

The Discoverer

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

June 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.

BLESSING

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

What, exactly, do we mean when we say that something is the “simple truth”?

We live in a multicultural world. As Unitarian Universalists, we welcome all seekers who share our values [[UU Principles](#)], and sometimes we describe those values as “universal.” Within our faith community, we embrace diversity of theological points of view. In the wider community, we stand on the side of love for racial justice, immigrant justice, reproductive justice, environmental and climate justice, and sexual orientation and gender identity justice.



Where, in all that diversity, is the “simple truth”?

One place it's not is this idea that our UU values are “universal.” Even if they are widely-embracing values that welcome people who are on a path of personal growth and community spirit, they cannot be considered “universal” because there are plenty of folks out there who do not agree with them.

Take, for example, the dual ideas that we affirm and promote “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning” as well as “encouragement of one another to spiritual growth.” Someone who is truly open to searching for meaning, who is willing to let others find their own spiritual paths (which may not be the same), will find a UU congregation a welcoming, comfortable place. Someone who thinks that they've cornered the market on Truth, and that everyone else “should” believe as they do, will not be comfortable here and likely will not experience this congregation as welcoming.

Whew. Where's the simplicity?

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LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Simplicity. There's little simple about it.

I can count on one hand the people I know who lead intentionally simple lives. One of them came to visit a few weeks ago.

She worked two jobs until a year or so ago. Now she just works one, part-time. It provides health insurance and enough to provide her with a small apartment in a city with great public transportation. No need for a car.



She was married for over 20 years before she realized that her heart wasn't in it anymore. As you might imagine, this was not an easy time in her life. Now, more than twenty years later, she is content. As painful as it was, ending the marriage was the right decision for her.

During her recent visit, she talked again about how she never would have had the simplicity she enjoys being partnered. She's a family of one now, and it suits her. There is no one she needs to compromise with.

Years ago, my brother and I may have cursed each other without intending to. We agreed that if one of us had children of our own, the other would play the role of the uncle who spoiled the nieces and nephews. Neither of us, now, has children of our own. Instead, each of us has found a partner with a large extended family who also brings several pets into the household.

Now that Ann and I are caring for her daughter's two dogs while Ryan is on rotation (a year of four-week stints working at hospitals around the country) prior to her residency as a podiatrist, there are times I wonder what I agreed to. Four dogs under one roof?!? I had long wished for one. Perhaps I need to be more careful what I wish for.

The thing is, I wouldn't change it for the world, and when we are a household of two humans and two dogs, I imagine I'll have a hard time getting used to the relative quiet.

For years, the closest thing I had to a daily spiritual practice was squeezing an orange or two and toasting the new day with a glass of the juice. Simple, yes? Well, maybe. It becomes less simple when you think about how far those oranges traveled to reach my kitchen, and under what conditions they were grown and then picked. And, as my father, a PhD chemical engineer, would say, take a look at all the chemical compounds that make up a "simple" orange. Not so simple at all.

Leo Babauta writes about zen practice in everyday life. He puts it as well as anyone I know, "Simplicity boils down to two steps: Identify the essential. Eliminate the rest."

What is essential for one person will not necessarily be essential for the next. Rather than focus on how to simplify our lives, I think it is wiser to ask what is essential for each of us, and then work from there.

What is essential for you?

in peace,
Rev. Eric

GROWING AS WE GO

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Exploration

When Things Aren't as Simple As They Seem

He sighed one more time, hunched over the piano, and played the keys again. Huddled around the large musical instrument in the church where I grew up with some of my favorite playmates, we awaited our cues and began singing the words again, "Tis a gift to be simple, tis a gift to be free..." I'd say we sang with harmony and grace, but it would be far from the truth. We had never sung together before. Each one of us wanted to sing our own way, in our individual voices. Our church had never had a children's choir before. And, from what I know, did not try to have a children's choir in the years to come. Our choir director, Dave, halted us once again, inviting us to take it from the top.



Singing together takes practice. Creating harmony and melody with our voices took practice. This was the first of many practices and eventually we got to some sort of togetherness when we sang in front of the congregation. When I think back on this childhood memory, I am so very grateful for Cath Saveson and Leigh Mamlin, our Peace Pals Choir Directors, as they make the work look so simple, so effortless when I am sure it takes many practices and lots of hard work.

This song, "Tis a Gift To Be Simple," has stuck with me ever since this childhood experience. It certainly is a gift when things are simple. Often, I find simplicity takes practice. And things aren't ever as simple as they first seem.

