

The Discoverer

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

December 2018/January 2019

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.

HOLIDAY

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart, Senior Minister

The theme for December is peace. Peace! Really? Can you believe it? The world is not very peaceful: *insert your own list of headlines here*. Peace would be so audacious. Such a dream-world luxury. No need to even consider being so naïve. Do we dare?

Peace. Yes, peace. Oh, *fill in your (non)divinity here*, please. Forgive my cynical heart when all the world is a mess. Forgive my snark when the argument begins over Happy Holidays vs. Merry Christmas. Forgive my callousness when the bells ring to fill red kettles begging for donations of green. Forgive my inner-*bah humbug* grouch. Forgive my *call the fire department* baking. And forgive my handwriting on all those Holiday/Christmas cards that I fail to write. Here's the deal: If you forgive me, it won't really be gone because I'll carry the guilt forward all by myself. It's kinda like peace. I can wish/pray/beg for it, but it's still out there somewhere, never really here. I can still feel bad about not having it. Amen. I guess.



Maybe that's it. It is out there. Not here. Should I call up Rick Steves, get a travel pass? Surely, I can't be the only person searching for peace. Goodness knows, the world needs it. I do, too.

That's where those pesky life lessons come into play. If I want something, I have to get involved. Wishing isn't enough. But doing isn't enough either. I have to take it to heart. I have to figure out how to embody peace. That would mean letting go of the cynicism, snark, and callousness that hide my own pain and disappointment. Fear too. And the penchant to hate when what I really need is love.

Oh, *fill in your (non)divinity here*, please. It's me again. Help me learn that the peace I seek out there begins with me. Help me to understand that a world of peace begins within the world of me. Help me merge the out-there wish with the in-here heart. Help me embody the peace I desire. Help me know that peace is possible because I call it my own. May it be so. Amen. Yes.

If there is to be peace in the world,
there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
there must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,
there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
there must be peace in the heart.

~ Lao-Tse

Blessings,
Rev. Marian



LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Peace: Peace be with you. Go in peace. Peace on earth, goodwill to all.



While I'm reluctant to admit it, sometimes *peace*, like some other words we both need and often overuse, is a word I use and hear without always being clear just what is meant by it. Especially during the holidays.

So I turn to Wikiquotes in search of, if not an answer, at least illumination. And there I find, at the top of the page words of wisdom from two African women I've never heard of before.

From the Nigerian human rights and democracy activist Hafsai Abiola:

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are. (2000)

And from Catherine Samba-Panza, a former interim president of the Central African Republic:

The process of [creating] peace...is a work that requires long breath, like a marathon.

While these notions, bringing forward our best selves and helping others do the same for the long haul, are not new, learning about these women widens the scope of my attention and I am grateful.

And perhaps because Ann and I have played grandparents over Thanksgiving to the six-year-old child of a family friend (which is both an enlivening and exhausting experience, as I trust that you can imagine), my thoughts also turn to a long-favorite poem of mine by Wendell Berry:

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

While I am not often enough now in the presence of wood drakes and herons, the poem still rings true to me. I think of the young boy who is now on his way back to his mother, how he is struggling as a bi-racial child in a rural white-majority school.

I hope I have the savvy, humility and persistence to be there for him in ways that prove helpful in the months and years to come.

As winter comes into its own, may we all know our share of peace, even as we do what we can to make sure others have their share as well.

All the best,
Rev. Eric

Please send articles for the February issue of the newsletter by Sunday, January 20, 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

Elizabeth Mount, Director, Religious Exploration
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Michaela Jones, Interim Choir Director
Leigh Mamlin, Children's Choir Co-Director
Cath Saveson, Children's Choir Co-Director
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist

Brian Hagemann, Director of Administration
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Mel Herzog, RE Assistant
Susan Roscigno, SYC Co-Director
Amy Rudawsky, SYC Co-Director

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PIECES OF PEACEFULNESS

Elizabeth Mount, Director of Religious Exploration

Happy Hanukkah, Diwali, Chalisa, Solstice, Yule, Christmas, Kwanzaa... and whichever other days of lights and celebration your family and traditional roots focus on this time of year!



