister. Rev. Lane and I have been in touch with her over the last few weeks. The three of us have come up with a draft worship schedule for the coming church year, and are thrilled about the possibilities before both us and the church community as a whole.

Rev. Marian’s first Sunday with us will be on August 6. Mark it on your calendars if you haven’t already. And for those of you who are saying, “Well, Rev. Eric, that’s all well and good, but where’s my short dose of summer inspiration?” Here goes:

“One day Gandhi stepped aboard a train as it started to move, and one of his shoes slipped off and dropped on the tracks. Unable to retrieve it, he calmly took off his other shoe and threw it back along the track to land close to the first. When an amazed passenger asked why he had done that, Gandhi smiled and said, ‘The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track will now have a pair he can use.’”

~ Donald McCullough, from *Say Please, Say Thank You*

and:

“We sometimes wrongly say it is the absence of creed that is most important to who we are [as Unitarian Universalists]. This is wrong. Any one of us could practice religious freedom at home on Sunday mornings. We could practice religious freedom all day long, every day, and never come into community. It is covenant that brings us out of isolation, covenant that brings us out of selfish concerns, out of individualism, to join ourselves to something greater, to become a part of a community that is working to practice love, to dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge and wisdom together, to find better ways to live our lives and live in the world.”

~ Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, newly-elected president
of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Enjoy your summer, everyone. See you at church,

In peace,

~ Rev. Eric

Share-the-Plate Recipients for 2017-18. At the June 4 congregational meeting, the membership chose 11 worthy causes as beneficiaries of First UU’s Share-the-Plate program. Each recipient will be assigned a month (with July and August treated as one month), and plate collections are shared 50% with the designated recipient and 50% with First UU’s programs and activities. Based on our experience in 2016-17, our Share-the-Plate program is expected to contribute a total of about \$20,000 to these recipients:

- BREAD
- Charitable Pharmacy
- Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- Columbus People's Justice Project
- Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)
- Feed My Sheep
- Kaleidoscope Youth Center
- Planned Parenthood
- Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- UU Justice Ohio
- UU Service Committee

Special Note on Ethical Rules for Former Ministers

Once a minister leaves a congregation, the departing minister no longer serves that congregation. Professional ethics guidelines direct departing ministers to stay away for at least a year after the arrival of a new minister. This separation allows the congregation to succeed in its partnership with a new settled minister. To honor this goal and their ethical obligations, neither Rev. Jennifer Brooks nor Rev. Mark Belletini will participate in weddings or memorial services at First UU; provide pastoral care; discuss congregational matters; or engage in any kind of regular communication. In our wired and connected world, this means electronic communication as well. Neither Rev. Jen nor Rev. Mark will have a First UU email address. Though Rev. Jen has a Facebook page, she won’t be in Facebook or Facebook Messenger communication with First UU congregants. With all their love, Rev. Jen and Rev. Mark wish for First UU and new Senior Minister Rev. Marian Stewart a long and vibrant ministry together.

Please send articles for the September issue of the newsletter by Sunday, August 27, to office@firstuucolumbus.org.

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

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carolee Noonan, Board Chair

Welcome from Your Incoming Board Chair

Hello Friends,

First UU members and friends expect to be "in the know" - and rightfully so! My volunteer job this year with our congregation centers around communication. I can be reached at carolee.noonan@gmail.com or by cell at 614-306-9898 to leave a voicemail or text. I'll call you back!

I hope that you take advantage of learning about opportunities at First UU:

- I'm glad you're reading this newsletter!
- Do you check out the Friday email blasts? Not getting the church emails? Send an email to office@firstuucolumbus.org.
- Explore our website <https://firstuucolumbus.org/>
- If you use Facebook, how about joining the 594 members of the First Unitarian Universalist Columbus closed group?
- Are you here on Sunday mornings? Check out the announcements in the Order of Celebration and on the bulletin boards.

More importantly, come to First UU to participate in activities you enjoy and try new ones. Be here. Talk with people. Share your thoughts. Build our community with your presence.

