

# The Discoverer

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

December 2017/January 2018

## 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.

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## MORE THAN A HOUSE

Rev. Marian Stewart, Senior Minister

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### Vision – a Component of Happiness?

I read an article\* about the happiest cities CNN Online this morning. The author, Dan Buettner has traveled the world in pursuit of health and happiness. He refers to the places where people live the longest as Blue Zones. He soon realized however, that just because you have a lot of birthdays, doesn't mean you enjoyed the journey. Buettner then looked into the correlation of happiness and longevity.

While you can't measure happiness exactly, there are indicators that point toward it. Turns out, you can measure satisfaction with your life as a whole, your day-to-day happiness, and your sense of purpose and meaning. Buettner's short-hand for these three is "pride, pleasure, and purpose." Sustained happiness is when these elements are woven together.

Reading the article made me wonder if Vision is another way to articulate a sense of purpose. To be sure, I don't always have a clear vision in everything I do – I can muddle all day long, but I do find it more satisfying if I have a goal, or at least an image in my mind, of something I am working toward. It might only be a framework or underlying belief, but this vision serves as a container of how I react, respond, and behave.

In a large sense, my faith, as expressed in Unitarian Universalism, is my guiding understanding of how I see the world. Our faith is not easy; it does not countenance Pollyannaish absolutes easily, even if we do love our bumper sticker slogans. My faith calls me to hold forth the ideal of a beloved interdependent community, where all people live in a healthy environment, are valued, and encouraged to thrive. This is not a bookshelf ideal though. It calls me to act on its behalf. And when I do, I have purpose.

So, is our First UU work on Vision a component of happiness? I say "yes." An articulated Vision that reflects the congregation's understanding of why it exists, and what it works toward, gives form, sometimes measurable, in the quest for meaning.

Of course we take pride in what we have accomplished together. *First UUs are amazing!!!* We are very good at the day-to-day happiness of supporting each other in community. *Ever notice that First UU is a bee-hive of activity?* Now, it is time to give shape to our Vision. We are a church that builds on the past, celebrates the present, and works toward the future. What words will we use to give that shape and call us forward?

Thank you to all for participating in the Vision Town Halls, the many conversations, and the effort to articulate a compelling Vision for First UU. Together, we are a people – and a church – that can build a beloved community for all.

Blessings,  
Rev. Marian

\*Link to article: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/22/health/happiest-cities-blue-zones/index.html>



## LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

I've been walking the dogs more often recently. They've been increasingly clear they need it, that the backyard is not world enough for them. Truth is, I need the walks as much as they do.

So I've been walking the neighborhood, usually in the evening, enjoying the holiday lights folks have put up, encountering folks out walking their dogs, or just out for an evening stroll.

It used to be that, when I did this, the blue cast of televisions visible from every front window would depress me. All these folks, glued to the proverbial tube.

But lately, this hasn't bothered me as much. Now it seems to me that folks are trying to relax after stressful days, or trying to re-humanize themselves after days filled with tedium.

And then, there are the holiday lights. As an adult, I've never wanted to string up my own. Doing so was a chore I never enjoyed growing up, so why return to it? The thing is, the lights I like best are the single candle in the window.

A house just down the street has lights like that. The other night I stood outside it just looking while Bowie, our new dog from last summer, strained at the leash wanting to get going again. Usually, I'm the one urging him on. He wasn't used to me standing still. But I wanted to take in the house with a light in each window.

It reminded me of the start of a chalice reading I had just read,

If ever there were a time for a candle in the darkness, this would be it.

Melanie Davis, a human sexuality professor and an associate in our denomination's *Our Whole Lives* program, wrote the line late last year. Now, we know what was going on in our country then, but it seems to me that there has scarcely been a time when someone would not make that claim.

Some evenings, we walk the dog. Others, we find ourselves beside in a hospital room, or watching news that brings us to tears once more, or leaves us even more numb.

This is the world we live in, and these are the lives we lead.

The truth is, I like Ms. Davis' chalice lighting very much. Here it is, in its entirety:

If ever there were a time for a candle in the darkness,  
this would be it.

Using a spark of hope,  
kindle the flame of love,  
ignite the light of peace,  
and feed the flame of justice.

You can find it, and more information about Ms. Davis, at <http://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/spark-hope>.

For all the candles we light, and the smiles we bring to one another's faces, enjoy the holidays and any evening walks you make this winter.

Rev. Eric



Please send articles for the February issue of the newsletter by Sunday, January 21, to [office@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:office@firstuucolumbus.org).

