

The Discoverer

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

June 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.

REV. MARIAN STEWART, SENIOR MINISTER

June is a month of celebration. Get out the party hats...it's the season of graduation robes, wedding invitations, birthdays, vacations, picnics in the park, melty ice creams, flowers, birds, butterflies...

It is also the shift of the church year, with Sunday services and programming moving to a shorter schedule. (Reminder: Memorial Day through Labor Day, one service at 10am) Many thanks to the fabulous Worship Team and volunteers who step up so the ministers can also take a vacation and have some down time for renewal. If you haven't seen the summer schedule, there are some very interesting services planned.

The etymology of "celebration" is from the Latin "celebrate" and was adopted into English in the 16th century and means a "time of honor." Far from just being a time of exuberance alone, it also means a time of solemnity. Celebrate is one of those both/and words. We party, but we also celebrate a person's life, go to church, and honor leaders (MLK Day) and traditions (Thanksgiving, Christmas). In an online column* in the Christian Science Monitor, Ruth Walker wrote about celebration as a term of paradox.



A synonym for celebrate is observe, although the terms seem to fit on different ends of the emotional spectrum. Observe can be distancing and cool, even if done out of the upmost respect. Celebrate is joyful and engaged. How often do we use one term and meaning when we could just as easily use the other—and to very different effect.

I'm thinking of church. On Sunday mornings, we can come and observe or we can celebrate. We can witness or we can engage. They are very different experiences. Recognizing that there are many ways to engage—music and singing, verbal and intellectual, visual and creative, physical and participatory—I wonder how we can use all of our senses while still creating an environment of respectful and solemn observance. Are they all the same, just different manifestations of what we call celebration?

People find meaning and are moved through different styles. We are all unique in how we learn and interpret everything in life, including church. On Sunday mornings, we offer various styles within the same service. Worship consultant Marcia McFee refers to this as incorporating the arts of worship into the morning's offering. No, you will not like everything, but a person sitting near you will be moved by it. And what you find meaningful may not be to another's liking. If we created services that didn't elicit different responses, we'd probably all be bored. That's the beauty of being a community. We bring ourselves to the whole, not getting lost, but finding connection, meaning, and memorable moments while allowing others to do the same, knowing we are each unique.

Some days, some Sundays, we celebrate. Others we observe. Often it is a mix. Isn't that a blessing of being human?

Let us celebrate.

Blessings to all,
Rev. Marian

* <https://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Verbal-Energy/2011/0107/The-paradoxes-of-celebration>

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister



a new take on car bags

Our theme for this June is Wisdom. So why am I leading off this reflection with a photo of a car about to be loaded up as the Coming of Age class prepared to head back to church following its annual spring retreat?

Because wisdom takes many forms, and as awkward as all this gear looks (note the garbage bag of damp clothes, it rained that weekend), there is some method to this seeming madness.



Wisdom. The late Rev. Dan O'Neil, who supervised my ministerial internship way back when, believed two things were sacred: lasting truths and the inch of fertile topsoil that accumulates over many, many years. I'd add a thing or two to his list, but his words have always sounded wise to me.

But back to our Coming of Age class. I was privileged to be asked to fill in on the group's spring retreat early last month. The photo to the right is of our youth as we were preparing to depart. If you are looking for wisdom, look no further than to them. Here they are playing it up for the camera, but don't think these youth aren't wise. And if you want proof of that, just listen to them speak at the Coming of Age worship service on Sunday, June 3. (If this reaches you after that day, and you weren't able to make it to church then, just ask for copies of their faith statements.)



And on that note, I'll leave you for the month. No one should try to follow voices such as theirs.

in peace,
Rev. Eric

GROWING AS WE GO

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Exploration

As I prepare to say goodbye to you all in my last month at First UU, the monthly theme of wisdom seems to be very appropriate. I am grateful for the wisdom gained from learning with you all these last five years. You have shared your opinions, life stories, and creativity with me. I am also grateful for the wisdom I have been leaning on from colleagues who have left a congregation before. As many of you know, leaving a place you love is not easy. Whether it was a job switch, or a move, or a life circumstance that brought you out of a community you loved, many of us have had the experience of leaving those we love to go elsewhere. Goodbyes are hard. I am grateful that I don't make them alone.