There are so many ways to celebrate the turning of the year and give us a moment to pause and reflect on the ways that light is brought back into our lives when the season is cold and the times feel hard. The people of ancient Israel lit a flame to sanctify the temple and bring back light for their people as a promise of restoration. Pagans of Celtic heritage noted the shortest day and celebrated the beginnings of the return of the Oak King's power to bring the Spring. The Christian calendar cycles into Advent to await the birth of a child who brings a new promise from God. And in this season, we pause to notice that winter has taken firm hold, but that it will not always be so, for even in the coldest times, we can see things are already beginning to grow deep beneath the surface.

It's the season of so many holidays, where we try to find peace with the knowledge that this is the moment in the cycle for hibernation, dwelling within. It's a time to slow down a little and nestle into the winter, to be with family and friends in community. And yet, we may find ourselves pushed by the messages of family and the world around us to acquire more things, speed to one thing after another, thinking that there is never enough time to have all the good times that will make this holiday season just right. I know that I'm feeling the pressure already to get more gifts, put up more decorations, and have more jolly good times to take pictures of for social media.

But this time around, what if I chose just one or two things to be "enough"? What if we create a holiday season that's peaceful and contemplative instead of a bustle of every possible thing? What might it look like if you engaged in the waiting time and chose to highlight the peacefulness of the season?

It takes strength to refuse to rush, when so many things in the world are demanding our engagement, but I hope that we will rise to the challenge. Peace is not something you can buy or do, but something we find from allowing ourselves to go slowly, to nestle in, to spend time being quiet, to let the kids be bored and work it out for themselves. It's something that comes in the quiet moments, with the sparkle of one small candle more often than the glitter of 1,000 busy lights. So this year, I wish you a wonderful holiday season of joy, hope, wonder, and peace, and I wish you the time to slow down and truly savor it.

The bustling beauty of Spring will bloom with renewed promise soon enough, but for now, it is the waiting time. May it be a peaceful one for each of us.

In faith,
Elizabeth Mount

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Amy Rudawsky, Co-Director

It's hard to believe that we are half-way through our 50th year at SYC, and it's time to start thinking about enrollment for our 51st year. We are currently scheduling tours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings at 10:15am, and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday afternoons at 1:30pm. To schedule a tour, contact Holly Adams at 614-267-0254 or syc@sycolumbus.org. Registration materials will be available the beginning of January. All registrations will be processed through a lottery on our processing date of February 15. Registration materials can be found in the SYC office or online at sycolumbus.org. Registration packets are due not later than noon on Friday, February 15, and include a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Seth Kraut, Board Chair

At the Board retreat, we established our goals for the year. Then Reverend Marian transformed our mundane words into something much more meaningful, while retaining the spirit. There's a reason people hire ghost writers. I won't share the original version, but these are the Board goals after the transformation.

1. Tell our story (*Know thyself.*)
2. Put our values into action (*Be true.*)
3. Deepen connections (*Build community.*)
4. Member supported church (*Take care of what is in our care.*)

One of the goals of the town halls will be to learn about our congregation, so we can better tell our story, and in so doing deepen the connections between us.

In fact, our next town hall is Sunday, January 6. The full town hall will be after the second service. We will also offer a way to participate after first service. Due to timing and logistics, it just can't be the same. Last town hall, we had questions and Post-It notes between services, and we carried that into the full town hall. I hope you're able to come and participate.



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBUS

93 W Weisheimer Road

creating community, working for justice, engaging diversity

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

Services and Choral Concert:

Dec. 5, 7pm: **Sorrow of the Season Service**
Dec. 9, 9:15am & 11am: **"All We Need"**
Dec. 16, 9:15am & 11am: **"The Joy of Music"**
Dec. 16, 12:30pm: **Cookie Exchange**
Dec. 16, 4pm: **Winter Choral Concert**
Dec. 23, 10am: **Solstice: Stones & Mounds**

Christmas Eve Services:

Dec. 24, 5pm: **Family Celebration**
Dec. 24, 8pm: **Candelight Service**

New Year's Service:

Dec. 30, 10am: **Sunday Service with Labyrinth**

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**

MUSIC PROGRAM

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Choirs Holiday Concert

The annual Holiday Concert of First UU Choirs will be on Sunday, December 16, 4pm, in the Worship Center. All four choirs – Peace Pals, Rising Voices, Spirit of Life and Chalice – will perform, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

The Peace Pals will sing *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, *Rise up Shepherd and Follow*, and *O Christmas Tree*. Rising Voices will sing selections about snow, winter and peace, ranging in musical style from lyrical and upbeat to eerie. Their songs include *Cold of Winter* by John Purifoy and *Secrets of Snow* by Amy F. Bernon. Spirit of Life Choir will also focus around songs celebrating the season. Selections include *Star Dance* by Janet Gardner with text by Robert Louis Stevenson and *Patapan Fantasia*, arranged by Audrey Snyder and featuring surprise hints of *Carol of the Bells* and *The Little Drummer Boy*. The two choirs will combine for *The Season of Love* by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse.

Chalice Choir will present *A Winter Day*, a new cantata by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel. The work chronicles a day from morning to nighttime in the middle of winter and features texts by Sara Teasdale, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and Melville Cane, and is accompanied by piano and solo cello. Chalice Choir will also perform two movements from Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus* (*Hail, Judea, Happy Land* and *Hallelujah, Amen*), and three movements from Mendelssohn's unfinished oratorio *Christus*, featuring the chorus *There Shall a Star* from *Jacob Come Forth*, to be sung in German.

Folk/Rock Concert

Two groups featuring First UU people will present a concert on Saturday, January 19, at 7:30pm. Entitled *Folk/Rock*, the concert will include *Bohemian Highway*, led by Beki Test, and *FFnCC*, led by Al Smyth, the husband of Chalice's Julie Smyth.

Bohemian Highway is an indie folk duo, trio and band known for fine vocal harmonies and lyric-driven stuff, as well as being multi-instrumental: guitar, mandolin, Irish whistle, melodica, percussion and sometimes, bass. This is music that stays with you long after the show is over.

Director Beki Test was raised by wolves in the hills of central New York, a singer from the day she was born and a songwriter by the time she turned four. She plays guitar and does most of the songwriting. Mike Seeley plays guitar, mandolin and Irish whistle. The group also includes bass player extraordinaire Karl Wohlwend, known for his fabulous Irish guitar work, and Nina Hawranick who brings percussion and melodica to life. They have played at Natalie's, Java Central, The Rambling House and the International Folk Alliance, as well as many other venues in Columbus and Central Ohio.

Al Smyth's *FFnCC* (*Free Beer n Chicken Coalition*): Don't let the silly name fool you, this man is serious about his guitar playing as well as his original songs, custom arrangements, and reworking of selections from masters such as Les Paul, Chet Atkins and Frank Zappa. Al Smyth's *FFnCC* puts on a guitar orientated show that can be described as both cerebral and fun, and if one tune isn't your bag – just wait a minute for the next – always different, always great. For this performance Mr. Smyth (aka "Magic Turtle Duck Feather Hat Boy III") and the *FFnCC*, featuring Cliff Starbuck on bass, and Cary Dachtyl on drums, will dial it back a bit and include some blues and lighter arrangements to compliment the fantastic folk and rhythms of *Bohemian Highway*.

For the concert, donations are accepted and welcome.

GIVE TODAY. GIVE TOMORROW.

Melanie Boyd, Acorn Society (Planned Giving)

It's the season of giving – giving gifts, giving gratitude, delivering goodies to neighbors, friends and family.

It's a season of giving for our church family as well. The Caring Team is making cookies to deliver to homebound members. Last week, an incredible team of volunteers provided a delicious Thanksgiving meal in Fellowship Hall for close to 60 people. Our children are filling *Guest at Your Table* boxes. And each of us is being given a special opportunity to support this love and caring with a financial gift to the Holiday Appeal. To make your gift, visit the website at www.firstuucolumbus.org.

We also have an opportunity to give a gift now to ensure those cookies, meals, and boxes will remain available for generations to come. First UU's Acorn Society recognizes planned gifts like a charitable bequest in your will or a gift of paid-up life insurance. And right now, those gifts will be amplified thanks to a generous \$5 million gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. Your planned gift made now will be matched at 10%.