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart, Senior Minister  
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister  
Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Minister Affiliated  
Rev. Suzan McCrystal, Minister Affiliated  
Amanda Hays, Ministerial Intern  
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  
Karen Madden, Choir Director  
Leigh Mamlin, Children/Youth Choir Director  
Cath Saveson, Children/Youth Choir Director  
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist  
Deb Cannon, Toddler Room Teacher

Brian Hagemann, Director of Administration  
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

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## Resilience



In preparation for a ministers' study group addressing the topics of "Resistance and Resiliency," I read a bunch of suggested articles and books containing hundreds of stories of resilience. There were stories of people involved in the environmental justice movement, racial justice struggles, gender justice movements, and people continuing to advocate for LGBTQ rights. Resilience has so much to do with hope. Hope keeps us resilient, able to weather whatever storm comes our way. And stories of resilience are hopeful- they help us to know that others have made it through similar (if not worse) struggles before our time. They made it out alive and made it to a point of thriving in many cases.

The truth of our times is that it would be easy to give up hope in the face of all that is happening. So much racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, ableism, and all sorts of evil exist in this world in a very public way at this point. It is hard to stay hopeful. It is hard to even think of what resilience might look like. And I write to you now that we have survived much worse.

Quickly following the presidential election last November, a few folks at First UU gathered to hear the Rev. Dr. William Barber speak. Barber is the founder of a new Poor People's Campaign, a faith-based organizer who speaks with such power and vigor that you cannot help but feel hopeful after hearing him. I have to admit, I was coming to this live-streamed talk he gave with a bit of heaviness in my heart. It felt like so much was going wrong. Rev. Barber made such an important point when speaking about the hopelessness of these times, the mindset that this is the worst thing that ever happened in the United States. "Have we forgotten about slavery?" he said, with a heavy pause after the question. Black folks have been through much worse in this country and survived to thrive.

There are a few common threads I found in some of these stories of resilience. One thread woven through resilient movements and resilient people is art and creative expression. Staying in touch with music, visual art, and creative writing sustain people. It gives folks fuel to think outside of the box. In times of feeling hopeless, perhaps we turn to music or to art to help give voice to what we are feeling or to give life to hope. Another common thread of resilience is community, knowing we are not in these justice struggles alone. Together, we are able to take on bigger issues than any one of us can tackle alone. And one final feature of resilient movements and resilient peoples are the stories of those who have come before. Stories of people who resisted and who won, or who kept trying. These stories help us to know what is possible. And they ground us in the narratives of our ancestors, where we have come from and where we still can go.

In the midst of hopelessness, I wish a creative spark for you. In times when it is hard to look towards the future, I wish companions for you along this journey. In moments when it feels like things could not get any worse, I hope you have a chance to listen to, or to read, stories of those who have come before who have been through so much and survived. May we all know a taste of resilience and hope in this winter season.

Rev. Lane

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**Senior Gathering** Thursday, December 7. Rev. Marian Stewart's topic is *Gifts*. Come at **10:45** to enjoy a 15-minute special performance by Karen Thimmes and Louie Biel. The Improv Dance Group invites you to join them before the concert, anytime between 9:30 and 10:30 for movement and socializing. It's "unbelievably unchallenging."

Noon: Complimentary lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Reservations by Saturday, December 2: Carole Wilhelm, [614-889-1182](tel:614-889-1182) or [wilhelm.carole@gmail.com](mailto:wilhelm.carole@gmail.com)

**Chamber Music Connection**, the famous youth chamber music organization, will present a Martin Luther King, Jr. concert here on Saturday, January 13, 7 pm. It will feature the KASA Quartet with pianist Hector Garcia, the CMC Conservatory Chamber Orchestra, and the performance of a world premiere written for this occasion. Look for future announcements.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carolee Noonan, Board Chair

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This month I'm sharing information that I learned while participating in the Board of Trustees. I hope you will appreciate knowing this, too.

Last year the Finance Committee was reconstituted in accordance with our constitution. There are six members serving in three-year rotation. Two are newly-appointed each fiscal year (July-June). The Board is responsible for appointments and may reappoint a member for an immediate second term, but not a third. Please join me in thanking our current members:

- Term ending June 2018: Ginnie Vogt and Judy Kleen
- Term ending June 2019: Marge Lynd and Bill Fiorini (Chair)
- Term ending June 2020: Doug Kauffman and Kathy Lin

Jeff Boughton is our Treasurer. Each year the Treasurer is appointed by the board. The Treasurer is a member of the congregation who may be an elected board member, but this is not a requirement. A Treasurer who is not also an elected board member serves as an ex-officio board member. Another key volunteer assisting with the finances of our congregation is Martha Gifreda, our Comptroller. Both Jeff and Martha put in many volunteer hours each week. Martha works closely with staff member Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper. Martha and Joe report to Brian Hagemann, our Church Administrator.