What I want to share with you here are some of the pieces of wisdom you have passed along to me. We have had a fruitful and learning-filled five years together. It feels appropriate to share with you all some of what I will be taking with me for the remainder of my ministry and my life.

One of the major pieces of wisdom you all have passed along to me is: **Change is inevitable.** We have been through so much transition together! We have seen new classrooms being built onto First UU, we have been through an interim ministry process, we have created family-friendly space in the Worship Center, and Religious Exploration at First UU looks entirely different from when I first arrived. What I have learned from you all in the midst of so much change is that you continue to stick together. You continue to show up on Sunday morning, you continue to be in dialogue, and you

continue your commitment to First UU. Yes, change is inevitable, and it is entirely shaped by our perspectives. Change can be tough to bear, or it can be gracefully journeyed through. I always wish the latter for this congregation.

You have taught me about the ways a congregation can support its youngest people. **Children and youth are deep spiritual beings and we are blessed to be on this journey with them.** I have seen the ways volunteers facilitate Sunday School classes for our young people with grace, making room for kids to express themselves however they need to. I have seen you welcome families to draw the circle wide and draw it wider still. And I know this church values the voices and perspectives of youth, with youth-led worship, the Coming of Age class, and youth serving on the Board of Trustees. Thank you for helping me to see the ways a community can support the religious lives of young people.

And finally, I have learned from you all that leadership is not about having all the answers. Rather **leadership is about accompanying people and helping to facilitate everyone finding their own answers.** Power shared is power multiplied. You all have contributed to me as a leader by bringing forward a different perspective, by offering a challenge or an affirmation, or by sending resources along. Leadership is about power-with others. Thank you for bringing your powerful perspective to First UU. Thank you for investing in my leadership and ministry. Thank you for this beautiful and tender journey together.

There are so many more things I could share here. But, alas, I only have this limited space and quite a few more things to do to prepare to leave.

I want to finish with inviting you all to the last service I will lead at First UU on Sunday, June 17 at 10am. Following the service, we will have a celebration with cake, reflections, and time to say an official goodbye. I so look forward to seeing you there.

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Amy Rudawsky, Co-Director

Our staff recently dove into a book study on *The Carpenter and The Gardener* by Alison Gopnik. The book explores the different ways parents can raise kids by looking at modern styles of parenting.

The carpenter analogy is the idea that you start with a specific kind of material or model in mind and your job is to shape the material into a final product. You use precision and control to shape your product. You select the best tools and equipment to ensure your final product is exactly as you expected.

A carpenter may think “Here’s how I want my child to come out. If I do the right things and read the right books then my child will turn out that way.” This high-pressure method can lead to parents and children feeling anxious when their expectations aren’t met.

The Gardener analogy is to create a protected space to nurture your plants to flourish. You may draw out plans and carefully select where your garden will be planted. But you know the elements of nature can thwart your plans and can cause things to grow differently than expected. You expect that, with the foundation you have laid, the plants will thrive with strengths/beauties and adapt to weaknesses/difficulties making your plants perhaps more resilient.

As a parent myself, I think that many of us strive to follow our kids lead while creating a protected space to nurture them, just as a Gardener. But, I also think there is a Carpenter in all of us.

I think we can find balance between these two methods: To have some very general and realistic expectations while being laid back and flexible to accept and create a new plan; to have the best intentions about what we feel is best for our children, and the ability to put aside our expectations and accept who are children really are.

Please send articles for the July/August issue of the newsletter by Sunday, June 24, to 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
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

Brian Hagemann, Director of Administration
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Susan Roscigno, SYC Co-Associate Director
Amy Rudawsky, SYC Co-Associate Director

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carolee Noonan, Board Chair

Highlights from the year as Chair of the Board of Trustees:

Installation, getting to know and working with Rev. Marian Stewart
Our new Vision and Mission

The Board held two retreats and participated in multiple workshops led by staff from the Central East Region of the UUA. We learned about, and tried to focus on, Partnership Governance in which it is the role of the Board to lead and engage the congregation in fulfilling our congregational mission. You will see more focus on these “Big Questions” about putting our collective words (the Vision and Mission) into action.

An unfilled goal of the Board this year was to create a Strategic Plan. We met with a regional representative from the Central East Region of the UUA to learn about the ways in which strategic plans are made by congregations. We then read *Holy Conversations - Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations* by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann and met in a four-hour retreat led by Rev. Marian about the “Big Questions” that we, as a board, should be asking you, our congregation, to lead us to fulfill our mission of creating community, engaging diversity and working for justice. Creating a Strategic Plan will be a focus next year.