You can learn more on our website or by contacting Melanie Boyd (937-522-1615, melaniemail64@gmail.com) or Bob Rice (614-313-7158, bricejr@gmail.com).

Touchstones Theme: Peace

"To be a peacemaker means not to judge or condemn or speak badly of people, not to rejoice in any form of ill that may strike them. Peacemaking is holding people gently in prayer, wishing them to be well and free. Peacemaking is welcoming people who are weak and in need, ...and opening our hearts to them. It is welcoming those with whom we may have difficulty or whom we may not especially like, those who are culturally, psychologically, or intellectually different from us. It is to approach people not from a pedestal, a position of power and certitude, in order to solve problems, but from a place of listening, understanding, humility, and love." *Jean Vanier*



"It is easy to want peace and love peace. It is easy to say, 'Leave me in peace,' but are we prepared to struggle for peace, which would mean to enter into places of conflict in the family; in the community; wherever? And if we are prepared to enter into places of conflict, are we aware that we are vulnerable and can be hurt?"

...If our families are places of love; if parents and children are helping each other to become fully human, to become fully alive, then peace will come in our land. Peace will come between cultures; peace will come in our world." *Jean Vanier*

Join us in exploring the theme of Peace

Photo Credits (top to bottom)
Welcome, Prayitno / Thank you for (12 millions +) view, August 12, 2012, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/prayitnophotography/8014375021>
Spread the love and peace, by Karen H. Nickname (pooh), February 11, 2010, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rugbybugnicknamepooh/4348804694>

Touchstones Theme: Grace



Parker Palmer writes, "In true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as that place where the person you least want to live with lives...." Some

may not consider such diversity as evidence of grace, but consider how we are forced to grow when we interact with people unlike our self. Often we learn things about who we are that were hidden from our awareness. Often what we learn about others cultivates our sympathy for different ways of being human. Often among such diversity, we discover abiding similarities. All of this reflects the movement of grace in our lives.

...Grace happens, if you'll reach out and take it. Hence the mystery that makes grace amazing: while on the one hand you can't do anything to force grace ...if you're not open to it ...then there won't be grace. ...As with Unitarian Universalism, grace is the affirmation that worth and dignity are inherent to who we are as human beings. Regardless of the mistakes we make, the tensions we might create, regardless of what society might tell us, we know we are valued. ...Mary Oliver ...asks: "Do you think there is anywhere, in any language, a word billowing enough for the pleasure that fills you as the sun reaches out...." Yes.... Grace happens. *Rev. Fredric Muir*



Join us in exploring the theme of Grace

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FIRST UU AUCTION

Danya Furda, Auction Team

First UU Auction 2019: Take a Chance on Fun! The game of Monopoly will come to life at our next church fundraiser auction on **Saturday, February 23**, from **5–9:30pm**. We will have an auction table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays December 2 and 16, after each service, as well as every Sunday beginning January 6. Please come see us! The auction website is now open to receive your donations: <http://firstuucolumbus.org/auction>



What Can I Donate? Talk to us – we can help with suggestions! We especially encourage: dinners, brunches, lunches; vacation excursions or lodging; services of any kind; fellowship activities including classes, trips, game nights; tickets to concerts, sporting events, etc.; gift certificates of any kind; and specialty food items or food baskets. Check the auction calendar when you enter your event to avoid dates already taken by others. We encourage you to pick dates for your events later in the year.

Donation Deadlines for the Catalog The deadline for all physical items is **Wednesday, January 23, 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 will be juried by the committee and, if accepted, your item will appear on the auction website after January 27. The deadline for other services and events is **Sunday, January 27, by 11:59pm**.

Printed Auction Catalogs and Gift Certificates Pick up a printed catalog at the auction table beginning **Sunday, February 3**. You can browse the auction catalog online any time at <http://firstuucolumbus.org/auction>.

You can buy someone an auction gift certificate at the auction table, which can be used to make purchases at the auction. What a thoughtful UU Christmas gift!