I hope you are engaging with Rev. Marian as she leads us in naming what we aspire to be through our Vision, and how we will work to achieve it through our Mission. The underpinning of the work performed by our congregation is money, mostly pledge money. In large part, the purpose of your pledge is to allow you and your fellow congregants to participate in the work of our congregation. Our congregation's budget is the plan that tells us how much of this work we can afford.

The budget is our action plan, and it is so important that the congregation votes on it each year. Once in place, our income and expenses are tracked to assure that the wishes of the congregation are carried out as supported by income. To keep everyone better informed, each month there is a summary of budgeted expenses, compared to anticipated income based on current pledges, in a Sunday order of service. Currently, our church has a \$30,000 deficit for this fiscal year. We will keep you informed.

I'm thankful to have our Finance Committee, Treasurer and Comptroller. These volunteers oversee our finances, advise the board and work with senior staff and the coordinating team. Their work helps provide the foundation that allows you and me to focus on changing the world through the mission work of First UU.

Want to know more? Governance documents are on our website at <https://firstuucolumbus.org/about-us/governance-documents>. The board is meeting on December 20, instead of 27<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.

Please contact me at [carolee.noonan@gmail.com](mailto:carolee.noonan@gmail.com) or cell 614-306-9898. Contact the board at [board@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:board@firstuucolumbus.org)

See you at First UU!

Carolee Noonan

## FIRST UU MUSIC

Tony McDonald, Music Director

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The annual **Winter Choral Concert** is coming up, on **Sunday, December 17, 4pm**, in the Worship Center. All four choirs will perform music of the season.

Peace Pals will sing *Jingle Bells*, *Deck the Halls*, and *Peace will Come* by folk legend Tom Paxton. Rising Voices will present *The Snow Begins to Fall*, *Little Things*, and *S'vivon*, a song of Hanukah.

Spirit of Life Choir will render *Run Toboggan*, *Run, O Little Town of Hackensack*, a comic song by P.D.Q. Bach, the well-known *Carol of the Bells*, and *Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth* as made famous by David Bowie and Bing Crosby.

Chalice Choir will perform the famous *Gloria* by Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741). This extended work is one of the best-loved in all choral literature and will feature a small chamber orchestra and soloists Leslie Armstrong, Mia Hall, Julie Smyth, and Karen Thimmes. Chalice Choir will also perform *Ring Out, Solstice Bells*, originally performed by rocker Jethro Tull.

All are invited and welcome. Child care will be provided and the concert will be followed by the traditional reception in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the various committees and organizations of the church.

# FIRST UU AUCTION

Danya Furda, Auction Team

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**Bidding on the Side of Love! Saturday, February 10, 5–9:30pm.** Stop by our table in Fellowship Hall. The auction website is now open to receive your donations: <http://www.togetherauction.com/firstuu> .



## What Can I Donate?

- Talk to us – we can help with suggestions!
- We especially encourage: dinners/brunches/lunches; vacation excursions/lodging; services, classes, trips, game nights; tickets to concerts/games; gift certificates; specialty food items, food baskets.
- Check the auction calendar when you enter your event to avoid dates already taken by others.
- We encourage you to pick fall and winter dates for your events.

## Donation Deadlines for the Catalog

- The deadline for all physical items is **Wednesday, January 17, by 11:59pm.**
- If you enter a physical item online, please indicate whether you wish to receive it back if it doesn't sell.
- Physical items accepted by the committee will appear on the auction website on January 20.
- The deadline for all non-physical items is **Sunday, January 21, by 11:59pm.**

## Printed Auction Catalogs & Gift Certificates

- Pick up a printed auction catalog at the auction table beginning **Sunday, January 28.**
- You can browse the auction catalog online any time.
- You can buy someone a gift certificate at the auction table. What an excellent Christmas gift!

## Volunteers

- We need volunteers! Please contact Candee Rothert at [can431@sbcglobal.net](mailto:can431@sbcglobal.net), Nancy Rafert at [nrafert@yahoo.com](mailto:nrafert@yahoo.com), or Peggy McKee at [pmckee7@columbus.rr.com](mailto:pmckee7@columbus.rr.com).

