

+The *Discoverer*

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

May 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.

TRANSFORMATION

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

It was a warm spring day and I pedaled as fast as possible along Rustic Bridge Road, leaning into the turns. I wasn't really going very fast, but fast enough to be exhilarating, especially on the downhills. Joy bubbled up from deep inside. All my senses were cheering me on. The wind was in my teeth. I flew.

Ahead I spotted two children, perhaps eight years old, pedaling madly toward me on their little bikes. Waves of exhilaration preceded them. They grinned fiercely as they leaned forward over the handlebars, obviously striving to go as fast as they could. They passed me in a split second, ignoring me completely. The wind was in their teeth. They flew.



In the whirl and flash of their passing, wonderment arose. I didn't simply remember being eight years old and riding my bike like that; I felt eight years old again. The thrill of effort and motion; the instinctive grace of balance; the connection to the bicycle and through it to the ground; the air on my face and in my lungs: it has always felt like this.

In our high-tech society, too often we live in our heads. Our fingers move on the keyboard or the TV remote or to tap on an app on a mobile device. Perhaps we make a special trip, by car, to the gym or the pool. What have we lost?

For me, riding my bicycle has always been about something more than transportation or recreation. It renews my mind's connection to my body. No matter how short my two-wheeled jaunt, I'm back in my body again. I renew myself as a physical being.

When I was in the bike shop a week ago, I looked long and thoughtfully at the three-wheeled bicycle that will be mine when two wheels become unmanageable. I recognized that my body and mind crave a connection to earth and air. I wondered about the increasing limitations of age and ability. How can I nourish that magical sense of embodiment when sheer physicality becomes more difficult?

It seems that mind and spirit require an awareness of body just as much as body needs mind and spirit. Why live half a life, cut off from the heritage of evolution and Earth? Who am I if I cannot feel the air on my face, touch the soil, smell a rose? In winter, especially, it's so easy to settle into the sofa with a cup of tea and a good book.

But spring is here. My embodied time is all too short. My prayer is that I allow the beautiful world to call me, again and again, into the natural world and my natural self.

~ Rev. Jennifer

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

One of my favorite God stories comes from the late Rev. Howard Thurman, who founded and pastored the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, perhaps the first intentionally inter-racial church in the country.

A young boy is afraid of the dark and is having trouble going to sleep. His mother tells him that it is safe because God will be with him in the dark. All he needs to do when he is afraid is to pray, and God will be by his side. But the boy remains fearful. At length, he says to his mother, “Mommy, will you please ask God to put some skin on, and then I will be alright.”

Now, my understanding of God may be more poetic than many, but I love this little story. There are times, not only in childhood, when we want, even need, our comfort to have shape and texture. We want the source of our solace to be embodied, in other words. Abstractions will just not do.

When I have been asked to offer what is often called Extending the Hand of Fellowship at ordination and installation ceremonies, I take the hand of the person being ordained or installed in mine and mention what I find there.

Each person’s hand has many stories to tell. Our hands have reached out for food. Reached out to protect us when we’ve fallen. Become fists when we’ve been angry. Held a door open for a stranger and reached out to someone we loved.

I’ve never noticed a hand of someone beyond early youth that did not have at least one scar or other blemish.

So while reaching out to take someone’s hand in our own may seem like such a simple thing, I see it as an act with profound meaning. Each of us extends ourselves in a way that demonstrates both our strength and our vulnerability. Both humility and honesty are manifest.

It can be said that Unitarian Universalism is a “heady” religion. Yes, we love ideas and often delight in adventures of the imagination. But our faith is also an embodied one. Where we meet is a place where skin is present: scars, warts and all.

~ Rev. Eric



Please send articles for the June issue of the newsletter by Sunday, May 21, 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

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GROWING AS WE GO

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Exploration

Embody Love

I met a stranger a few weeks ago while walking back from a prayer march in Columbus. We had marched about a mile away, held prayer space with elected officials, police officers, and the mother of a young man who had been killed by police. We sang, prayed, listened, held silence, and the day had been quite full. I walked back with the women who had been leading us in song all evening long. Rain had started to fall and it was dark out. I looked around and introduced myself to one of the women walking back. We talked about our experiences of the prayer march together.



Early on in our conversation, she mentioned that her religious beliefs required her to extend love to every stranger, every person she meets. This woman is part of a much more conservative line of Christianity and I have to say I came to the conversation with a bit of bias. But she told me her religious tradition asks that she love the elected officials, even when they make decisions she disagrees with. Her church teaches her to love the police officers, even when they do wrong and do not protect those they are meant to serve. And her God calls her to love the brokenhearted mother who is deeply grieving the loss of her child.

Our conversation and connection in that moment inspired and challenged me. To truly embody love means to hold love for the folks I agree with as well as those I don't. This woman shared with me how this call has asked her to stretch and grow, to treat others truly how she wants to be treated.

Now, I wonder with you all how this congregation and how Unitarian Universalism asks you to stretch and grow into deeper love, into a love that embraces our enemies as well as our friends. And I'm not talking here about some kind of puppy dog love that feels good. I'm talking about a love that wants for the well-being and growth of another person. I'm talking about a love that calls us into greater accountability and that still nurtures our spirits as well as our intellect. And I'm talking about an embodied love, one that lives in our actions alongside our hearts and minds. Love at its deepest lives in our bodies and in our deeds.

We are living in difficult time to embody love with one another.

We are living in a time when we are divided beyond our wildest imaginings. Religiously, politically, economically, racially—our current context is divided, and it has become harder to truly extend love to our enemies. When we talk about “standing on the side of love,” there is a side we are choosing to live on.

Where have you made the choice to embody love to someone who lives on a different side than you do?

Unitarian Universalism, and especially Universalism, offers us the challenge to live as if love is true and possible for every single person we meet. In our bodies, this can look like offering compassion to those we do not know. It can look like listening to that person you'd rather ignore. It can look like answering a call for justice while holding love in your heart for those who stand against your cause. Love looks many different ways. Embody love by embodying boldness, authenticity, and gratitude in the world. May the embodiment help you to stretch and grow in the way only love can.

