

The Discoverer

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

June 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.

TRANSCENDENCE

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart, Senior Minister

Not only was this spring wonderful for gardening and the renewal of spirit, it included at least one perfect morning. It was Saturday, and I had come downstairs to feed Ms. Maddie Cat and ease into the day. I opened the patio door, and un/fortunately for Maddie, left the screen closed. The temperature was perfect and I was immediately overwhelmed with all the birdsong, squirrels running on fence rails and performing trapeze acts between tree limbs, and the soft breeze that sent fresh scents of flowers through the air. Feathered friends of all sizes and colors took turns at the birdfeeders, as others perched in nearby limbs of trees I had planted the year before. Chipmunks and gray and black squirrels scurried around underneath the feeders, gobbling up offerings falling from above.



I don't know how long I sat there soaking it all in. More than minutes, maybe an hour, wishing I could bottle the experience to share later. Regardless of time, it was one of those moments of pure transcendence. In that sense, it was an eternity. A glorious feast that indulged my senses in total delight and brought joy to my soul. I was one with all of creation, filled at once with humility, awe, and peace.

Our monthly theme for June is transcendence. Perhaps the birds knew this. Or the weather gods. Maybe the squirrels. It doesn't matter. Everything came together for one glorious moment, as a gift that I can still sense every time I close my eyes.

What is your experience of transcendence?

Blessings of wonder,

Rev. Marian

P.S. It has been a very busy year. Some of our work has been to lay the bones bare and make the overall organizational structure of First UU transparent. This will help newcomers, old-timers, and all of us to be more aware of how things work and of the pathways to get involved. We have created a colorful way to lay out the structure—bright umbrellas—and you will find the two charts near the end of this newsletter. We will present it with more detail at the Annual Meeting on June 2.

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

At this time of year, when the weather alternates between stormy and hot, I have one daydream based on childhood memories that returns like clockwork.

The daydream is of floating on my back in a small pond under a bright blue sky.

Feeling myself once more suspended by the cool water under the arc of the summer sky restores me, at least for a little while.



The memory would be from when I was 10 or 11. Our family lived in what was then, and may still be, the southernmost suburb of Chicago. The city and other towns were north. South and east were winter wheat fields. We belonged to the small UU church a town or two north, where one of the members had a farm just outside our town. For a few years at least, he tilled land for church members to garden. Most mornings those summers, Mom would take my brother and me out to our garden plot to water and weed our tomatoes, lettuce, peas and melons.

While my brother has inherited her love of gardening, I don't pretend the same is true for me. What I loved was, once the plants were sufficiently tended, going back to the pond where we hauled the water from and wading in until it was deep enough to swim. And by swim, I mean doing the laziest back stroke imaginable.

When I indulge my daydream of floating amid the bounty of the world, sometimes these words by Rebecca Parker come to mind:

There is a love
Holding me.
There is a love
Holding you.
There is a love
Holding all.
I rest
in this love.

While Parker rests in love, I feel held by peace. Sometimes I envy her and others who feel held by such a love, but whenever I return to my memories or daydream, the peace that holds me has always felt enough.

Those moments of feeling held tell us something about the world, and our place in it. They can be hard-won, of course. No one is served by pretending otherwise. But to have a sense of what we can return to—that helps place all the rest in perspective.

So as spring becomes summer, let's allow ourselves time to daydream now and then.

In peace,
Rev. Eric

Please send articles for the July/August issue of the newsletter by Sunday, June 23, 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

Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Michaela Jones, Spirit of Life & Rising Voices
Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist
Barb Fisher, Children's Choir Co-Director
Donna Greenman, Children's Choir Co-Director

Brian Hagemann, Director of Administration
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Christine Davidson, Congregational
Life Coordinator
Amy Rudawsky, SYC Co-Director
Susan Roscigno, SYC Co-Director

First UU Church of Columbus is not responsible for the use, by others, of personal information published in the Discoverer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Seth Kraut, Chair

Being on the Board has been a very educational experience. I'll share some of the things I learned. I grew up in this church but, until recently, I didn't pay attention to how the church ran.

Church governance is hard. The Board is comprised of six volunteers, who meet for about 30 hours a year. Board time is incredibly valuable. This has been an unusually challenging year, but the church is still an organization with a significant budget and lots of moving parts.