## Tickets & Childcare

- Get your discounted tickets for \$15 at the auction table in Fellowship Hall after each service on January 14, January 21, January 28 and February 4.
- Tickets are \$18 at the door.
- New church members (those having joined since the last auction) can purchase tickets at \$10 per person, whether in advance or at the door.
- Children between 11 and 16 are \$5 in advance or at the door. Children 10 and under are free.
- You can sign up for childcare at the auction table.

## Pre-bidding or Advance Bidding

- Your auction ticket allows you to place bids online **until Thursday, February 8 by 10:00 pm.** At that time your bids will be transferred onto the bid sheets where bidding will continue auction night.
- To bid, log in, using your phone number, and you'll see the bid links at the far right side of each item. The auction website is <http://firstuucolumbus.org/auction>.
- If you cannot attend the auction, you can still bid on and win items by purchasing an advance bidding number for \$3 at the auction table or by arranging for someone to bid for you auction night.

## Bring an Appetizer or Bake Sale Item

- We are no longer asking you to bring a side dish for the auction.
- We are asking you to bring your favorite finger-friendly appetizer or an item for the bake sale table.
- The auction committee will provide main courses (meat and vegan), salad, side dishes, and bread.

## Silent Auction Items

- If you have donated physical items to the auction, please bring them to the church on **Saturday, February 10** (auction day) **between 10 am and 3 pm.**

## How Should I Dress?

- We're planning an elegant evening. Feel free to dress up if you're so inclined, but there's no obligation to do so.

## Aftersales

- We will sell physical items **ONLY** on Sunday, February 11, after both services.
- Non-physical items will be available for purchase on the following Sundays – February 11, February 18, and February 25.

## SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Susan Roscigno, Co-Director

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### SYC Registration

Do you know a two-to-five-year-old who would benefit from learning about how to live and play with others, how to make their needs known and to listen to the needs of others, how to identify and name their feelings and express those feelings, how to guide their own learning while learning to trust a few caring, loving adults?

If so, then this child might be a good fit for SYC!

Registration materials will be available for the School for Young Children's 2018-19 school year at the beginning of January 2018. Processing of applications will begin on February 16, 2018 at 12pm. Currently-enrolled students, children of church *members* and children from SYC alumni families receive priority consideration, as long as their applications are received by February 16, at 12pm. SYC offers part-time classes for children aged 2½ through 5. If you have a pre-school child who will be age 2 by June 30, 2018 or older, and are interested in enrolling your child, registration materials can be downloaded starting the beginning of January 2018 from SYC's website, [www.sycocolumbus.org](http://www.sycocolumbus.org), or you can call the school office, [614-267-0254](tel:614-267-0254).

We also have an opening in one of our 4-year-old classes for this year. Please contact us if you are interested.



### FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBUS

93 W Weisheimer Road

*putting LOVE at the center*

**Come! Celebrate the holidays with us.**  
We are a liberal religious community where  
all are welcome.

#### Services and Choral Concert:

Sorrow of the Season Service, 7pm, Dec 6  
Many Perspectives on Hope, 9:15am & 11am, Dec 10  
Lighting the Dark, 9:15am & 11am, Dec 17  
Winter Choral Concert, 4pm, Dec 17

#### Christmas Eve Services:

Sunday morning worship, 10am, Dec 24  
Family Celebration, 5:30pm, Dec 24  
Evening Celebration, 8pm, Dec 24

#### New Year's Eve Service:

Sunday morning worship, 10am, Dec 31

[www.firstuucolumbus.org](http://www.firstuucolumbus.org)

## Walk the Labyrinth



### Labyrinth Hours:

Dec. 26–30: 3pm–7pm  
New Year's Eve: 7pm–midnight  
New Year's Day: 10am–3pm

Candlelit labyrinth  
in the Worship Center

## HOLDING HOT POTATO WORDS

Amanda Hays, Ministerial Intern

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Rev. Marian preached this past Sunday about “hot-potato words.” These are religious words—perhaps words from a religious tradition we were once a part of—that really get under our skin. She encouraged us to “put on oven mitts” and hold those words, taking a good look at them – where they came from, what they have meant to others, and whether they might still have new meaning for us.

I grew up in the Christian tradition, and since my journey led me to Unitarian Universalism, I have been wrestling with how to re-interpret my own hot-potato words. Initially, when I became agnostic, I felt that I had lost all of the Bible passages and Christian songs that I once loved, because I no longer believed the words. Recently, I have started reading these passages and listening to some of these songs again. Although I do not believe what I used to believe, my understanding of a lot of hot-potato words has shifted.