~ Rev. Lane

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ginnie Vogts, Board Chair

As we reach this milestone of calling a Senior Minister and completing our two years of transition I want to acknowledge the growth I have witnessed within this church body and thank all of you for being open, willing to take risks, providing feedback, rolling up your sleeves and pitching in, continuing despite doubts and embracing change. This has been a time of uncertainty. Perhaps our inner upheaval prepared us for the external upheaval we all didn't expect. We found ourselves in states of disbelief which made our church community all the more important. We came together to support each other and found new people coming as well. We are growing in many ways. We have made the transition to a new model of governance and are creating visions that will lead us in a long range strategic plan. Who are we and how are we going to get to where we want to go?

One of our goals is fair compensation for our staff, a center point of our pledge drive. Thank you to everyone who has pledged. We appreciate your commitment. If you have yet to make your pledge, please do so soon. Knowing what we have helps us plan a realistic budget. We're using a giving guide that is fair and progressive.

Looking forward, I see First UU in a very different light. I am more aware of the vitality, the genuine caring, our strength, and our potential to be a force in the community. I am very grateful to Rev. Jennifer for shaking us up and leading us to this point. She did exactly what we needed her to do in order for us to make the right decision about a new Senior Minister and become the large church that we are. We are ready for the next chapter and it's going to be interesting. I'm glad to be part of it.

SEARCH TEAM

Larry Drake

Soon you will meet the delightful Rev. Marian Stewart and have the opportunity to get to know her. Our job is almost finished. After we shepherd Rev. Marian Stewart through candidating week, our search is done. That week, starting on April 30, is critical to all of us as a congregation, and the vote, on May 7, is an event that will set us on a new course as a UU community. Schedules are posted, events are scheduled, and opportunities are provided for all to meet Marian, hear her preach and lead worship, and introduce her to the life of our church.

But coming to know and welcoming Marian is only part of the transition process and the calling of a new Senior Minister. At this most important time in our congregational life, we have an unparalleled opportunity to begin a journey into the future that fulfills our dreams and aspirations as a UU community in today's world. What will that look like? How will we strengthen our bonds as a spiritual community? How will we turn our message of hope and inclusivity into action here in Columbus; in our nation and world? These big questions are of great importance in the topsy-turvy lives we lead today. Marian is poised and excited to take this journey with us.

Mark your calendars. Come to the All Church Open House on Wednesday, May 3, between 4:30 and 7pm. Childcare will be available for you. Come to the Ministerial Selection Congregational Meeting on May 7, 12:45pm, and vote for the future of First UU Columbus.

In addition, we are excited and proud to share with you our Ministerial Search Packet/Website, available online. This is part of the material that Rev. Marian saw that convinced her to apply for our position. We launched this website in January to support our search for a Senior Minister (this was formerly called "The Informational Packet"). The site was made available for prospective ministerial candidates to learn about our congregation. We now invite you to take a look at it; we think it tells a great story about our wonderful church community.

You can access the website with your smartphone here:



Or type: <https://www.firstuusearch.org/>

STEWARDSHIP

Carolee Noonan

I'm giving more money to First UU this year because I want to be around:

- People who value facts and science.
- People who sing and play music.
- People with all levels of income.
- People who listen to the opinions of others.
- People who volunteer.
- People who protest for justice and against oppression.
- People who gather for Sunday morning services and religious exploration.
- People who care about the impact our current actions have on the future of our planet.
- People of many gender identities and orientations.
- People who are young, old and in between.
- People from many ethnic backgrounds.
- People who seek their personal spiritual paths, while encouraging others to find their own.
- People who seek greater self-awareness and understanding.
- People who talk about their struggles and with whom I may share mine.
- People who, recognizing implicit racism, work to change their thinking and behavior.
- People who care.

First UU is the place where I find people like this, people like you. Having this place—our place—is important to me. It costs money to have this place, First UU. It costs money to do good—social justice, safe haven, opportunities to learn and explore.

We have a building I use and staff I value. It costs nearly \$2,000 per adult member per year to have all this, and we don't charge dues. Instead, we give to each other through pledges so we can all have our place, First UU.

Like you, I have some money. I spend money where it benefits me. Having this place, with its opportunities to volunteer and work for good in our community, benefits me. Using the UUA giving guide, my husband Dan and I increased our pledge by rolling what we were giving to the capital campaign into our regular pledge. And, we use automatic deduction from our bank account so you have a steady source of income from us. First UU can count on us because I count on First UU to give me a place to be around people like you. Thanks for being there for me. I increased my pledge because I value you.

Want to make or increase your pledge? Go to <http://firstuucolumbus.org/giving/2017-pledge-form> or First UU's website.

Absentee Voting for Ministerial Call

Members who are unable to attend the Congregational Meeting on May 7, 12:45pm, whether because they are home-bound, elderly, or ill, are welcome to vote by absentee ballot. The Caring Team will hand-deliver absentee ballots to them if given sufficient notice. Contact Su Farnlacher, (614)746-9729.

Others can come to the office on May 4 or 5, 9-5pm, to complete an absentee ballot, or they may be turned in between 9am and 11:30am on Sunday, May 7 (a Board Member will be in the office to accept the ballot).

GREEN AND GROWING CAMPAIGN

Bob Mills and Kitty Jones, co-chairs, Green and Growing Followup

The Green and Growing Capital Campaign, begun in 2013, has reached a significant milestone. Many people made pledges that extended through March of this year, and **73%** of these have paid their pledges in full! Another 67 extended their pledge by a year, and **half** of those have already paid in full. Many more are on track to complete their pledge by the projected end of the campaign, March 2018. Also, 32 families made donations to the campaign, without making a pledge. In all, people made pledges or donations totaling \$1.6 million! Amazingly, to date we've received payments totaling \$1.49 million, or **93%** of pledges. This is an incredible fulfillment of our commitments to the campaign and a big thanks to everyone in this vital endeavor.