The Constitution was amended to allow First UU to respond to social justice causes and take positions on matters of social concern without holding a congregational meeting to vote, unless impacting financial resources, physical plant resources, or has legal implications.

Money continues to be a struggle at First UU:

We worked with the Coordinating Team and the Finance Committee to make cuts to the budget adopted by the congregation when the predicted pledge level was not achieved. One of the Board goals for the year was to rise to the challenge in energizing stewardship efforts to fulfill our Vision. Numerous members and friends of our congregation turned in pledge forms, and many increased the amount of money pledged and given. However, while the end of the year giving in 2017 was higher than budgeted and the Auction was successful, the continued failure of one-third of our membership to turn in pledge forms during the Spring Giving Campaign is difficult. This campaign is the primary way in which our congregation raises money and establishes a spending plan for the next year. When members do not turn in a pledge form, while it is likely that they will continue to give at the same level as last year, it is challenging for the congregational leadership to appropriately and effectively budget for the upcoming year.

Please come to a Board Meeting

Board meetings are open, and you are invited to attend. We meet most months on the 4th Wednesday at 7pm. Meetings are posted on the church calendar on the website. Minutes are posted under “About Us” Governance Documents (<https://firstuucolumbus.org/about-us/governance-documents>).

WHY WISDOM?

Amanda Hays, Ministerial Intern

Why Wisdom?

Our theme for June is Wisdom. It’s not a virtue I have heard UUs often discuss. We are a progressive, liberal religious tradition. We believe in each person taking on “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning” (our 4th principle). Wisdom can seem like a more conservative value. Precious advice passed from generation to generation. But in our fast-changing world, how much do old adages still apply? Knowledge and truth are high on the UU totem pole - but what use do UUs have for wisdom?

The Hebrew and Christian Scriptures class I'm teaching on third Saturday mornings has been learning about Wisdom Literature. Two of the wisdom literature books in the Hebrew Scriptures are Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Proverbs tends to affirm the current social order: listen to your parents, work hard, get married, have kids, don't get mixed up with the wrong crowd. “Live the American Dream,” if you will. Ecclesiastes gets existential, even nihilistic, and takes the dream apart. What’s the point of working hard? You can’t take all that stuff with you when you die.

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CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

UU Artists: Call for Art This September and October members' show is called *Speak Up—Speak Out*. What is your passion, joy, cause, identity, or frustration? Speak up! Create a work which reflects this feeling. Take-in date is August 26. This exhibit will run through the end of October. If you plan to participate, please contact Deb.

Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com 614-447-1223

BREAD (*Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity*, 614-220-9363, www.breadcolumbus.com, www.facebook.com/breadorganization) is Central Ohio's 42 congregation-based, multi-faith community organization founded by First UU and ten others. It uses the power of organized people to hold local decision-makers accountable for serious community problems.

Alice Rathburn, eulala1905@me.com

614-895-2109 or 614-563-0536

Chris Johnson, chris@underspecified.com

614-946-1287



Bookbites Tuesday, June 19, Slower Lounge, 7-9pm. Book topic is *Graphic Novels*. The July 17 topic is *Essays on Social Justice*.

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

First Friday Friday, June 1. Potluck at 6:30pm. Programs begin at 7:30pm, including the presentation, *Stay in Your Lane: A Personal Approach to Anti-Racism, Part II* by Edie Driskill.

Laurie Brown, 614-246-0170

Feed My Sheep food pantry It's time to think about school supplies for the 15th annual drive. Please collect, for each child: 1 backpack, 20 #2 pencils, 2 large pink erasers, 2 glue sticks, 1 ruler (centimeters and inches), 1 box 16-24 crayons, 1 box colored pencils, and 2 70-page wide-ruled spiral notebooks. Please bring these by Sunday, August 12. Also needed are: peanut butter, feminine hygiene products, dog and cat food, diapers, and children's books. Please bring donations to Jacques Angelino's table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning. First UU supports the Feed My Sheep food pantry as a project of our Justice Action Ministry.



The Red Library Cart will be in Fellowship Hall after Sunday Services on the **third** Sunday of each month. If returning books to the library, deposit them in the black box. Please do not shelve them. Books may be returned at the Red Cart as well.