For instance, when I hear the word *God*, I no longer think of the all-powerful, all-good being who seems impossible to me, based on the suffering I see in the world. I think instead of the love and beauty I have experienced in the world, and of the still, quiet voice of wisdom I hear at times inside myself. Of course, some words still really bug me! I don’t listen to *all* of the songs I grew up with. And wow, are there some red-hot-potato Bible passages!

But the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures (aka the Bible) have such richness that they have drawn people to them for millennia. In late January, Marna Fitzpatrick and I will be starting up a class on Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Maybe you grew up with these scriptures and are wrestling with your own red-hot-potato passages. Or maybe you have very little experience with them, but you are curious about these sacred texts because of their influence on Western culture or their place as Sources of our Unitarian Universalist tradition. All are welcome! Look out for times and dates in the Winter Catalogue, coming soon!

Love and Peace,  
Amanda Hays

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## JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY: *NARAL PRO-CHOICE OHIO FOUNDATION*

Jane Larson, First UU JAM Team, Board member of NPCOFd, member of OhioRCRC

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### **NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation joins forces with the Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice**

*A New Secular and Faith-Based Partnership for Reproductive Rights*

Two of the state’s leading pro-choice organizations—**NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation (NPCOFd)** and the **Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (OhioRCRC)**—recently launched a formal partnership to advance reproductive freedom for Ohio women.

“Too often, religion is used to shame and stigmatize people who have had an abortion or use contraceptives. That is why the work of the Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is so important—Ohioans need to know that people of faith trust them to make their own reproductive health decisions,” said **Kellie Copeland**, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio.

A pro-faith, pro-family, and pro-choice organization, ORCRC provides public education, advocacy, and spiritual counseling. “It’s an honor to partner with the NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio team in bringing the moral power of religious communities to the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement,” states **Elaina Ramsey**, ORCRC’s new executive director.

A dedicated community organizer and campaign strategist, Ramsey is the first woman of color to lead ORCRC. She is committed to working with NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Foundation to center the voices of those most impacted by reproductive oppression, particularly communities of color, low-income women, and immigrants.

Copeland, a longtime advocate of reproductive freedom, has directed NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio and its Foundation since 2002. She affirms that there is no path forward for reproductive rights in Ohio without engaging more people of faith.

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Both organizations remain independent but have begun to share office space, resources, and strategies. Through innovation and collaboration, the groups seek to equip secular and faith communities in securing reproductive healthcare for every Ohioan—including access to birth control, comprehensive sexuality education, and safe, legal abortion.

Together, NPCO Foundation and OhioRCRC will protect the moral and constitutional rights of all Ohioans to make their own reproductive health decisions without shame and stigma and without interference from the state.

[Find more information at http://www.ohiorcrc.org](http://www.ohiorcrc.org)

### **First UU Church's January "Share the Plate" collection will be donated to the OhioRCRC.**

NPCOFd, OhioRCRC, Preterm Clinic, and New Voices Cleveland launched a fellowship for women who have accessed abortion services in Cleveland. With the support of the Educational Foundation of America, this dynamic partnership of reproductive health, rights and justice organizations have come together to form "*Patients to Advocates: A Fellowship for Future Leaders*". These paid fellowships have prepared women who have had abortions to serve as advocates on these issues in their communities, and have amplified their voices through a focused canvassing effort that will help to drive culture change and engage voters. They have learned how to meet with policy makers and how to interact with the media.

On October 26, this terrific group of wonderful women of diversity from the Cleveland area, led by OhioRCRC's Elaina Ramsey, had an audience of medical students at OSU, and then met at our church to share their personal stories. Rev. Eric greeted them and told them that they can always count on having a free space here at First UU.

Find more information and to join or renew, please go to: <http://www.naralprochoiceohio.org>

## **JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY: BREAD**

Alice Rathburn and Chris Johnson, Leaders

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**BREAD** (*Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity*, 614-220-9363, [www.breadcolumbus.com](http://www.breadcolumbus.com), [www.facebook.com/breadorganization](http://www.facebook.com/breadorganization)) is Central Ohio's congregation-based, multi-faith community organization that uses the power of organized people to hold local officials accountable for serious community problems.

BREAD held its Annual Assembly on November 13, and 36 members of the First UU community were there. Along with the Justice Ministry Network members from other BREAD congregations, we voted on which problem we should focus on next. BREAD voted to tackle **youth & family concerns** in the coming year. We know that many children in Columbus start out life with the deck stacked against them. So many struggle in school and get in trouble with the criminal justice system due largely to serious problems in their home lives, from poverty and hunger to abuse. In BREAD's research process, we will investigate this broad problem area and look for ways we can use our people power to make a significant difference in the lives of the children and families of Central Ohio. Our **Research Kickoff** will be at Christ United Methodist, 1480 Zettler, **December 11, 7pm**.