We now have a year to go to acquire the last of the funds needed, or \$110,000. If you haven't yet completed your pledge, please keep those payments coming in!

To see what this campaign has achieved, just look around: four new classrooms (we can't imagine what we did without them), wonderful new bathrooms, new carpet in the Gallery, and a completely-renovated courtyard garden. Less obvious, perhaps, but no less important, is the new roof over the Worship Center and Gallery, and new outside doors for those areas. There is new LED lighting in Fellowship Hall, and new lighting outside the church leading to the Gallery. In keeping with our "green" theme, we have solar panels on the roof of the Gallery offsetting part of the electricity used by the church.

We look forward to next year, wrapping up our contributions to the campaign, which has brought so many vital improvements. As the campaign winds down, we will celebrate its success with a plaque acknowledging the contributions of the hundreds of families that have made it possible. Look for this sometime in 2018!

Again, thank you all for your commitments!

FIRST UU AUCTION: MORE EVENTS TO ENJOY

Paula Hook

To continue last month's list of fun events, consider the following. All prices are fixed; no bidding needed.

- E12, Sat, June 10, 10:30AM Artist Date, Clintonville Stroll, 5 spaces left, \$15 each.
- E11, Thu, June 15, 11:30 AM Water Skiing and Wine (Alum Creek), 1 spot, \$20.
- E15, Fri, June 16, 9:30 PM, Twilight Swamp Hike (Fireflies & Frogs), 38 spots, \$10 each.
- MM6, Sun, Jul 9, 12N, Fried Green Tomatoes Movie & Lunch, 13 spaces, \$15 each, \$25 family.
- F9, Sat, Jul 15, 7 PM, Amateur & Aspiring Writers (w/ pro), 10 spaces, \$20 each.
- MM25, Sat, Jul 29, 4 PM, Backyard Cookout & Pool Party, 10 spots, \$35 each.
- F1, Sun, Jul 30, 3 PM, Nothing Special on a Sun Afternoon, 1 space, \$20.
- E5, Sat, Aug 12, 8 AM, Summer Fossil Hike, 14 spaces left, \$15 each.
- F16, Sat, Sept 9, 7 PM, Wine, Wizard & Whatever (& snacks), 7 spaces, \$25 each.
- F11, Fri, Sept 22, 7:30 PM, Evening with Champagne, 3 spots at \$25 each.
- F14, Sun, Oct 1, 3 PM, Making Scarecrows Party, any number, \$15 each.
- MM29, Sat, Oct 7, 7 PM, Beer Tasting & German Dinner, 2 spaces, \$35 each.
- MM9, Sat, Oct 14, 7 PM, Wine Tasting Contest (bring entry), 4 spots, \$25 each.
- F15, Fri, Oct 20 & Nov 17 & Jan 19, 7 PM, Wine Tasting 104 (regional wines), 2 spots, \$25 each.
- F5, Sat, Nov 4, 7 PM, Charades, 1 space available, \$35.
- MM36, Sun, Nov 5, 4 PM, At My Grandma's Table (Trad Jewish foods), 1 spot, \$25.
- F8, Sat, Jan 27, 2018, 3 PM, Nia Afternoon Dance Party, 4 spaces left, \$15 each.

Schedule either via e-mail or phone. Send your choice(s): item number, title, number of spots desired to: auction@firstuucolumbus.org OR call Jim or Danya at 614-471-3786 and leave a message. Checks for totals should then be made payable to: First UU, sent to the Bookkeeper with "Auction" on the memo line.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Tony McDonald, Music Director

The Spring Concert of First UU Choirs will be on Sunday, May 21, 4pm.

Chalice Choir will perform three extended works with smaller movements: *Triptych* by Lloyd Pfautsch, featuring texts from the 16th and 17th centuries; *Where the Earth Meets the Sky* by Z. Randall Stroope, with songs featuring texts by Langston Hughes and Robert Frost; and *Wedding Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham, comprised of texts from Song of Solomon.

Peace Pals will sing five songs:

The 7 Principles Song which is fundamental for our UU Kids!

There's A Little Wheel A Turnin' In My Heart, an African-American folk song, was supposedly Abraham Lincoln's favorite song. According to W.E.B. DuBois: "The things evidently borrowed from the surrounding world undergo characteristic change when they enter the mouth of the slave...the wheels of Ezekiel are turned every way in the mystic dreaming of the slave, till he says: "There's a little wheel a-turnin' in-a-my heart." The version that the Peace Pals sing has a high descant that gave us an opportunity to practice singing in two parts—a fun challenge for our kids.

Free To Be You and Me is the title song from the beloved 1970s children's album/book/TV special produced by Marlo Thomas. It promotes ideas of tolerance, individuality and comfort with one's identity.

If I had a Hammer by Pete Seeger and Lee Hays. The "hammer" in this song is a metaphor for power, and a call to use that power to promote love and fight injustice.

Love at the Center: written by Peace Pals director Cath Saveson, is based on the 2017 proposed mission statement of First UU. Singing it has prompted Peace Pals to ask about the meanings of the words "Diversity," "Community," and "Justice," sparking interesting discussions during rehearsals, which was the whole point!

The music of Spirit of Life and Rising Voices choirs is centered around "the poetry of dreams and nighttime." Spirit of Life will perform Rollo Dilworth's *Trilogy of Dreams* based on the poetry of Langston Hughes: *The Dream Keeper*, *Dreams*, and *I Dream a World*. They'll also sing *The Gartan Mother's Lullaby*, based on traditional Irish text, and *When Midnight Mists are Creeping*, with words from *Dreamland* by Lewis Carroll.

Rising Voices will sing the Imagine Dragons song *Dream*, with the Irving Berlin song from White Christmas: *Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep*, plus two more nighttime pieces: *A Starry Night* with the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, and *Windy Nights* from the Robert Louis Stevenson poem of the same name.