Did you know that members of your board shape the policies that guide our professional staff in their work with all of us and the wider world? We want to talk with you. Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts by stopping by the Welcome Table where, most Sundays, a board member is waiting to talk with you.

You are invited to come to a board meeting, usually the 4th Wednesday each month at 7pm. All are welcome!

Let's keep in touch,

Carolee Noonan

Note: The Board has chosen Jeff Boughton as Treasurer and has appointed a new Finance Chair, Bill Fiorini, along with five committee members.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Enjoy a Cool Evening of Contemporary Folk Music, July 22, 7:30pm. Worship Center

Beat the summer heat and relax in air-conditioned comfort as you listen to a concert of original contemporary folk music performed by not one, but *two* highly talented groups.

Bohemian Highway features singer-songwriter Beki Test and her trio performing original songs featuring tight vocal harmonies and lyric-driven melodies supported by acoustic guitar, mandolin, and Irish whistle. The group is based here in Columbus.

Bliss Hippy, a duo of Maureen and Richard Hall, have been composing entertaining and socially conscious folk music since 1990. They've cut four albums and have toured across the country. The duo is based in Rolla, Missouri.

As always, these concerts are free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted, and 100% goes to the performers. Invite your friends and neighbors so they can share in the joy.

SOLIDARITY AND SANCTUARY CIRCLES

Ginnie Vogts and Jan Phillips

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to confirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The Underground Railroad was the salvation for many people of color during the 1800s. Abolitionists and sympathizers helped people find freedom by putting themselves at risk. During World War II, sympathizers helped Jews and other Europeans escape the wrath of Hitler and the Nazis.

Now is our time. Refugees and immigrants (documented and undocumented) are now facing difficult times in our country. Rapidly escalating deportations of our neighbors who have lived in this country for years, more than 400 per day nationwide, are tearing families apart and upending communities. LGBTQ rights are being rolled back. People of color are facing increased threats.

We can help by showing solidarity and providing sanctuary, in a way that fits with our congregation. What community work and organizing does First UU want to do that directly relates to those who are being targeted now because of their identities?

We invite you to join the discussion through a series of Solidarity and Sanctuary circles, beginning this summer. The first two discussion circles will be:

Tuesday, July 11, 1:00—2:30pm, Room 7

Wednesday, July 12, 7:00—8:30pm, Room 7

RSVP to Jan Phillips at jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Thank you and farewell to Rev. Jennifer Brooks!

You are invited to a reception for Rev. Jennifer July 9, after the service. This will be her last Sunday with First UU before moving on to another church as Interim Minister. Let's send Rev. Jennifer off with thanks and good wishes!

The Long Strange Trip—Our UU History

Thursdays, July 20 - August 24, 7:15pm, Room 7. Led by Rev. Dana Reynolds, retired UU minister. This is a great way to learn about our UU development throughout the centuries, either for the first time or in a new way. The series is ideal for those new to Unitarian Universalism, but it promises new surprises for those who have been UUs for a long time. In each session, we will view the DVD (an hour or less) and have a discussion for half an hour or so. Please call or email if you need childcare (at least five days prior); danafr3@gmail.com, 612-229-5907.

Bookbites Tuesday, July 18 and August 15 in Slowter Lounge, 7-9pm. July topic: *Odd Couples*. August topic: *Book Burnings*. For information, please call Kathleen Boston, 614-262-4025.

Labor Day Retreat September 2-4. Intergenerational, all-congregation retreat in the beautiful Hocking Hills. Workshops, hiking, worship, fellowship, community, nature, star gazing, relaxation. Cabins, lodge or bring-your-own tent. Shared meals in the dining hall. A great way to share a relaxing weekend with other First UU folks. Contact Beth McCreary, 614-850-1463, or at the RE table or our Retreat table on Sunday morning.

First Friday Potluck June 2, 6:30pm. Please contact Laurie Brown, 614-246-0170. Activities for children, and a video for adults:

July 7: *Mystery of Chaco Canyon*, which examines the enigmas presented by prehistoric remains found in Chaco Canyon in New Mexico.