Books donated to the library need to be processed and their titles entered into the computer before being shelved, so just place them on or near the library computer desk.

The Faith Mission Cooking Team needs volunteers to be substitute team members. Meals are prepared at the church on the first and third Friday of each month 12-2pm. The menu is oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans with sautéed onions and colorful coleslaw.

Sue Vierow, svierow@columbus.rr.com

PARTNER CHURCH

Paula Hook, Partner Church Team

Pilgrimage to Unitarian History

Your First UU Partner Church Team will be leading a group of adults on a two-week trip to our Bölön, Transylvania Partner Church in May/June 2019. Travels will include learning of our Unitarian heritage, making contacts with our cousins in Bölön and developing relationships with other cultures.

We will be hosting a dinner/folkdance fundraiser Friday, November 16, plus several info sessions to help us understand their history. We hope YOU will begin saving toward the journey, update your passport and/or volunteer to help us plan the event in November and the trip in 2019.

As we are coordinating with both the Partner Church Council (within the UUA) and the Minister of the Bölön Unitarian Church, we will have more details soon. Keep checking for specifics this summer.

To communicate with the local Partner Church Team, please temporarily use our mailbox in the Volunteer Work Room. **In the meantime, place the dinner/folkdance on Friday, November 16, on your calendar of important events now.**

CARING CORNER

Senior Lunches for the church year year ended on May 24, with nearly 70 in attendance. Mark your calendars now for September 27. They are made possible because of these caring and exceptional volunteers: Su Farnlacher, Chris Sullivan, Marilyn Beerman, Tom Beerman, Bob Mills, Michael Greenman, Betsy Smalley, David Krohn; Table setup: Larry Drake, Sandy Coen, Rich Humenick, Frank Phillips, Oliver Jones ; able décor: Eve Catus, Patty Monroe; Coffee service: Sylvia Howe, Paula Egbert, Larry Drake; cooking/cleanup: Dave MacDonald, Paula Hook, Paula Egbert, Florence Jain, Karen Keenan Donna Adassa, Leonore Abruzzo, likely others of the kitchen staff as well...

Congratulations to:

- **Rev. Marian Stewart**, who celebrated a one-year anniversary of her Call by First UU.
- **Karen Dawson**, the recipient of the 2018 Living Faith Interfaith/Multicultural Award.
 - **Carey McDonald**, who was named Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Carey came of age in our congregation and is the son of our Music Director Tony McDonald.
 - **Ellie Hall**, daughter of Gail Baxter, has graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Happy Birthday to:

- **Rev. Marian Stewart**, who will celebrate her birthday on June 3.

Caring thoughts to:

- **Matt McMichael Liston**, who had back surgery.
- **Ruth Vanderall**, who was at Grant Hospital.
- **Karin Erikson**, who has been undergoing preparation for heart surgery.

Condolences to:

- Family and friends of **Sue Sinclair**, longtime member of First UU, who passed away March 10. Sue was a former Vice President of First UU, did a lot of gardening and planting at the church, and was a long time chair of the Caring Committee. A memorial service was held April 7 at Christian Fellowship Church.
- **Michael Greenman** and his family, on the death of Michael's brother, Peter.
- The family of **Judith McDowell**, who died on May 6.
- The family of **Grey Austin**, who recently died.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, Historian

Our Universalist Roots

Universalists were active in Columbus as early as the 1830's. Universalist ministers would visit the area and hold services from time to time in public buildings. By 1844, there was a Universalist Society and, in 1845, the First Universalist Church was formed and chartered by the State of Ohio. There is some difference of opinion on the actual beginning of the society. Some say 1844, but others say 1840. We can document the 1844 and 1845, but a newspaper article features the 100th anniversary celebration in 1940.

After several church homes, the congregation built a lovely building on State Street, which they dedicated in 1891. They sold this church in the 1920s and moved to the Ohio State University area on E. 16th Avenue. It is at this location that they celebrated the 100th anniversary. The guest book for that celebration is held in the Archives here at First UU.

After the Universalists and Unitarians merged in the early 1960s, the 16th Ave. church continued services for a few years, but its members began to join other churches, including the church on Weisheimer. First Unitarian Church member Ed Slowter, now deceased, undertook the selling of the this property.

We celebrated the 75th anniversary of this church in 2015. Now the church is 78 years old. Considering the Universalist timeline, 2018 would be the 173rd or 178th anniversary.