MAIN OFFICE

Marian Garcia, Office Administrator

As my role here at First UU has expanded over the years to include increased responsibilities in the areas of membership and contributions, the church office continues to run smoothly, due to the efforts of these dedicated volunteers. Please join me in extending a sincere **Thank You** to the following:

For the weekly news and order of service:

Olwen Firestone: proofreading and assembly

Paula Hook: folding, assembly

Beth Greenfield: assembly

Karen Nekervis: assembly

Debbie Shaw, assembly

Sandy Coen: typing and layout of weekend news email and Sunday insert

Karen Keenan: typing, layout and printing of Sunday program

Elaine Fujimura: membership database maintenance

Sue Vierow: newsletter folding and mailing

Kay Fisher: monthly financial mailings

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Barb Fiorini, Chair

The Nominating Committee has completed its process of interviewing and selecting candidates for Board, Moderator, and Nominating Committee. Please take a look at their bios to learn more and attend the Annual Meeting on June 4 to vote.

2017 Board of Trustees Candidates (two to be elected to three-year terms)



Larry Drake My wife Heidi and I joined First UU in 2014. Having both retired, we found ourselves looking for community. Raised in the Presbyterian Church, I drifted away from organized religion in college and remained unaffiliated until joining First UU. Much of my working career was spent as a manager in the plastics industry, though my favorite jobs were working with my father running a large vegetable greenhouse in Newark, Ohio, and working on the B & O railroad summers during college. Since coming to First UU I have joined the Chalice Choir, served on the BREAD Team, been a member of a covenant group, performed in the talent show, served at Faith Mission, been a Coming of Age Mentor, and served on the search team to call Rev. Mark's successor. The sense of community we sought in joining First UU has been as wonderful as we hoped, and I look forward to calling it my spiritual home for years to come.



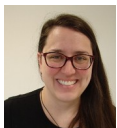
Seth Kraut I grew up in First UU and attended School for Young Children. My wife Rachel and I have 2 children, Molly and Lucas, ages 4 and 2. They both attend SYC and come to church with me. I started volunteering here at age 16, teaching Sunday school. Over the last 25 years, I've taught ages 8 through 18, including 8th grade OWL, Sr. High OWL, and Adult OWL. I've also facilitated youth group and chaperoned youth conferences. This year I've been either teaching 8th grade OWL or helping in the toddler room. I am also serving as facilitator for stewardship house parties. First UU's commitment to social justice and activism is important to me, particularly because we are a welcoming congregation and we work for civil rights. I think we'll have a place in the coming wave of activism. My favorite thing about First UU is the children we raise—independent and free thinking, caring and empathetic. It's what I grew up with, what I saw in all the kids I taught, and what I want for my kids. I look forward to this opportunity to serve this congregation as a Board Member.

2017 Moderator Candidate (one to be elected to a one-year term)



Judith Vazquez I have been coming to First UU for the last 20 years. I have sung in the choir, participated in many events, and served on the Leadership Development Committee as a member and co-chair. When I was a mentor for the Coming of Age class, I finally decided to join the church officially. I was drawn to First UU because of the total acceptance of everyone, no matter who you are, who you love and what you believe. I am honored to be a candidate for Moderator this year and I will enjoy it. I think my qualifications for running a meeting are multiple. In my recent experience, I have run a couple of companies, albeit small businesses, but nevertheless, I've had to organize and lead meetings. As part of my job I've done sales pitches and trained a bevy of communications techs and engineers, so I am used to standing in front of crowd and managing differing opinions while moving the business of the meeting forward.

Nominating Committee Candidates (three to be elected to two-year terms)



Allie Bonsteel I joined First UU in the spring of 2009. Since joining, I been a member of the Membership Team, primarily focusing on Path to Membership classes with Rev. Eric Meter. I have helped to facilitate workshops, taught Neighboring Faiths and participated in Wellspring. My husband, Dan Gerritsen, and I live in Westerville with our 3-year-old son, Pierce. In my professional life, I work for Huntington as a SBA Loan Underwriter.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to run for Nominating Committee and to serve the church. As we continue to work through this time of transition as a congregation, it is important to seek out and nourish the many talents that our members bring to us. I hope to do my part in helping to shape the very exciting future of our church.



Kylene Cary First UU has functioned as a home for me. As a young child, I attended SYC and during my younger years, I attended church services. When I had children of my own, I wanted them to attend SYC. My partner and I began regularly attending church services and volunteering as Sunday school teachers. First UU became a vital community for my family. Five years ago, after getting divorced, I went through a long period of grief and no longer knew how to define family. I came to church, committed to membership, volunteered in different roles, and yet found it was very painful as I was reminded me of the family I no longer had. Since that time, I've

become stronger in many transformative ways. I am very interested in being a part of the Nominating Committee because I want to take a new and active role in the UU community I so dearly love. I think I have a fresh perspective and a renewed energy to share. I am on a life-long journey to know spirit as the deepest part of myself, and I believe there is something resonant about comprehending spirit together.



Kay Gaskill I found my spiritual community here at First UU 30 years ago and have been through many life changes and found my dearest support here among you. I am honored to be nominated for the Nominating committee and feel it is another place to be a good steward and return what I have been given over the years. I have served on the Board of Trustees, been involved in the Welcoming aspect of the church, both on Membership and as a Greeter...still on the 4th Sunday of the month. I've been a Mentor for new members as well as a Coming of Age Mentor. You have probably seen me with my camera around my neck for various functions. And as for most of the time I have been here...you can see me singing in the alto section of the Chalice Choir. With your consideration and if elected, I would do my very best to encourage and inspire others to see our community this way, as a beautiful and fulfilling place that so generously gives back what it is given.