This past month of May and in the coming month of June, First UU is engaging in a conversation about gender. We are talking about different gender identities and learning from people who are transgender and/or gender non-conforming. I have learned from the National Center for Transgender Equality that the definition of transgender is, "A term for people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and is good for non-transgender people to use." The definition lifted up for someone who is gender non-conforming is, "A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender."

As I have been listening to the people coming forward in these conversations at First UU to share their experience of being transgender or gender non-conforming, I am learning that gender is anything but simple. I am learning that gender expression is broad for each and every single one of us. I am learning that gender identities are placed along a spectrum, with few people at either extreme of masculine or feminine, transgender and cis-gender (people whose gender identity falls in line with what is typically associated with their assigned sex at birth.) When talking about people who are transgender, the term is indeed broad, just as the definition says.

As with most identities, it is hard to speak from a "we" place when talking about gender. Experience is framed in "I" statements, as it should be. Certainly there exist shared experiences in the transgender community, but I am learning about some of the blessings of things being not as simple as they seem. And I want to share some of those blessings with you all. These are blessings I heard when asking the question, "What are the blessings of being transgender?"

It is a blessing to express oneself in the way we want. Seems simple, but it is a lifelong task. It is a blessing to identify as transgender or gender non-conforming in this time period. When people are making great strides in supporting the transgender community publicly, this is a time when the allyship of those of us who are cisgender is called for. And we have come such a long way. To express on the outside what one knows inside about oneself is a huge blessing. To be seen and understood is a blessing. To be part of a supportive community is a blessing. To share in the human community, as messy and imperfect as it is, is a blessing.

May these messages carry us through our days and through those conversations that are anything but simple. Keep the conversation going!

STEWARDSHIP

The Acorn Society

Interested in helping the church, but not able to do as much as you'd like from current assets? The Acorn Society was founded in the late 1970s to recognize donors who have chosen to include First Unitarian Universalist Church in their estate plans. Making a gift is easy and will help to guarantee that a liberal religious voice will be heard in Columbus for years to come.

Here are five ways that you can make a planned gift to the church:

- **Bequests:** Naming First UU as a beneficiary of specific gifts of cash or a percentage of your estate plans in your will is an easy way to support the work of the church.
- **Gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds:** You can make these gifts by direct transfer or by mail.
- **Life Income Gifts:** Gifts of appreciated property can generate income for you, provide positive tax benefits, and support the church. Examples of life income gifts are charitable gift annuities, pooled income funds and charitable remainder trusts.
- **Life Insurance, Retirement Plans and IRAs:** Designating First UU as a beneficiary of a paid-up life insurance policy, retirement plan or IRA reduces your estate taxes and helps secure the future of the church.
- **Retained Life Estate:** You retain occupancy of your property for life but give your home to the church to be used to supplement its future income.

If you have already remembered First UU in your will, please let us know. When we know that you have made a planned gift, we can recognize you as a member of the Acorn Society. As a member, you can choose to remain anonymous or your name will be included on the Acorn Society Commemorative Plaque, located across from the church office. You will receive a special invitation to annual events to meet other individuals with a common interest in the future of the church, and receive a special update from church leadership.

Together with your financial advisor, we can help you make a lasting impact at First UU. For more information about the Acorn Society, or any of the above vehicles, please contact Bob Rice at 614-313-7158 or bricejr@gmail.com, or Melanie Boyd at 614-268-5006 or melaniemail64@gmail.com.

Melanie Boyd

Rummage Sale Success!

Every so often, the church budget has a gap which the Board, Staff and Congregation must figure out how to fill. The Rummage Sale helps fill that gap. This year, the Board took on the task of organizing the Rummage Sale with the help of MANY volunteers. Although we are in leadership positions, these do not necessarily come with a skill set that includes rummage sales. Luckily, we were able to look back to the excellent job done a few years ago, and call on our creativity, organizational experience and determination to make it happen. Board members stepped up and recruited volunteers from the congregation who donated items, sorted, priced and moved them, set up tables and staffed the sale and cleaned up in time for the Sunday Worship Service. Our Youth Board members organized the Bake Sale. It was a big job. It was a success! We brought in nearly \$7000. We have much appreciation for those who have gone before us and had even bigger sales. A huge thank you to all who pitched in to help. We did this for our church, and we had fun doing it. Hopefully, we won't need a Rummage Sale next year. Thank you everybody!