Volunteers Volunteers make the auction possible! Please volunteer for a large or small role by contacting Candee Rothert at can431@sbcglobal.net, Nancy Rafert at nrafert@yahoo.com, or Peggy McKee at pmckee7@columbus.rr.com. You can also sign up at the auction table.

Tickets and Childcare Get your discounted tickets for \$15 at the auction table in Fellowship Hall after both services on February 3, 10, and 17. Tickets are \$18 at the door. New church members (those who have joined since the last auction) can buy tickets at \$10 per person, advance or at the door. Children between 11 and 16 are \$5 in advance or at the door. Children 10 and under are free, but please sign up for childcare at the auction table.

Pre-bidding or Advance Bidding Your auction ticket allows you to place bids online **until Wednesday, February 20, by 11:59 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 online 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. Instead, we are asking you to bring your favorite finger-friendly appetizer or an item for the bake sale table. The Auction Team will provide the main courses, including meat and vegan entrées, side dishes, and a large dressed salad.

Silent Auction Items If you have donated physical items to the auction, please bring them to the church on **Saturday, February 23** (auction day), **between 10am and 3pm**.

How Should I Dress? Feel free to dress for the Boardwalk or Park Place, if you're so inclined, but there's no obligation to do so.

Aftersales We will sell physical items only on Sunday, February 24, after each service. Non-physical items will be available for purchase on these Sundays: February 24, March 3, and March 10.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Senior Gathering Thursday, December 6, 10:45am. Rev. Marian and Rev. Eric will present the program, and church member Marguerite Molk will share her experiences of her recent trips to American Samoa and Alaska. Complimentary lunch. RSVP by Sunday, December 2, to:

Carole Wilhelm, 614-313-6657
wilhelm.carole@gmail.com

Sorrow at this Season service If facing the upcoming holiday season causes distress for you because of sadness, grief, or fear, First UU invites you to attend the fifth annual *Sorrow at this Season* service on Wednesday, December 5, 7pm, in the Sanctuary/Worship Center. For some of us, the idealized holiday season only seeks to reinforce the heartache, loneliness and isolation we may feel, and attempting to “put on a happy face” only distances us from ourselves. Please come and gather with a group of others as we acknowledge our difficulties, while creating a sense of welcome, trust, and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year.

Rev. Kathleen Fowler, 614-264-8364
kathleenclarkfowler@gmail.com

Entertainment Books Help contribute to our Coming of Age group by buying an Entertainment Book. Discount coupons to restaurants, bakeries, sports shops, golf courses, symphony, etc. Many coupons are 50% off! Available on Sunday mornings after each service, until December 16. Cost is \$30 per book, \$7.50 of which will go to First UU's Coming of Age group.

Karin Erickson, 614-834-3988

UU Art continues with Riccie Mayer Middleton's beautiful flowers in the Gallery and Worship Center through January 3. For purchase info:

Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com

UU Dance Fellowship Mondays, 7pm, in Fellowship Hall. Hour-long lesson at 7pm; open dance 8-9:30pm. \$5, or whatever you can. Dancing includes ballroom and swing. Beginners especially welcome! No partner needed. Lately, the class has been all men, so women, please join us; you all would really be welcome!

Laurie Brown, 614-246-0170

Dinner & Conversation Sign up now for the first quarter (January, February, March). This is an easy way to get to know other UUs. Once a month, groups of about eight meet for a potluck dinner and conversation. The same groups meet during each month of the quarter. Signing up means that you'll attend the three dinners. The group decides on the dates.

Marcia Canter, marciacanter@gmail.com



First UU Bookstore Volunteers Needed

Volunteers get a 10% discount, and all bookstore proceeds help the church. Book lovers, if you are able to help sell books in Fellowship Hall for about one Sunday morning a month, please contact:

Will Whicker, 614-560-9975,
swwhicker@gmail.com

Project Linus Blanket Collection for children in Central Ohio who are suffering trauma (in hospitals, homeless shelters, foster care, etc.). Blankets of all styles are welcome, but they must be new, handmade and washable. The collection will continue until January 13. Please bring blankets to Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings by 11am. This project is sponsored by First UU's Justice Action Ministry.