Morgan Patten I am excited to be considered for the Nominating Committee. I began coming to First UU about six years ago, after my partner, Cara, and I had our first child. We now have (almost) four: a six-year-old, two two-year-olds, and a baby due in May. Initially, we got involved by attending service, participating in First Friday, and joining the group for Parents of Infants and Toddlers. Currently, I teach the High School OWL class, and I just finished serving on the Settled Minister Search Committee. In the past, I have offered summer lay-led services, served on the Interim Minister Search Committee, taught an OWL class for adults under the age of 35, and volunteered for Coffee Hour. If elected to Nominating Committee, I would look forward to helping to ensure our lay leadership reflects the diversity of our congregation and the broader Columbus community.



Bob Mills I have been a member of First UU since 2006. I started coming because I was dating a church member, but I stayed because it was the right fit theologically and politically. It let me be my atheist/agnostic self, while letting me explore what spirituality means in that context, and also challenged me to be more socially active. I sing in the Chalice Choir, and at one time I was on the Choir Council, and became its chair. I was on the Covenant Group Steering Team, becoming its chair for a year. I am a member of the Pastoral Team and a regular part of the pastoral presence after worship services. I am the Recorder for the Green and Growing Capital Campaign, maintaining its financial records. I am now the co-chair of the Follow-up Committee for the capital campaign. I also maintained the financial records for the fall 2016 "Fund Our Values" stewardship campaign. For the last few years I have helped teach the Path to Membership class. Since the spring of 2016 I have been one of the representatives of First UU on the BREAD jobs committee. I welcome the chance to serve the church on the Nominating Committee.



Doug Rossiter I am honored to have been asked to be one of the candidates for the Nominating Committee. My wife and I have been members of First UU Columbus for more than 10 years. We attend the 9:15 am service most of the time. I find attending on Sunday important for reflection and renewal. The diversity of views and experiences gained from engaging with our community on Sunday and through other activities here provides a perspective, balance and ballast important for daily living. Over the years, I have served on the Worship Committee, BREAD, the Board of Trustees and as co-chair of Strategic Planning as well as several teams working on specific issues. If elected to the Nominating Committee, I look forward to bringing my work skills in research and data collection to support the committee's critical work of identifying and engaging the varied talents of those in our congregation in the vital, ongoing work of our church.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *In addition to the candidates listed in this article, the members of the Nominating Committee would invite any member in good standing to nominate themselves or another by submitting the signed petition required to Board of Trustees by June 1, 2017 to be considered for election.*

Nominations for positions to be filled by election at any properly-called meeting, in addition to those of the Nominating Committee, may be made by petition in writing signed by twenty-five (25) or more members of the church. The petition and written consent of the nominee must be submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees at least three days in advance of the meeting at which the election is to be held.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio Annual Meeting Saturday, May 20, First UU, 12-3pm. All are invited. Register for lunch at 614-263-4632. Free, but donations welcome. Hospital chaplain and UU minister Rev. Jef Gamblee will speak on "Making the Best of It." If you'd like to become a member of FCACO, attend our end-of-life planning presentation Sunday, May 14, 12:30pm. Learn your rights as a purchaser of funeral goods and services, and documents to help with end of life planning.

Scientific Discoveries about Sex, Gender, and Sexuality presentation by Robert Ridgard Tuesday, May 23, Atheists-Humanists-Skeptics meeting, 7pm. What happens in the body and brain from conception to maturity related to sex, gender, and sexual identities?

Rightsizing Class led by Sue Engle. May 6, 9am-12pm. As we age, may learn we are tied to a building, financial commitment, or a lifestyle that no longer fits. We'll discuss how we live and what we do with/about our things, and begin deciding whether we stay in place or find another.

Sue Engle, s_engle@hotmail.com

THROUGH TIME, SPACE AND SPIRIT: The many worlds and moods of Tom Baillieul, May 4-June 30 at First UU. Enjoy this collection of Tom's art and join him for a reception Sunday, May 21, 12:45-2:30pm.

Meditation Workshop every Thursday, 6:30-7:30pm, at First UU. For all levels. Includes group meditations and time for questions and discussion. No reservations required. Chairs and cushions provided. Tom Tucker, 614-263-9275.

First Friday Potluck May 5 6:30pm. Please contact Laurie Brown, 614-246-0170.

Bookbites Tuesday, May 16, 7-9pm, Slower Lounge. May topic: *Hidden History*. June topic: *A Favorite Author*. Kathleen Boston, 614-262-4025.

Free Book Exchange Sunday, May 14, after each service, at the First UU Bookstore in Fellowship Hall. Bring a book(s) and take some books!

First UU Member Dick Dawson will be honored as a recipient of a Living Faith Award for his service on behalf of social justice concerns through First UU and the Church for All People. Given through The Spirituality Network, these yearly awards honor individuals who put their faith into action, creating a more hopeful, peaceful and faithful world. Dick and 11 other individuals will be honored at a breakfast Thursday, May 25, 7:45-10am at the Jewish Community Center. Tickets available at <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org/livingfaith.html> or contact Kathleen Fowler 614-264-8364 or kathleenclarkfowler@gmail.com for group rates. Purchase deadline is May 12, but please contact her by May 10 if interested in group purchases.

The Feed My Sheep food pantry needs peanut butter, tampons, dog/cat food, diapers, children's books. Please bring donations to our table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings only. Ride-alongs and community service hours are available for adults and children at least five years old.

BREAD (*Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity*, 614-220-9363, www.breadcolumbus.com, www.facebook.com/breadorganization) uses the power of organized people to hold local officials accountable for serious community problems. With BREAD, First UU has won numerous victories over the years on issues such as affordable housing, restorative justice, payday lending, and, most recently, expanded community mental health care.

Officials listen to BREAD because we are able to turn out thousands of people every year to our **Nehemiah Action**. First UU is committed to getting 350 people to it this year, **Monday, May 1**, at the Celeste Center at the Fairgrounds (717 E 17th Ave). Doors open at 6pm. Important pre-meeting information at **6:40pm**.