August 4: *Searching for the Great Hopewell Road*. Archaeologist Dr. Bradley Lepper presents evidence that the Hopewell Indians, who constructed mounds in the Central Ohio Valley, also constructed a sixty-mile road between their two greatest ceremonial centers. Did Dr. Lepper's visit to the Chaco Canyon discovery of the ancient sundial there lead to questions about what happened at Newark, Ohio 2000 years ago?

Meditation Workshop Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm, at First UU. All levels. No reservations needed. Chairs and cushions provided. Tom Tucker, 614-263-9275.

Bill Cohen Concert
Facing Death With Music
Friday, August 18, 7:30pm, at First UU

Join us for an evening of songs by a local folk singer and musician who has created a program of inspiring



quotes and songs about how, once we accept that we will someday die, we can feel free to live our lives more fully. This is a benefit concert for the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio, an organization supported by the First UU Caring Team. FCACO consists of area residents dedicated to helping individuals understand options and costs so they can make funeral arrangements that are dignified, meaningful and affordable. For more information, go to <http://www.funeralsohio.org/> We will also present an information meeting about FCACO at First UU, Sunday, August 13, 11:30am. Join us!

First UU Auction 2018 Saturday, February 10, 5pm. The Auction Team is making some changes. We'll have fewer physical items in our silent auction and more dinners, services, fellowship activities, vacations, excursions, gift certificates, and homemade food items. Also, we'll no longer split dinners between the live and silent auctions. That is, all places for a dinner will be either in the silent auction or in the live auction, but not in both. We'll send a five-minute survey via email to collect feedback from you. If you are interested in joining the auction team, contact Danya Furda, 614-471-3786 or dfurda@gmail.com.

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 uses the power of organized people to hold local officials accountable for serious community problems. Contact Alice Rathburn, 614-895-2109 or eulala1905@me.com, or Chris Johnson, 614-946-1287 or chris@underspecified.com.



Feed My Sheep School Supply Collection August 13. Each child needs: a backpack, 20 #2 pencils, two large pink erasers, a ruler with centimeters and inches, crayons (a box of 16-24), two 70-page wide-rule spiral notebooks, and two glue sticks. The food pantry also needs: peanut butter, tampons, dog and cat food, diapers, and children's books. Please bring items to Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.

Potluck / All Soles Contra & Square Dancing Saturday, July 22, in Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Potluck at 6:30, then contra and square dancing. No experience needed; a teaching session starts at 7:30. You won't need to bring a partner, most of us don't; by the end of the evening you'll have danced with everyone in the room, and you'll have met folks from First UU and the wider contra dance community of Central Ohio. Come enjoy old-time music, community, and great exercise! Contra is a form of American folk dance tracing its roots to English country dancing in the 1600s. Each dance will be walked-through, then prompted by premiere caller **Kathy Anderson**. **The Pegheads** will provide music to keep the evening lively! **Cost for the dance portion of the evening is \$8 (\$4 for ages 12-25).** www.firstuucolumbus.org/AllSoles

First UU Photo Directory It's time to update this! We need a team coordinator, who will see that the various tasks are done and coordinate between the photographer and the church. We also need folks to schedule people for their sessions and check people in when they come to get their photos taken. The time commitment is about two meetings (one in mid-August, one in late September), any in-person shifts you sign up for, and some online coordination. This is a way to help our community connect that has a big payoff for just a bit of time investment, and a great way for newer members to get to know the rest of the congregation. The photographers will be here during October 3-14. We should get our photos back in time for the holidays and to help our new settled minister get to know us better!

First UU members are invited to set up an appointment to get their picture taken. Those who do so get a free 8x10. The company offers more comprehensive packages for purchase. A few weeks after the sessions, they'll send the 8x10's and directories to First UU, for you to pick up; if you ordered a package, it will be mailed to you. Direct any questions to Christine.davidson@outlook.com and thank you!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, Historian

The Unitarian Church and OSU in the 1940s and 50s

The First Unitarian Church had a formal and an informal relationship with OSU, beginning with the church's establishment in 1940 at 1957 Indianola Avenue. Serving as the Liberal Student Center, the church, under Rev. Clyde Williams, called upon many OSU faculty members as sponsors and presenters of programs during the academic year. This continued under Williams' tenure and that of Rev. Frank Ricker when the church moved to 175 West 11th Avenue in the mid-forties. This land and buildings were sold to Ohio State in 1959 when the church built its own structure at 93 W. Weisheimer Road. After merger with the Universalists in the early 1960s, it became The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus.