Brad Bushman, 614-359-4797,
bushman.20@osu.edu, projectlinus.org

Bookbites will meet Tuesday, December 18, 7-9pm, in Slowter Lounge for our annual Christmas Party. Please bring a snack, a gently used wrapped book for the gift exchange, and a Seasonal Reading to share in place of a book report. The topic for January will be arranged at the next meeting.

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

While shopping for the holidays, don't let any Amazon.com purchases go unrewarded. You can benefit the church by using or enrolling in the the Amazon Smile program which supports charitable organizations. Use smile.amazon.com to place your order and, if not already enrolled, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization. You can change this selection at any time by picking “Account Settings/Reward Programs.” Search for “first unitarian columbus.” Also, do shop our local merchants for the best in value and holiday cheer!



BREAD (*Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity*, 614-220-9363, www.breadcolumbus.com, www.facebook.com/breadorganization)

is Central Ohio's congregation-based, multi-faith community organization founded by First UU and ten other congregations over 20 years ago. On May 7, over 2500 people, including 313 from the First UU community showed up at BREAD's annual Nehemiah Action to hold local decision-makers accountable for evidence-based solutions to the problems we see in our community.

At BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 12, Justice Ministry Network members voted to make **Elder Care** the next problem area that BREAD addresses. Now that we've chosen a new problem, the research process begins. A new research committee will investigate the problem from all angles by meeting with experts, agencies, officials, and others. The committee will narrow down the broad topic area and find a winnable solution to address that aspect of the problem. This process begins with the **Research Kickoff on Monday, December 10, 7pm, at Christ United Methodist Church** (1480 Zettler Rd). The Kickoff starts with an introduction into how BREAD conducts research. Then we'll break out into separate groups for each of BREAD's campaigns—the new problem **Elder Care**, and the ongoing campaigns: **Juvenile Justice, Youth & Family/Affordable Housing, Jobs, and Municipal ID**. Any member or friend of a BREAD congregation can join a research committee; but even if you don't want to join a research committee, this is an excellent opportunity to learn about our campaigns and how BREAD does research.

However, no matter how good our research, it's all for naught if we don't build the people-power we need to win the solutions we identify. We demonstrate that power each year by turning out in large numbers to the Nehemiah Action in May. The **2019 Nehemiah** will be on **Monday, May 6, at 6:40pm**, at the Celeste Center (717 E. 17th Ave.); please put it on your calendar now!

BREAD Rises!

Alice Rathburn, 614-895-2109, 614-563-0536, eulala1905@me.com

Chris Johnson, 614-946-1287, chris@underspecified.com

Meals for Edith Espinal Edith remains in sanctuary at Columbus Mennonite Church. You can help by preparing a meal or by giving a grocery store gift card. To sign up, visit: www.mealtrain.com/trains/r3y3ed.

Help Edith and enjoy her delicious recipes!

Sunday, December 2, from 12:15 - 4pm, at Mennonite Church. Edith Espinal will be making vegetarian and meat versions of Pozole, a traditional soup from Mexico. The soup is \$4 per cup – bring your own container and fill it as full as you like. RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/3UtMtXON7s2xFPBf1>.

Solidarity Table at Columbus's ICE check-in. We will take a winter-weather break. Stay tuned for other opportunities to support those in Sanctuary.

Jan Phillips, jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net

Francophones Bavard(e)s, the French

conversation group, meets weekly on Wednesday evenings in the First UU Library, 6-7pm. If you've had some background in French (back in high school?), and want to practice, please join us. We are a small, informal group, and we'd welcome new members! Our skill levels vary, so you are welcome to participate at whatever level seems comfortable to you. Tout le monde est bienvenu!

Kristen Figg, kfigg@kent.edu

Ham drive for Feed My Sheep food pantry Please stop by our table on Sunday morning. We'll have the children's Christmas list available, and we need gifts under \$10, unwrapped. Also, the pantry always needs peanut butter, feminine hygiene products (tampons), dog and cat food, and children's books.