Officials confirmed to attend: *Dr. Dan Good*, Superintendent, Columbus City Schools; Lead Juvenile Court Judge *Elizabeth Gill*; Columbus City Council members *Elizabeth Brown* and *Michael Stinziano*; *Administrative Judge McIntosh*, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; *Stephen Myers*, Assistant Vice Provost, Academic Engagement, OSU

Juvenile Justice: Expanding the current Restorative Justice Program in the Franklin County Juvenile Court and looking at best practices for Columbus City Schools to reduce suspensions and expulsions

Violence: The CIRV program to reduce gang gun violence in a restorative, rather than punitive, way.

Jobs: Officials from OSU plan to attend Nehemiah Action to commit to working with us on a long-term wealth-building strategy for Linden! We also hope to report progress on a city ordinance to provide incentives for private businesses to hire people with criminal backgrounds.

Welcome Columbus: Council member Stinziano will commit publicly to draft legislation for a municipal ID program, but it will take our people power to move the rest of Council to support it.

Childcare available for children out of diapers and under 8. BREAD pays for parking. A bus will leave First UU at 6pm (\$4/person, \$10/family). Carpools will leave First UU until about 6:15pm. Let us know if you need transportation from a different part of the city; we will see what we can do.

For more information on BREAD, contact Alice Rathburn (eulala1905@me.com, 614-895-2109 or 614-563-0536) or Chris Johnson (chris@underspecified.com, 614-946-1287).

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to:

The **Deschenes Roussi family** on their legal adoption of sons Shane and Gus.

Jennifer Nichols and her son **Kenneth**, who welcomed Devan Robert Nichols into their family following a successful adoption.

Emma Merchant, daughter of Debra Boyd and Mark Merchant, who won the Borlaug Scholar Award for the State on Ohio on April 17.

Meg McGuire, daughter of Deb and Michael McGuire, who has been accepted at Starr King School for the Ministry on her way to becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister.

Eunice Lovejoy, who celebrated her 93rd birthday on April 18. She was a long-time member of our congregation who lives in Prescott AZ now.

Auden Roscigno and **Tucker Phillips**, who had gender confirmation surgeries.

With our Ministers:

Rev. Jennifer Brooks celebrated her ordination into the ministry of Unitarian Universalism on April 4.

Rev. Suzan McCrystal was granted Final Fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA, and she also passed her examination to become a board certified chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains.

A speedy recovery to:

Steve Lovejoy, who had a bicycle accident on April 3, and had three fractures in his spine.

Our sympathy to:

Laura Landy Carr and her son, **Brian**. Husband and father, Chris Carr, died suddenly April 14.

Thank you to volunteers who helped with memorial services for Walter Engel and Chris Carr: Olwen Firestone; Sue Vierow; Linda Thompson; Kay Fisher; Donna Greenman; Georgia Glunt; Betsy and Guy Smalley; Jan and Frank Phillips; Kathleen Fowler; Nancy McDonald; Paula Hook; Karen Keenan; Melanie Boyd and Steve Abbott; Jennifer Hefner and David Tessier; Debbie Shaw; Jo-E. Miller; and Sharon Oliver. Co-Coordinators, Chris Sullivan and Carole Wilhelm.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, May 1

- 12:30pm Potluck with Rev. Marian (Worship, Pastoral, Caring, Membership)
6:15pm BREAD Nehemiah Action (offsite, at Celeste Center)

Tuesday, May 2

- 12:30pm Staff Lunch with Rev. Marian at 12:30

Wednesday, May 3

- 4:30-7pm Open House with Rev. Marian

Thursday, May 4

- 5:45pm Choir Potluck with Rev. Marian
7:00pm Rev. Marian with RE Team & Teachers

Friday, May 5

- 1:00pm JAM Meeting with Rev. Marian
6:30pm First Friday Potluck

Saturday, May 6

- 9:00am Building & Grounds Workday;
Rightsizing Presentation
10:00am Parents of Infants and Toddlers Group
with Rev. Marian
11:30am Pizza Lunch for Youth and Rev. Marian
1:00pm Rev. Marian Meets with ASH Group

Sunday, May 7

- 12:45pm Ministerial Selection Congregational Meeting

Thursday, May 11

- 5:30pm Banner Circle Team
7:00pm World Cafe

Friday, May 12

- 5:00pm Youth Con

Sunday, May 14

- 12:30pm Funeral Consumers Alliance End-of-Life Planning Presentation

Tuesday, May 16

- 6:00pm Path to Membership Class

Saturday, May 20

- 9:00am Path to Membership Class
12:00pm Funeral Consumers Alliance Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 21

- 12:45pm Art Reception
4:00pm Spring Choirs Concert

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
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May 2017

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

May's Theme: *Embodiment*

Sunday, May 7, 9:15/11am

Ministerial Search Candidate Rev. Marian Stewart
Ministerial Calling Congregational Meeting, at 12:45pm

Sunday, May 14, 9:15/11am

Religious Exploration Sunday
Rev. Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Exploration

Sunday, May 21, 9:15/11am

Learning to Ski
Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, May 28, Only one service, at 10 am

Scars
Rev. Eric Meter

Students Respond to Angelino's "Feed My Sheep" Food Pantry Talk

First UU's Jacques Angelino spoke this spring to students at Westerville High School. As part of a class assignment, many of them wrote about what they learned. Here are a few of their responses, reprinted by permission (with names omitted).

Student 1.

I am choosing to write about the presentation with Jacques Angelino. During his presentation I learned a lot about the way people live in rural Appalachia just a couple hours away. I spend a lot of time in that area when I go hunting and camping, and I've noticed the rundown houses and land, but I've never stopped to consider what the life

of the people that live there is like. It's so surprising to me how we can all be living so comfortably in Worthington, while just hours away there are Americans living in Third World

It's so surprising to me how we can all be living so comfortably in Worthington, while just hours away there are Americans living in Third World conditions.

conditions. I also learned that, although people live in these poor conditions, we can do a lot to help. Jacques is very involved in a food pantry, and we can help people by also getting involved in things like this. We can collect or donate things like diapers, food and books. I have never really thought about the possibility that kids don't have books to read. Books have been a huge part of my life, and I love to read and I don't think I could go without them. This really hit home with me, and I have decided to make an effort to collect and donate books for children who do not have that luxury.