FIRST UU FOOD CO-OP

Mary Klain, Leader

Did you know that First UU hosts a natural foods buying club? The *Chalice Organics Plus* buying club places an order with United Natural Foods, Inc. once every four weeks, and meets at First UU for delivery. Deliveries are on Wednesdays, although the time may vary. Buying Club members participate in delivery day by checking items in, distributing them into member piles, breaking down boxes, etc. All other communication and coordination happens online.

If you are interested in joining us and saving money on natural foods, please contact:

Mary Klain, clovis70@hotmail.com

Jennifer Baryluk, jbaryluk@gmail.com

CALENDAR

- Adult Programs: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm
- Archives Team: Tuesdays, 9:30am
- Atheists/Skeptics/Humanists: 4th Tuesday, 7pm
- Bookbites: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4th Wednesday, 7pm
- Bridge Group (call 614-499-2434): 4th Sunday, 6pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Sunday, 6:30pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Facilitators: 1st Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Creative Open Studio: Mondays, 3-5pm
- Engagement Team: 1st Thursday, 7pm
- Families with Young Children: 2nd Saturdays, 10am
- Finance Committee: 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Food Co-op: every 4th Wednesday, 1pm
- First Friday Potluck: 6:30pm
- French Language Group: Thursdays, 6pm
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after each service
- Hispanohablantes: Saturdays, 10:45am
- Improvisational Dance: Thursdays, 9:30am
- Intergenerational Book Group: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Justice Action Ministry: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Library Team: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30pm
- Memoir Group: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Meditation Workshop, Thursdays, 6:30pm
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- RE Team: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Sacred Song Circle: Wednesdays, 6pm
- Stewardship: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- Trans Youth Support Group: 3rd Saturday, 2pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Mondays, 7pm
- Wednesday Women's Book Group: 4th Wednesday, 1pm.
- Worship Team: 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm.
- Zen Meditation: Saturdays, 8:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm

Saturday, June 2, 2018

9:30am Single Payer Action Network (SPAN)

Sunday, June 3, 2018

11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday, June 11, 2018

10:00am Poor People's Campaign Safe & Healthy Ohio

Thursday, June 14, 2018

1:00pm Village in the Ville Community Coffee Hour

7:30pm Poor People's Campaign Choir Concert

Friday, June 15, 2018

10:00am Poor People's Campaign Safe & Healthy Ohio

Saturday, June 16, 2018

10:00am Postcards to Voters

7:30pm All Soles Contra Dance

Saturday, June 30, 2018

10:00am Postcards to Voters

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

7:00pm Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio

WHY WISDOM?

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You can stop working hard and just party, but what's the point of that? What's even the point of trying to figure all of this out? The more you know about the world, the more you know about what is wrong with the world.

Why include both of these books of wisdom in the Hebrew Scriptures? They seem to conflict with each other! Which one is right? Which one is wisest?

I have heard wisdom described as an uncommonly high level of common sense. Wisdom is practical knowledge about living that can be gained only through experience – though experience alone does not produce it. Wisdom is about knowing what the right thing to do is – and knowing when the right moment to do it arrives.

I believe the inclusion of these disparate books actually demonstrates the wisdom of the Jewish tradition. Wisdom is not gained through memorizing pat answers, never stopping to consider alternative perspectives. Wisdom is about really understanding life, and life is messy and contradictory and full of surprises. The Jewish Rabbis did not choose for us between the wisdom of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, including only one. They gave us both, and left us to wrestle with the contradictions ourselves, because that is the only way to gain wisdom.

I don't believe that conservative religious traditions have a monopoly on wisdom. The UU "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" is not just about gaining book knowledge about how the world theoretically is. It is also about learning how to be human beings in this beautiful and heart-wrenching world. About learning how to receive the richness of millennia-old religious traditions, while also listening to own hearts. About trying and failing and trying again to live together in a loving, covenantal community. If that isn't wisdom, I don't know what is.

Peace and Love,

Amanda Hays, Ministerial Intern

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
<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org>

June 2018

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

June's theme: *Wisdom*

Sunday, June 3, 10am

Coming of Age

Sunday, June 10, 10am

The Wisdom of Gardening

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Sunday, June 17, 10am

Claiming Our Past, Building Our Future

Rev. Lane Campbell

Sunday, June 24, 10am

Lynda Smith, First UU Member