Jacques Angelino, 614-439-0245

Have you thought about doing something a bit different this fall? We have just the thing! **Become a coffee hour volunteer!** Very little commitment but oodles of enjoyment.

Denni Hale, 614-733-8082
rayneblueoh@gmail.com

Words! Words! Words!

January 6, 6:30-8:30pm. Please sign up by January 2, in Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and use your words. Five minute limit.

Jeanni Ray, 614-985-6176,
jeanni1954@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, Historian

Our learning of the attendance and participation by Rev. Marian and Rev. Eric at the Parliament of World Religions caused the Archives Team to refer to Mary Odberth's attendance at The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) in Japan in 1976. She joined 70 Unitarian Universalists and others from North America and Europe. The organization had originally been the International Council of Unitarian and Other Religious Thinkers and Workers founded in 1900; the name change in 1969 brought in religions from India, Japan, and South Africa. The 1976 meeting was the first one held in Asia.

The purpose was a search for mutual understanding through an exchange of ideas between East and West. For two weeks they traveled by bus and bullet trains to various religious and secular communities: A monastery that was the International Center of Zen Buddhism, a shinto shrine where they slept and bathed Japanese style and walked by stone lantern light to a purification ceremony, and a lecture-and-discussion on the existence or nature of, God.

There were sessions on the universality of religion, the question of whether religions have an impact on preventing war or whether churches get trapped by their governments into condoning the wars. The East-West dialogue at the Konko-kyo Church of Izuo focused on two topics: (1) How to attain religious cooperation and peace when there is such diversity among the various religionists; (2) What contributions can the religions of the world make to world peace? These dialogues were held within the context of knowing that some religions believing they have the only answer.

Mary's time was packed with learning about religions and ways of life in Japan and discussions about how religions could work together. These are but a few examples of her time in Japan.

CARING CORNER

Holiday Cards The Caring Team invites everyone to sign holiday cards for staff and those who have recently moved away. They will be on tables in the center of Fellowship Hall on Sundays, December 2 and December 9, after each service.

The Caring Team would like to remind everyone about the link to the **Joys and Sorrows Request Form**. It can be found on the First UU website, www.firstuucolumbus.org, on the left side of the opening page. Using this link will ensure that your request will be noted and acted upon quickly.

Congratulations to:

- **Kyle Pigman**. At the Area 6 Swim Meet for Special Olympics Ohio, Kyle captured the Bronze in the 100 Backstroke, Fourth in the 4x50 Freestyle Relay, and Silver in the 100 Butterfly.
- **Rev. Lane Campbell**, who was installed as the minister of the First Universalist Church of Rochester NY on November 18.

Happy Birthday to:

- **Carolyn Hippensteel**, who celebrated her 86th birthday on November 9.

Caring thoughts to:

- **Pat Owens**, knee replacement.
- **Carole Wilhelm**, hip replacement.
- **Patricia Reed**, acute myeloid leukemia.
- **Bob Bennett**, open heart surgery
- **Paul Goszyk**, stepfather of **Kelly Blake**, bone marrow cancer.
- One of SYC's founders, **Janet Stocker**, a severe stroke.

Sympathy to:

- **Bill Fiorini** and family. Bill's sister, Danielle, died November 9.
- **Joan Matyskela**, whose mother died November 9.
- **Rick Kritzer**, whose father, Richard, died on November 6.
- **Michelle and Wesley Pletcher**. Michelle's mother, Barbara Bane, died on October 17. Wesley is the son of **Doris Cornell**.