We also heard exciting updates from public officials about our ongoing campaigns. Councilmember Elizabeth Brown talked about the ordinance City Council passed this summer, encouraging companies doing business with the city to hire people with criminal records. We heard positive feedback from Columbus City Schools' Deputy Superintendent Stanford about their trip with BREAD to Pittsburgh to see how Restorative Practices work there to decrease bullying and as an alternative to suspensions. Juvenile Court Judge Elizabeth Gill reported that following BREAD's Nehemiah Action requests, she sent the Court's Restorative Justice coordinator for additional training and contracted for an outside evaluation of their program. We heard from Judge McIntosh and Deputy Safety Director George Speaks about the first "call-in" session under the new Safe Neighborhoods Initiation; in a call-in, those on parole for violent crimes are given a clear message that the violence must stop and are offered the services they need to transform their lives. We also got updates from Councilmember Stinziano about the Municipal ID campaign and OSU about our Jobs campaign.

The agenda was so full because BREAD has won a seat at the table on so many issues. This is a direct result of all of us showing up, again and again, over the years. Please put the next **Nehemiah Action** (the big one) on your calendar now: **Monday, May 7, 6:40pm**.

Alice Rathburn, [eulala1905@me.com](mailto:eulala1905@me.com)  
614-895-2109 or 614-563-0536  
Chris Johnson, [chris@underspecified.com](mailto:chris@underspecified.com)  
614-946-1287

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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**Grief Recovery Method** Tuesdays, January 9 - March 13, 7-9pm. When you have experienced a significant loss in your life, someone may have suggested that you let go and move on. But how? Grief Recovery provides a clear way forward. Whether your loss is from the death of a loved one, divorce or the end of another significant relationship, the loss of a career, faith or health, this program may be just what you're looking for. \$40 fee, scholarships available.

### Curious about Hebrew and Christian Scriptures?

Whether you learned Bible verses growing up, or have yet to read even one page, come explore how UUs can draw from these sacred texts. We will draw from *Understanding the Bible* by John Buehrens. Led by Ministerial Intern Amanda Hays and Marna Fitzpatrick. On Saturdays, January 27 through March 31, 10-11am, Room 8.

Amanda Hays, [amanda@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:amanda@firstuucolumbus.org)

**UU ARTS** Enjoy the latest exhibit in the Gallery: *NOCTURNE*, art of the Clintonville Arts Guild, until January 2. 10% of purchase is donated to First UU.

Deb Baillieul [debbsyc@yahoo.com](mailto:debbsyc@yahoo.com).

**Bookbites** Christmas party, December 19, Slowter Lounge, 7-9pm. Bring a gently-used book, gift-wrapped for the exchange, and a finger food snack. Also, each bring a jolly or humorous holiday reading to share. We'll meet January 16; our topic will be *Strong Women Leaders*.

Call Kathleen Boston, [614-262-4025](tel:614-262-4025).

**Meet the author event!** Alice Faryna, First UU member, has published a novel, *Do No Harm*. Join us January 14, 12:30pm, in Room 7. Alice will talk about how to get published, and David Krohn will read selected chapters. The door prize is one free copy; others can purchase the book at a discount. And, there will be a light lunch!

**All Ages Young Adult Book Group** We have decided to skip a meeting in December and plunge right into the new year with *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell for Wednesday, January 17, 7-8:30pm, and *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt for Wednesday, February 21. *Fangirl* is a little on the longer side—445 pages—but the audio recording is great if that helps. It's about a young woman who goes to college for creative writing and her separation from her twin sister as she tries to find the right place in her life for her Harry Potter-esque fanfiction. *The Wednesday Wars* is set over the course of a school year of a seventh grader in 1967-8 as he struggles with a hostile teacher, reading

Shakespeare, friends and bullies, the Vietnam war, and his ruthless architect father.

**First UU Bookstore Volunteers Needed** Book lovers, if you are able to help sell books in Fellowship Hall one Sunday morning a month, please contact Will Whicker. Bookstore proceeds help the church, and volunteers get a 10% discount.

Will Whicker,  
[swwhicker@gmail.com](mailto:swwhicker@gmail.com),  
[614-560-9975](tel:614-560-9975)

**Rev. Lane Campbell's Committee on Ministry** On December 3, look for a brief survey in the Order of Service regarding Lane Campbell's worship services at First UU. Please plan on participating.