Ginnie Vogts, Board Vice Chair

MUSIC PROGRAM

Tony McDonald, Director

Spring concert

The Spring Concert of the Choirs will be on **Sunday, June 5, 4:00 pm** in the Worship Center. All four choirs—Chalice, Peace Pals, Rising Voices and Spirit of Life—will be on hand.

Each choir will perform on its own, presenting a wide variety of pieces from Faure to Gershwin to gospel rock and more, many accompanied by a rhythm section of bass and drums. Then, the choirs will get together to reprise two big hits from earlier Sunday services: Chalice, Spirit of Life and Rising Voices will sing Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On," and they will be joined by Peace Pals to sing "Glory" from the film *Selma*. As always, a reception will follow. Please mark your calendar.

Chalice Choir Director

As you may know, Minji Kim, Chalice Choir's Interim Director this year, will be leaving us soon. She has graduated from OSU with her Masters in Choral Conducting, and will pursue her doctoral studies at Texas Tech University starting next fall.

We were fortunate to learn that Brandon Moss, Chalice's previous director, was interested in returning to that position. This was great news since Brandon is an excellent choral conductor, one of the best in this area. Thus, he was vetted, interviewed and reviewed and offered a contract. He will start (again) as Chalice Choir Director this fall.

Summer Choir

We will have Summer Choir again this summer for at least three services. The schedule of when the choir will sing is still to be determined, but look for notices in the Order of Celebration. As always, everyone, of any age, is welcome to sing, whether you have been in choir before, or are a member of the congregation or not. We meet at 9:00 am of the day we sing, rehearse for about 45 minutes, then sing at the service. That's it, no audition, just the joy of singing. Hope you will join us.

PARTNER CHURCH

Danya Furda

Reverend Albert Kozma from our partner church in Bolon, Romania will be visiting us for three weeks in June (from June 8 to June 27). Please warmly welcome him when he arrives! He will be staying with Rev. Eric Meter and will be attending General Assembly here in Columbus. We would like him to meet members and friends of the congregation in small groups over several dinners. Please contact Danya Furda at dfurda@gmail.com or 614-471-3786 if you are interested in:

- hosting a dinner (potluck or otherwise) for 6 or 8 people including Rev. Kozma anytime between June 9 and June 20,
- planning activities for Rev. Kozma during his stay with us, or
- traveling to Transylvania, Romania in 2017 or 2018 on the next UU spiritual pilgrimage, including a tour of important Unitarian sites and a visit to Bölön.



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Kitty Jones, Board Secretary

First UU of Columbus's annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, May 22. A quorum was established with 178 members in attendance.

Rev. Jennifer commented on the graciousness and acceptance of our congregation, especially during our construction time this past summer through December. She also highlighted transition activities, which have included the ongoing development of governance policies and the formation of a coordinating team. The team consists of staff members and two member volunteers, Judy Kleen and Christine Davidson, who were recognized for their participation.

Stewardship updated the congregation on the results of the annual pledge drive and made an appeal for those who have not yet pledged to do so, and for those who can to increase their annual pledge amount.

Rev. Jennifer introduced the concept of "Share the Plate" which will be instituted this coming year with members selecting monthly recipients for part of the Sunday plate collection. The annual budget was presented by our treasurer, Debra Boyd, and was approved without discussion.

Voting took place for the following positions: Board, Moderator, Nominating Committee and Settled Minister Search Team.

Jim Conlan and Carolee Noonan were selected for three-year terms for the Board. Chas Williams was selected for a one-year term as Moderator. Dennis Rankin, David Maywhoor and Marilyn Beerman will serve two-year terms on the Nominating Committee. For the Settled Minister Search Team, Lou Bernard, Larry Drake, Donna Greenman, Judy Kleen and Morgan Patton were chosen. The Settled Minister Search Team will begin this very important work in the summer. Our new minister will be ultimately selected by a congregational vote in spring 2017 and will begin his/her tenure in the 2017-2018 church year!

Debra Boyd presented information about the 2016 General Assembly, which is being held in Columbus, and for which we are the host congregation. Debra presented a selection of study action items, one of which will be chosen at GA. Delegates to GA will be chosen by the Board, and there was a handout on which to indicate interest in serving as a delegate. An appeal was made for home hospitality. Andrea Smith is the contact person for this program.

Rev Eric concluded the meeting with the names of deceased congregants: Jackie Angelino, Paul Brody, Carol Fisher, Ruth Gerhold, Myra Hine, Sylvia Kelch, Cindy Kerkhoff, Tex Kohles, Ruben Maloyan and Shirley Shank.