I have always believed that we should be charitable and give to the poor, but Jacques Angelino really convinced me to be more actively involved in helping people. He made it a really personal issue to me and showed me that these people are not that far away. He made it seem like these people are not foreign people that I have nothing in common with, but these are white Americans, just like me. He also helped to change my mind about a couple issues, like helping people no matter who they are. In the past, I have had the attitude that if people got themselves into a mess by making poor decisions, they need to get themselves out too. He showed me that these people do not have a choice. They don't work because there aren't any jobs, not because they're lazy. They would get up and work at a moment's notice if there were an opportunity for them to help support and feed their family. I know now that I need to be more open-minded and see the good in people and not look for people's flaws.

Student 2

a. A few things I learned from Jacques Angelino is that you cannot purchase feminine hygiene products or diapers with food stamps, that 50-55% of all food is thrown away, and the same medications in the U.S. that are in other countries are a third of the U.S. price.

Ohio is a farm state so there is no reason people should be going to bed hungry.

Other things I learned from Angelino is that the poorest kids in America live in rural Appalachia, that there is 33% unemployment in Athens County, and the fact that Ohio is a farm state so there is no reason people should be going to bed hungry.

b. Jacques Angelino did not change my view on poor people and poverty, because I agreed with everything he said. I am incredibly open-minded and I do believe a lot of people live unfortunate lives and can't catch a break. When I see a homeless person on the corner, I will give them my food and any spare change I have. I do refrain from anything more than \$5, just because you can never be entirely sure what they are going to use the money for but, without a doubt, I will give them food. Like Angelino said; every single person should have a right to food, shelter, and free healthcare. So many people (mainly middle to middle-upper class) have it stuck in their head that the man on the corner is begging for money because he is a drug addict and is too lazy to get a job. My father tried to raise me to think like that, and I should pity the people at highway exits or wrapped up in blankets on the side of the road with a cardboard sign. Fortunately, my mother raised me the right way, and nothing beats the feeling of giving someone who is less fortunate than you a full meal and see the smile on their face. Volunteering in a food pantry should be something every single person should do once in their life, because I guarantee it will change how they think about people in poverty.

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Student 3.

Learning about poverty in areas here in America was really intense for me and my emotions. I always knew that poverty is a real prominent issue but I didn't know it was as bad as we saw in Friends and Neighbors. It hurt my heart to see how bad some people have it here, when we are taking everything for granted that these specific people would just dream to have. Whenever I used to see anyone who would talk about not having money, I would always think to myself "why don't they just go get help from the government?" or "Where is their welfare money?" Just all these questions, which makes me sound like I am ignorant, but that is not really the case here. I grew up learning that welfare money is all the money that poor people need to get through the day. I mean, why else would the government be taking so much money from the people, for the people? Turns out that so many people die of starvation and we don't even hear about it and don't know. While watching Friends and Neighbors, I honestly teared up looking at the messages on the paper plates that the little kids wrote. ···Even the squirrels are hungry. ·

It hurt my heart to see how bad some people have it here.

horrible must their conditions be in order to talk about even

squirrels being hungry?! From between watching Friends and Neighbors and listening Jacques Angelino talk, it became very evident that this poverty situation is alive and needs a solution. Jacques started off his lecture by asking us how can we tell if someone is poor. We all said the obvious answer of assumption based on looks. He quickly explained that, if we live by assumptions, then we might as well always be wrong because sometimes the rich don't care to flaunt their riches around and, as for the less fortunate, they might show off what wealth they have in order to establish a good reputation. A lady pulled up to the food drive with a very expensive car. The first thing that popped into his head was, "Does she really need this food?" She was quick to explain that this is her neighbor's car which she is using to get food from this food drive in order to feed her children. That changes everything. The assumptions made about this poor woman were put to the ground when he got to hear her story. So making assumptions based on how people look, how they act, or how they dressed is something that we shouldn't be doing.

Another thing that caught my attention during his lecture is that no one really tries to play the system when it comes to food drives. I always used to think that people wanted to save a couple bucks so they head down to the food pantry to grab themselves some food for the next couple days. That is what I genuinely thought happened. But I was way far off from the truth.

Whether it was on Friends and Neighbors, or from Angelino's presentation, I was able to see what that is really like to have to swallow your pride and go down to a food pantry. One guy came down with his daughter in his arms wearing a rather dirty dress and he straight up said, "I hate that I am down here right now, but if this means I can now sleep without hearing my daughter cry herself to sleep due to starvation then I will swallow my pride and come here." That right there proved to me that no one would play the system and go through all that mental anguish.

Through this unit, I was able to gain a new perspective on poverty in America. My eyes were opened as to how many people need us and with any spare change we are able to donate.

I started thinking, instead of spending ten dollars on a brand name item, why don't I spend half that money on the off brand and donate the other five dollars to those who are in need? If people start to think in this way, we can end poverty in America. This made me want to donate, and work at some food pantries if I get the chance. Hopefully everybody was as enlightened as much as I was in this unit.

Student 4.

One thing I learned from the speaker Jacques Angelino was how much help the people of rural Ohio need and just how poor that region is. I never knew that in Ohio Appalachian regions, we have people living in the conditions that they are living in now. I also learned a little bit about how the system of food stamps work and how it is set up to be more beneficial to you if you do not work versus if you do.

I think that the issue of poverty needs to be talked about more and is a problem that can easily be fixed if people help people and stop being so selfish.