CALENDAR

- Adult Programs: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm
- All-Ages Book Group: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- Archives Team: Tuesdays, 9:30am
- Atheists/Skeptics/Humanists: 4th Tuesday, 7pm
- Bookbites: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4th Wednesday, 7pm (on 12/19 in December)
- BREAD Team: 3rd Thursday, 7pm
- Breakfast: Sundays, 8:45am
- Bridge Group (614-499-2434): 4th Monday, 6pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Sunday, 6:30pm
- Caring Team: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- Chalice Choir: Thursdays, 7:30pm
- Coming of Age Team: 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Contra & Square Dance: 2nd Friday, 7:30pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Facilitators: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Engagement Team: 1st Thursday, 7pm
- Expressive Collage: 2nd & 4th Thursday, 7pm
- Families with Young Children: 2nd Saturday, 10am
- Finance Committee: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- Food Co-op: every 4th Wednesday, 1pm
- First Friday Potluck: 6:30pm
- Francophones Bavard(e)s: Wednesdays, 6pm
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after each service
- Hispanohablantes: Saturdays, 10:45am
- Improvisational Dance: Thursdays, 9:30am
- Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) Spiritual Sharing: 1st Wednesday, 12pm
- Justice Action Ministry: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Library Team: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30pm
- Memoir Group: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Meditation Workshop, Thursdays, 6:30pm
- Monday Men's Spirituality: 1st & 3rd Monday
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- Navigator Scouts: 1st & 3rd Sunday, 3:30pm
- Nominating Committee: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm
- Peace Pals Choir: Sundays, 10:25am
- Rainbow Connexion: 3rd Friday, 5:30pm
- RE Team: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm
- Rising Voices Choir: Tuesdays, 6:45pm
- Sacred Song Circle: Wednesdays, 6pm
- Scriptures Class: 3rd Saturday (4th Saturday in January & May)
- Spirit of Life Choir: Tuesdays, 7:30pm
- Stewardship: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- Town Hall: 1st Sunday, after each service

- Trans Youth Support Group: 3rd Saturday, 2pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Mondays, 7pm
- Wednesday Women's Book Group: 4th Wednesday, 1pm
- Women's Creative Circle: Mondays, 3-5pm
- Worship Team: 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Young Adult Covenant Group: 1st & 3rd Sunday, 6:30pm
- Zen Meditation: Saturdays, 8:30am; Tuesdays, 7pm
- Zen Meditation Orientation: Sundays, 8:45am

Saturday, December 1, 2018

- 8:00am Building & Grounds Workday
- 9:45am Single Payer Action Network (SPAN)

Sunday, December 2, 2018

- 12:30pm Youth Group Social Action Day

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

- 7:00pm Sorrow at this Season Worship Service

Thursday, December 6, 2018

- 10:45am Senior Gathering

Saturday, December 8, 2018

- 9:00am Move to Amend Coordinating Committee

Sunday, December 16, 2018

- 12:30pm Cookie Exchange
- 4:00pm Winter Choir Concert

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

- 4:00am UU Clergy Cluster

Monday, December 24, 2018

- 5:00pm Family Christmas Celebration
- 8:00pm Evening Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, December 26, 2018

- 3:00-7:00pm Labyrinth available (through 12/30/18)

Monday, December 31, 2018

- 7:00pm Labyrinth available until midnight

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

- 10:00am Labyrinth available until 3:00

Sunday, January 6, 2019

- 10:30am & 12:15pm Town Hall
- 6:00pm Words, Words, Words Poetry Group

Thursday, January 10, 2019

- 7:00pm IACO Program Committee

Saturday, January 19, 2019

- 7:30pm Folk/Rock Concert

The Discoverer

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office@firstuucolumbus.org

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December 2018/January 2019

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

December's theme: *Peace*

Sunday, December 2, 9:15am & 11am

UU Principles Series: Acceptance and Spiritual Growth
(3rd principle)
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Wednesday, December 5, 7pm

Sorrow at This Season
Rev. Kathleen Fowler

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

All We Need
Rev. Eric Meter

Sunday, December 16, 9:15am & 11am

The Joy of Music
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Sunday, December 23, 10am only

Solstice: Henges and Mounds
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Monday, December 24

5pm: *Family Christmas Celebration*

Ministerial Intern Amanda Hays,
Director of Religious Exploration Elizabeth Mount

8pm: *Evening Christmas Celebration*

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart, Rev. Eric Meter

Sunday, December 30, 10am only

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

January's theme: *Grace*

Sunday, January 6, 9:15am & 11am

Which Way, Janus?
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Sunday, January 13, 9:15am & 11am

UU Principles Series: 4th Principle
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Sunday, January 20, 9:15am & 11am

Lessons of Grace
Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Sunday, January 27, 9:15am & 11am

Good Neighbors
Rev. Eric Meter