The Committee on Ministry:

Susan Roscigno,  
John Muir,

Erin Reilly-Sanders

**Entertainment Books** Use these discount coupons for a variety of places, including restaurants, bakeries, sports shops, golf courses, symphony, etc. Books available after Sunday services through mid-December. Cost is \$30 per book, with \$7.50 going to the Coming of Age group.

Karin Erickson, 614-834-3988

**First Friday December 1 Potluck** at 6:30pm. Activities at 7:30pm. Family-friendly event. Join us!

Laurie Brown,  
614-246-0170

**Feed My Sheep food pantry** *Diaper Dandy Day* is December 24. Please bring all sizes of diapers, for children and adults, to the JAM/Social Justice Table in Fellowship Hall. We also need peanut butter, feminine hygiene products, dog and cat food, diapers, and children's books. And don't forget our Christmas ham collection! \$30 donation buys a ham and all the fixings.

**Looking for a small way to help your church?** The Caring Team provides receptions following memorial services. The commitment is small but important. Various roles from greeting to donating food, serving and cleaning up are all shared. If you are interested in joining us on occasion, please let us know.

Carole Wilhelm, [614-889-1182](tel:614-889-1182)  
Chris Sullivan, [614-286-2537](tel:614-286-2537)

## CARING CORNER

**Memorial Service for Don Hippensteel** Saturday, December 9, 10am, in the Worship Center. Don was a long-time church and choir member and a dedicated staff member. The reception following the service will be a potluck. Please bring a dish to share.

**Be sure to sign the holiday cards** for staff, former ministers, and members who have moved away in 2017. You will have two opportunities: December 3 and 10. Annually, the Caring Team prepares festive cards, which will be on tables in the center of Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations to:

- **Robin F. Williams**, daughter of **Chas and Susan Williams**, whose art show “Your Taste is Showing” was written up in the *New Yorker*.
- **Darlene Lazarow**, who welcomed her first grandchild, Wesley Jay Sato, to the world on November 14.

Happy Birthday to:

- **Paul l’Herrou**, who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 8.

Caring thoughts to:

- **Mary Vietmeier**, required surgery for a broken foot.
- **Bob Rice**, triple-bypass surgery
- **Abubakar Assidiq Islamic Center**, loss of two of its founding members in a car accident.
- **Lynne Thomas**, out-patient surgery.

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**Where will we stand on Sanctuary?** Saturday, January 6, 10am-1pm, Fellowship Hall. First UU continues its support for the Columbus Mennonite Church as they provide Sanctuary for Edith Espinal, a mother and wife, who was to be deported, after living here over 15 years. While supporting her family, we continue our own exploration. During November, we held three stakeholder meetings, gathering thoughts and feelings about our role in today’s Sanctuary Movement. Coming from those was a list of “most important aspects” and the suggestion for a Saturday workshop to explore those aspects. Please join us as we delve more deeply into the issues of Moral Authority, Practical, Legal, and Financial, connected with Sanctuary. RSVP to Jan or Ginnie. In the interim, you may support Edith and her family by providing a meal (Meal Train link is below) or purchasing a gift card for groceries (Aldi, Kroger, or WalMart). Jan Phillips is collecting gift cards; email her at [jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net) to turn in your gift card. To provide a meal (instructions on webpage), go to: [www.mealtrain.com/trains/r3y3ed](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/r3y3ed)

Jan Phillips, [jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net)  
Ginnie Vogts, [gvogts43@gmail.com](mailto:gvogts43@gmail.com)

## Touchstones Theme: Hope



Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

Anne Lamott

The first candle represents the past. May we learn its lessons. The second candle represents the present. May we act with compassion and courage on behalf of the world. The third candle represents the future. May we move boldly into it. The fourth candle represents hope. Without hope, the present is uninhabitable and the future is unimaginable. With hope, as the Rev. Gordon McKeeman knew, “our lostness is found, our fragments are united, our wounds begin healing, our spines stiffen, and our muscles grow strong for the task...”



Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul / And sings the tune without the words / And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson



## Please join us in exploring the theme of Hope

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, Historian

Our present church has many roots. One is a liberal German church, known as the First Independent Protestant Church, that was formally dedicated on December 16, 1843. Its constitution contained these words:

“This church shall never affiliate with any synod or other denominational organization which requires it to subscribe to a definite creed, or to surrender its liberal principles and congregational independence.”