Jacques also talked about how food stamps can buy you food but it cannot buy you other essentials such as diapers. I would say that listening to Jacques talk

reinforced what I had previously thought about the poor, for the most part. I think that the issue of poverty needs to be talked about more and is a problem that can easily be fixed if people help people and stop being so selfish. Listening to Jacques reinforced my belief of how many people don't want to go into these food pantries because of how much pride it takes just to walk into a place such as a food bank. It also reinforced my belief of how these poorer areas have to give smaller emphasis on things such as school because they are more worried about being warm, having clothes to wear, and finding something to eat. I had always known that kids in these poorer areas did not have as many books to read, but I did not know just how much some of those kids enjoyed reading. Hearing all of these things about these rural areas makes me grateful for everything I have and for everything I take for granted because things can always be worse.

Student 5.

From Jacques Angelino's talk with us, I learned many surprising things including what services and products they have and don't have access to. I volunteer at the Northside Food Pantry every Saturday I don't have a conflict. We have around 130 families on average come in every Saturday with the size of families going up to 15. Because of this, I think it's quite safe to say that I have witnessed poverty in a range of forms. When Jacques started talking, however, I quickly realized that the poverty I witness and the poverty he witnesses are very different versions. One of the things that surprised me the most was the lack of grocery stores in rural Appalachia. From the start of my memory I have

The fact that the children in Appalachia don't have the resources to support their education seems to get against all logic in helping people break the cycle of poverty.

always lived in relatively big cities, so it has never crossed my mind that in some rural places, especially those in poverty, would not have easy access to what I thought was around every corner to buy groceries. With easier access

to fast food than access to fresh fruit and vegetables, it creates even more problems. No grocery stores also show how little jobs there are available. Jacques compared living in Appalachia to living in the Great Depression and his description of Appalachia makes it seem true. What also surprised me was the lack of reading resources that the children had. I grew up literally a two minute walk away from a library and was further surrounded by books at my elementary school's library. The fact that the children in Appalachia don't have the resources to support their education seems to get against all logic in helping people break the cycle of poverty, after all, there is a high correlation between failing the third grade reading test and going to jail. And with no academic nor reading skills it is terribly hard to land a job, if there were jobs. A step further from books, there's very little access to the Internet. I think the Internet is a crucial way to broaden your horizons, without basic access to the Internet I think it would be very hard to try to reach out for help or connections. I now know that everything I have taken for granted so far may not even be in the realm of possibility for others.

Whenever I am at the food pantry, there is definitely a range of moods I go through while I sort crates for families to take home. There are some people who come in demanding doubles and extras of whatever we have in stock. On the other end, however, there are some people who tear up when we ask if they would like a jug of juice, some dog or cat food, some milk formula, or some baby food. Despite being opposites, both kinds of people had something in common, they obviously did not choose their situation. The Northside Food Pantry offers a program in which you can get job training and then continue getting support until you hit \$15/hr at a job. And from the sheer number of people who enter this program trying to better their life it is clear that in no way people in poverty are lazy. From Jacques Angelino's talk with us, it only reinforced my perspective about the poor and poverty in general. If they are given the resources to help them they will take it, unless there are no resources like in Appalachia. For example, Jacques said that Appalachia needed a lot of clothes, something Columbus has a big surplus of. Because of these examples, I don't think that the problem is effort for people in poverty. I think that the issue falls more on the ability for those in poverty to get help. Fifty percent of those who go to Feed my Sheep food pantry are seniors; as seniors their ability to work and find help has decreased tremendously. Jacques' talk did change my perspective a bit, however. While I still will not be able to completely understand people in poverty and their situation, I understand it a more. Part of this is because of the Spent simulation we did in class. It just shows how

there are so many factors that no one would think of without being in the situation that people in poverty are in.

Student 6.

Our speaker, Jacques Angelino, is involved in an organization called "Feed My Sheep Food Pantry." This is located in the rural, impoverished part of Southeast Ohio, in Athens County. He has been traveling to western Athens County one time each week since 2004. He talked about how it is hard to distinguish what a poor person looks like because even wealthy people sometimes dress like bums and drive old vehicles. The food shelter helps many families in the area. Some of the poorest kids in Ohio

Nobody should be denied these things if they are living in America.

are found in rural Appalachia because they have limited resources. Jacques says that poor people are known as under resourced and food insecure. He told a story of a boy who was food insecure at an elementary school in Appalachia. He said the student would cover his food in fear

that someone may take it from him. Students can sometimes go through the whole weekend without getting a meal. When they get to school, there are free lunch and breakfast programs that will make sure they have food in their stomachs. Jacques says, "the basic unalienable human rights are shelter, food, and healthcare."

Nobody should be denied these things if they are living in America. One surprising thing that he said was that we have the money in the government budget to help these under resourced families, however, we do not have the political will to do so. It is hard to watch people go through this when we have an embarrassing amount of resources in Franklin County.

Jacques' presentation changed my perspective about the poor and poverty in general in many ways. Before this unit, I grouped poor people as one group of people; dirty, no determination, and no plan for their lives. However, my perspective was changed when Jacques said "the poor people want to work, but cannot find jobs in Appalachia." They have limited education and limited resources. In western Athens County, there is a 33% unemployment rate, unlike Franklin County at 7%. The poor do not have any lobbyists fighting for them and bribing people with their money to get help. These people are being ignored. Nothing in Athens can be changed because the cycle keeps going. Kids are not being educated and end up exactly like their parents. We need to start caring about these people. This may mean higher taxes and other things, but the benefit will be worth it in the end. If we can get everyone to have shelter, food, and health care, then we are fulfilling our duties as citizens. Jacques said a powerful quote that will stick with me, "Our rent for being on this Earth is to help out others."

Jacques said a powerful quote that will stick with me, "Our rent for being on this Earth is to help out others."

We need to also vote for politicians who will help fund programs that will benefit the poor in Ohio. Overall, this presentation changed my perspective in a positive way and made me feel compelled to help others out and not be so selfish with my resources.