The deadline for articles for the July/August issue of the newsletter is Sunday, June 26.

Please send articles 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
Minji Kim, 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.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Did you know that the **First UU hosts a natural foods buying club**? The *Chalice Organics Plus Buying Club* places an order with United Natural Foods, Inc.

once every four weeks and we meet at the First UU for delivery. Deliveries are on Wednesdays, although the time may vary. Buying Club members participate in delivery day by checking items in, distributing them into member piles, breaking down boxes, etc. All other communication and coordination happens online. If you are interested in meeting other like-minded people and saving money on natural foods, please contact Mary Klain (clovis70@hotmail.com) or Jennifer Baryluk (jbaryluk@gmail.com).

Camping at Delaware State Park Friday, June 10 – Sunday, June 12. Join fellow UUs getting back to nature for the weekend. Great for families, singles or couples. Tents available to borrow. \$32 to share a space for Friday and Saturday night. Facebook group: First UU Columbus Camping. For more details - Patricia Boughton, patriciaboughton@gmail.com

First Friday Potluck June 3. Potluck at 6:30pm. At 7:30pm, kids' movie and board games for older kids and adults. Questions? Laurie Brown, [614-246-0170](tel:614-246-0170).

Summer Sunday School Snack Sign Up The kids need snacks in the summer, too! Please sign up to bring a snack on a Sunday through September 6. We are looking for a healthy option (fruit is a big hit) and one or two other options, such as pretzels, goldfish crackers, raisins, etc. No peanuts or peanut butter due to allergies. Water is served. Bring your snack to the kitchen before the end of service. Contact Kelly Blake with questions 396-6761, kellyblake@wowway.com.

Bookbites will meet Tuesday, June 21, from 7 to 9 pm. in Slowter Lounge. June topic is "Marriage." Questions, call Kathleen at [614-262-4025](tel:614-262-4025).

Member Art Show *Mystery* will be on display in the Gallery and Worship Center during June. For information, contact Deb Baillieul, [614-447-1223](tel:614-447-1223).

The new courtyard garden at First UU is done. Thanks to some dedicated volunteers, dozens of small plants, many of them flowering, are now growing in the garden. Also, a rain barrel has been installed and two new benches placed there. Two additional benches have been ordered. Also, the landscaping south of the new addition has been completed. Please take a moment to visit and enjoy these new spaces, which your donations to the Green and Growing Capital Campaign have made possible.

Dave Richter, Chair, Construction Team

General Assembly 2016 will be held June 23-26 at the Columbus Convention Center. This is a special time for UUs all over the country. Even if you can be there for only one day, you will find it rewarding. In 1984 General Assembly was held on the OSU campus. The Archives Team is working on a small display featuring this event. The Service of the Living Tradition is being held on Thursday. It has special meaning for us at First UU. Being recognized as retiring in the past year are: Rev. Mark Belletini (our recently-retired Senior Minister), Rev. Dana Reynolds (Chalice Choir member), and Rev. Jay Abernathy (ordained by First UU in the early 70s). Also being recognized is our newly-ordained Rev. Lane Campbell.

Linda Thompson

Healing Journey Are you experiencing grief due to the loss of a family member or other loved one, a job loss, or the pain of another unwelcome life transition? If so, the Healing Journey may be for you. Together we share our stories and learn how much we have in common with others who also know the experience of loss. The group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30pm on Tuesday evenings, July 12 – August 2. Led by Rev. Kathleen Fowler and David Maywhoor. Contact the church office to sign up. 614-267-4946, ext. 21 or office@firstuucolumbus.org.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)

Steve Palm-Houser, Chair

Rev. Michael Dowd returns to First UU on Sunday, June 19, for two events: morning sermon and evening forum. A bestselling evolutionary eco-theologian and pro-future evangelist, he will deliver the sermon *Simple Truth* at the service at 10am and, at 7pm, he will present the forum, *Ten Commandments to Avoid Extinction: Religion as if Survival Mattered*, a provocative look at how humans are putting ourselves and our planet at risk by our actions.

Michael's [work has been featured](#) in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover*, and on television nationally. He and his science writer/evolutionary educator wife, [Connie Barlow](#)—both climate hawks—have spoken to more than 2000 groups throughout North America since 2002, including 450 UU churches. (They've been here several times.) Their work has been featured on the cover of *UU World* twice, in [1997](#) and again in [2006](#), and he has presented several TED talks. Please consider viewing this film before attending the evening event: https://youtu.be/YJj33_omnkg.