During the 1940s, one of the major concerns among the church sponsors was seeing that students, who often were away from home for the first time, got a good home-cooked dinner on Sunday nights. The charge was 25 cents. A big decision in 1945-46 was to raise the Sunday night meal price to 35 cents. Sometimes a minister would have the students to his home for a special dinner. Rev. Ricker was known to have served waffles. Church members also invited students to their homes for dinner and fellowship.

In the years on West 11th, two of the church's younger members raised funds for the church by selling football parking on church grounds. Over the course of two or three games, the boys raised over \$58. Not bad in the 1950s.

To this day, the church houses a collection of religious/theological books that belonged to the first Ohio State president, Edward Orton, donated by his daughter, Louise. President Orton held to Unitarian thinking, even though there was no church in Columbus during his era.

Louise Orton Caldwell and her husband, Prof. Frank Caldwell of Electrical Engineering, were both members of the First Unitarian Church. Their granddaughter Carole married Rod Serling, famed creator of the television series "Twilight Zone," in the church on West 11th.

CARING CORNER

Thank you to those who provided food and help with Laura Adams' memorial service June 10: Jo-E. Miller, Linda Thompson, Donna Greenman, Jim Pinchak, Debbie Shaw, Carl Yaffey, Erica Scurr, Olwen Firestone, Garlena Bauer, Susan and David Carr, Danya Furda, Jim Pinkham, Karen Keenan, Paula Hook, Bob Rice, and, especially family members and friends of Laura. Chris Sullivan and Carole Wilhelm

Congratulations to:

Helena Rudoff, daughter of **Mark Rudoff** and **Nancy Nehring**, who received a B.S. in Environmental Science, cum laude

A speedy recovery to:

John Reisman, who had back surgery at St. Ann's Hospital.

Don Hippensteel, who is recovering from a mild heart attack.

Mary Vietmeier, who had knee replacement surgery.

Our sympathy to:

Ruth Whitehouse, whose husband, Bill, died on June 15.

Rev. Jennifer, whose father died on June 17.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, July 11, 1pm, and Wednesday, July 12, 7pm:

Solidarity and Sanctuary Circles

Saturday, July 15

1:00pm William Whitehouse Memorial Service

Tuesday, July 18

6:00pm Summer Work Session
(Jeff Boughton, boughtj57@gmail.com)

Friday, July 21

7:00pm Bystander Intervention and Calling In

Saturday, July 22

6:30pm All Soles Contra Dance and Potluck

7:30pm Folk Music Concert

July 24-28 and July 31–August 4: Peace Camp

Sunday, August 13

11:30am Funeral Consumers Alliance Presentation

Friday, August 18

7:30pm Bill Cohen Concert

Saturday, August 19

7:30pm All Soles Contra Dance

Wednesday, August 23

1:00pm On Being Civil

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
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July/August 2017

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

JULY

Sunday, July 2, 10am

We the People

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, July 9, 10am

Beginning Again

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, July 16, 10am

Language Matters

Debra Boyd, First UU Member

Sunday, July 23, 10am

Let Us Be Shelter for Each Other

Rev. Lane Campbell

Sunday, July 30, 10am

Why Each Person's Religious Experience Matters

Rev. Dana Reynolds, First UU Member

AUGUST

Sunday, August 6, 10am

One Cat, Two Pods, and a Cookie Plate

Rev. Marian Stewart

Sunday, August 13, 10am

On Walden

First UU Atheists-Skeptics-Agnostics Group

Sunday, August 20, 10am

Prayer Envy

Rev. Eric Meter

Sunday, August 27, 10am

Our UU Principles and the Third Reconstruction

Kittie Palm-Houser, First UU Member