## CALENDAR

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- Adult Programs: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7-9pm
- Archives Team: Tuesdays, 9:30am  
but in December: no meeting on 12/19 or 12/26
- Atheists/Skeptics/Humanists: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7pm, but  
but in December: no meeting, but party on 12/31
- Bookbites: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7pm, but  
in December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday instead
- BREAD Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7pm, but not meeting 12/21
- Bridge Group (call 614-499-2434): 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 6pm,  
but in December: meeting on 12/28 instead
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 6:30pm, but  
in December, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday instead
- Caring Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7pm
- Chalice Choir: Thursdays, 7:30pm, but  
in December: not 12/21, not 12/28
- Contra Dance: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7:30pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Facilitators: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Creative Open Studio: Mondays, 3-5pm, but  
in December: no meeting on 12/25 or 1/1
- Families with Young Children: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, 10am
- Finance Committee: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30pm
- First Friday Potluck: 6:30pm
- French Language Group: Mondays, 6pm, but  
not meeting 12/31 and 1/1
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after each service
- Grief Recovery: Tuesdays, 1/16 – 3/13, 7pm
- Hispanohablantes: Saturdays, 10:45am
- Holistic Therapy Group: Saturdays, 2pm
- Improvisational Dance: Thursdays, 9:30am
- Intergenerational Book Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm
- Justice Action Ministry: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7pm, but not meeting  
in December
- Library Team: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 1:30pm
- Memoir Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm
- Meditation Workshop, Thursdays, 6:30pm
- Move to Amend: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 12pm
- Peace Pals Choir: Sundays, 10:25am, but  
in December: no rehearsal on 12/31
  
- RE Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Rising Voices Choir: Tuesdays, 6:45pm
- Sacred Song Circle: Wednesdays, 6pm

- Sign Language Class: First three Tuesdays of the month,  
through December of 2017
- Spirit of Life Choir: Tuesdays, 7:30pm, but  
in December: not rehearsing on 12/19 and 12/26
- Stewardship: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7pm
- Sunday Breakfast: 8:45am
- This Month in Science: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7pm
- Trans Youth Support Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 2pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Mondays, 7pm
- Wednesday Women's Book Group: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 1pm.
- Worship Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:30pm. Interested?
- Zen Meditation: Saturdays, 8:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm

### **Saturday, December 2**

9:00am Path to Membership

### **Sunday, December 3**

12:30pm Town Hall: First UU's Vision

### **Monday, December 4**

7:00pm Speaking of Faith: Spiritual But Not Religious

### **Wednesday, December 6**

7:00pm Sorrow at this Season Worship Service

### **Thursday, December 7**

10:45am Senior Gathering

### **Saturday, December 9**

10:00am Don Hippensteel Memorial Service

### **Sunday, December 17**

4:00pm Winter Choral Concert

### **Sunday, December 24**

10:00am Worship Service (only one on Dec. 24)

5:30pm Family Christmas Celebration

8:00pm Evening Christmas Celebration

### **Tuesday, December 26 through Thursday, December 30**

3:00 Labyrinth Available (until 7pm)

### **Sunday, December 31**

10:00am Worship Service (only one on Dec. 31)

7:00pm ASH New Year's Eve Party

7:00pm Labyrinth Available until midnight

### **Monday, January 1**

10:00am Labyrinth Available until 3pm

### **Saturday, January 6**

10:00am Sanctuary Meeting

### **Sunday, January 14**

12:30pm Alice Faryna's Book Release

### **Saturday, January 20**

10:00am Coffee, Bagels, Conversation with Rev. Marian

## *The Discoverer*

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

614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924  
[office@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:office@firstuucolumbus.org)  
<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org>

December 2017/January 2018

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

**December's theme: *Hope***

**Sunday, December 3, 9:15am & 11am**

*The Strength to Speak Truth*  
Rev. Lane Campbell

**Wednesday, December 6, 7pm**

*Sorrow at this Season*  
Rev. Eric Meter

**Sunday, December 10, 9:15am & 11am**

*Many Perspectives on Hope*  
Youth

**Sunday, December 17, 9:15am & 11am**

*Lighting the Dark*  
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

**Sunday, December 24, 10am**

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

**Sunday, December 31, 10am**

Joe Pierce

**January's theme: *Justice***

**Sunday, January 7, 9:15am & 11am**

*Lessons from the Buddha*  
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

**Sunday, January 14, 9:15am & 11am**

*Happy Birthday - Unitarianism at 450 Years*  
Rev. Eric Meter, Rev. Lane Campbell

**Sunday, January 21, 9:15am & 11am**

*Justice Begins in Us*  
Ministerial Intern Amanda Hays

**Sunday, January 28, 10am (one service)**

Lay-led service  
Mid-year Congregational Meeting, 11:30am