Michael will also be the keynote speaker at a General Assembly workshop Friday, June 24, 3-4:15pm, *Faith Communities Can Work Together to Reverse Climate Change* and, with his wife Connie, will receive the UU Humanists "Religious Humanists of the Year" award later that afternoon. Call Michael Greenman ([614-898-5825](tel:614-898-5825)) for information.

Reproductive Justice Have you ever wondered how our congregation's donations to, and actions for, our budgeted organizations are used and appreciated? Here are excerpts from recent thank you letters to our church.

Kellie Copeland, Executive Director of Naral Pro-Choice Ohio and its Foundation: "During the past year, the members of our staff and board have worked strategically with abortion providers, health professionals and other progressive organizations, to expose the real risks to women's health and autonomy posed by the radical anti-choice agenda [which controls our legislature and governor's office]... We've

been interviewed nearly 200 times in everything from *The New York Times* to *Huffpost* to *NPR*... We've added a blog and a podcast, and grown our Facebook following to more than 10,000 friends... You help us organize on college campuses. You fund our research. You enable our work protecting the state's remaining abortion clinics from the laws and policies that are designed to force their closure... We accomplish these things because of your ongoing, generous support. In short, thank you for standing with us and with Ohio's women."

Stephanie Howse, State Representative: "Thank you for expressing your support of both myself and Representative Michelle Lepore-Hagan as we continue to work toward the passage of House Bill 408 [150 signatures on a petition-letter, thanking them for testifying for anti-harassment and anti-intimidation at clinics legislation]. The words of support from you and your congregants are powerful and essential in our collective defense of women's reproductive rights in Ohio. I am humbled by the many names in your letter of support and I am reminded of the many people whom this legislation will protect. Every woman has a right to protection from intimidation, to control her own decisions, and to have dignity in the pursuit of her rights... your advocacy makes a difference each day as you educate those around you on this very important subject. We depend on this support in order to advance women's rights in Ohio and we are honored to receive the thanks of First UU. There is still much more work to do in fighting for this legislation and I am grateful to have your voice and those of your congregation in this very important cause."

Jane Larson (janelarson47@gmail.com)

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.





“The **BREAD (2016) Nehemiah Action** was the best one I’ve ever been to!” “Exciting!” “Well planned!” “Well executed!” “Positive!” “Energizing!” Just some of the comments from the 256 First UUs and friends attending.

We heard reports of recent successes: the Patient Navigator Pilot and ADAMH’s three additional Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and their progress on training and construction of an internationally accredited Clubhouse for ongoing support of people seriously disabled by mental illness.

- Safety Director George Speaks reported on progress being made for a Safe Streets program in Columbus.
- Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien, and Dr. Terry Boyd, candidate for County Commissioner, gave strong support for a Columbus Municipal ID program.
- An authorized representative of City Council member Elizabeth Brown reported that Brown would introduce and support an ordinance to give preference to companies bidding for city business if they commit to hire a given percentage of ex-offenders. City Councillors Jaiza Page and Shannon Hardin agreed to collaborate with BREAD to draft the legislation and support it.
- BREAD’s Hire and Better Pay committee will continue asking Mayor Andrew Ginther, who did not attend, to meet with them and work with the Democracy Collaborative and community stakeholders toward worker-owned businesses in low-income neighborhoods.

BREAD rises!

For more information go to www.facebook.com/breadorganization, www.breadcolumbus.com, (614) 220-9363 or contact Alice Rathburn, eulala1905@me.com, (614)895-2109, (614)563-0536 or any other member of the First UU BREAD Team.

First UU sponsoring Workshop on Climate Change at General Assembly JAM’s Interfaith Caucus of Move to Amend will organize a workshop at the UU General Assembly here in Columbus on June 24 (3:00-4:15), entitled: *Faith Communities Can Work Together to Reverse Climate Change*. We will highlight the actions UU congregations and other communities of faith and ethical convictions are taking to accelerate the accomplishment of an amendment to the constitution to eliminate "corporate constitutional rights" and "money as speech." For more information, please contact Michael Greenman at [614-898-5825](tel:614-898-5825) or mgreenmanoh@gmail.com.

BLESSING (Continued from page 1)

Truth, the capital T kind, is “simple” to those who believe their understanding of truth is all that is. Truth, the “here’s my best effort at explaining the meaning of life, but it could change in the future,” is anything but simple.

From my UU point of view, there’s so much we humans don’t know. I embrace the mystery, the indeterminacy, of all that is (most of which we don’t actually know).

That’s not to say that I don’t have my ideas about the way the universe works. Science informs me. Experience informs me. The wisdom of many world religious traditions informs me. And I’m happy to engage with others who may wish to tell me about their path, their truth, so that we may learn from one another. But there are many areas of mystery for which my ideas remain guesses, not truth.

But there is one place of knowing that does seem to be quite simple. Love has enormous power to create change for good. Love. It’s a great starting place for any human interaction, any human relationship, and for the relationship between humanity and our beautiful planet.

Love. It’s at the center of our UU principles. It’s at the center of our congregational life. And, to the best of my human ability, it’s at the center of my life.

And that’s the simple truth.

Rev. Jennifer

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to Shane Roussi who graduated from OSU's TOPS program; Luke Steffen who graduated with a BA degree from Ohio Wesleyan; and our First UU Youth who are the recipients of a \$1000 GA scholarship. Together with the money they raised through fundraising events, this will cover the GA registration fee for 14 of our youth.

Welcome to Cyrus "Gus" Granger McKinney, born April 13 into the Julie, Cy and Audrey McKinney family.

Best wishes to Stephanie Rottmayer who has retired after 30 years as a dedicated teacher and director at the School for Young Children (SYC), and to Lauren McCrystal who has moved to Portland, Oregon, to join her fiance.

Healing thoughts to: Barbara Warner and Phyllis Byard, who had hip replacement surgery; and to Bertina Povenmire, who had shoulder replacement surgery.

A speedy recovery to Linda Thompson who broke her wrist and sprained her ankle in a fall at home.

We are saddened by the death of long-time church member Tex Kohles on May 22. Tex was 93 years old. A memorial service will be held this summer.

With our ministers: Congratulations to **Rev. Kathleen and Joe Fowler**, who celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary on May 1.

Medical equipment Georgeann Neuzil has assumed the role as coordinator of loaning medical equipment. The Caring Team has offered this service to our church members and friends for many years. Please call Georgeann ([614-638-0060](tel:614-638-0060)) should you have temporary need for items such as crutches, bath or shower seat, and walkers.

Each year, the Caring Team sends **congratulatory caring cards to high school and college graduates**. If you, or a family member, will graduate this spring, please email jmdreisman@aol.com.

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/>

Midwest UU Summer Assembly July 3-9. Intergenerational Retreat at YMCA of the Ozarks, Trout Lodge near Potosi, Missouri. muusa.org.

General Assembly 2016, June 22-26, Columbus, OH This is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. The theme is *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*. The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

Most events will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N High St, Columbus, OH.

The Service of the Living Tradition: The Ministries and Faith Development Staff Group invites you to join us at this service where we honor fellowshipped and credentialed religious leaders, remember those who have died, recognize those who have completed active service, and welcome those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year. This service is open to the public and video is streamed live online on UUA.org. General Assembly registration is not required. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR.

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
- BREAD Team: 3rd Monday, 7pm
- Bridge Group (call 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 (not meeting in June or July)
- 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, 1st Friday potluck/activities 6:30pm
- Garden Group: 1st Sunday, 12:30pm
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after each service
- Grief Recovery Class: Wednesdays until 6/8
- Improvisational Dance: Thursdays, 9:30am
- Intergenerational Book Group: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- Job Seekers Support Group: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Justice Action Ministry: 4th Monday, 7pm
- 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
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Mondays, 7pm
- Worship Team: 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Zen Meditation: Saturdays, 8:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm

Friday, June 3

7:15pm Visioning Circles

Saturday, June 4

9:00am Race and Justice: An Honest
Conversation Reconvening

Sunday, June 5

4:00pm Spring Choirs Concert

Thursday, June 9

6:00pm Bathroom Accessibility
Stakeholder Meeting

Wednesday, June 15

6:00pm Summer Work Session

Saturday, June 18

7:30pm All Soles Contra Dance

Sunday, June 19

7:00pm Rev. Michael Dowd Presentation

Wednesday, June 22 through Sunday, June 26

UU General Assembly, at the
Columbus Convention Center

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
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June 2016

WORSHIP SERVICES

June's Theme: *Simplicity*

Sunday, June 5, 10am

Simple Gifts, Coming of Age Class and Rev. Lane Campbell

Sunday, June 12, 10am

Simplicity, Worship Team: Lisa Brandt, Charles Miles, and Faith Van Horne

Sunday, June 19, 10am

Simple Truth, Rev. Jennifer Brooks and guest Rev. Michael Dowd

Sunday, June 26, 10am

Sanctuary, Matt Meyer