For church governance, the church year is really short. Church is largely off for the summer. Then it starts up in September. October and November are good months to execute a plan. Then the holidays come, people are busy, and church work is dormant for a bit. Everyone comes back for the new year, but stewardship takes over planning around February and March. After that, things start to wind down as summer comes, and the budget takes up most of the remaining oxygen. For the Board, this means that the retreat over the summer is critical to setting the tone for the year.

Being on the Board doesn't mean you're in tune with the congregation. There is a Board member at the Welcome Table each week. I'm at church every Sunday, and I try to be reasonably available, though many of my conversations involve a small child hanging on my leg. However, I went to several meetings this year where I was surprised at the perspectives people expressed. That's when I realized there were voices in the church I wasn't hearing. So, I would encourage everyone who is comfortable doing so to share their opinions with the Board, so that the Board can properly represent the will of the congregation. This year we had Town Halls and Listening Sessions, but the Board needs to find better ways to invite feedback. I promise you that the Board wants and needs to hear from you.

For the church's finances, there are two levers. On the expense side, the vast majority of costs are fixed. There are the costs of the building, which are truly fixed. Then, there are the costs of staff and personnel, which are fixed unless we were to make significant changes. On the revenue side, the main thing is pledges. Pledges fund around 80% of the budget and pledges in a year largely recur in the next year. There are other expenses and other sources of revenue, but those are fiddling in the margins.

Being a minister is about much more than Sunday. I'm embarrassed to admit that I thought that ministers spent a few days writing the sermon, delivered it on Sunday, and then went home to read and be learned or something. I hadn't given it much thought. I have learned that the minister is doing the work of the church every day. Reverend Marian is providing guidance to staff and volunteers to enact the vision of the congregation that is discerned by the Board through conversation with the congregation.

The amount of volunteerism at the church astounds me. I feel like I'm at the church a lot, but there are people I see every time. I have some theories about whether these people live at church, or maybe in an alternate dimension where days have 30 hours. Regardless, it's heartening to see so many people working to support the church. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the church in any way.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 2, 2019, 11:30am, Sanctuary. We will vote on our annual budget and elect our members of the Board of Trustees, Moderator, and members for next year's Nominating Committee. There are three ways to vote by absentee ballot, until Friday, May 31, at 5pm:

- Cast your ballot in the church office, on a weekday, 9am-5pm.
- A ballot can be taken to someone who cannot be present, and returned in a sealed envelope with their signature on the front.
- A request can be made for a ballot to be sent and returned by mail to the church office.

Summer First Fridays June 7, July 5 and August 2, 6:30pm-8pm. We'll have a less formal meetup at Whetstone Park by the lower playground. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and food for yourself, and we'll bring some outdoor games. If it rains, we'll bring our blankets and hampers to Beach Fellowship Hall at the church, and the change of location will be put on the First UU Facebook page.

Christine Davidson

christine@firstuucolumbus.org

Dinner & Conversation Sign up now for the third quarter (July, August, September). 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 you'll attend the three dinners. The group decides on the dates.

Marcia Canter, marciacanter@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed for First UU Light Yardwork!

Tuesday, June 11; Wednesday, July 17; Thursday, August 15. Come at whatever time fits your schedule: a morning session, 9-11am OR an evening session, 5:30pm-dusk. We have tools available, but if you have favorites, and garden gloves, bring them along. Tasty, healthy snacks and drinks provided! Thank you for helping us keep our grounds looking welcoming, and for being earth friendly!

Patricia Boughton, patriciaboughton@gmail.com

Dave Richter, drichter@sciotangy.com

Celebration & Send-Off for Amanda Hayes, our Ministerial Intern for the past two years. Sunday, June 30. Amanda will conduct the 10am worship service. The congregation will follow by giving her a grand send-off after the service. Amanda has graduated from seminary, completed her two-year internship with First UU, and will launch into her year as a chaplain at one of the area hospitals. She will also sit before the Ministerial Review Board in late fall to become a full Minister. So, come one and all. Be part of the fun! Food, tributes, memories and more. **Sunday, June 30, 10 am for the service and 11:15am for the party in Beach Fellowship Hall.**

First UU Camping Trip June 21-22, at Delaware State Park. Great for families, singles, couples. Communal food, swimming, campfires. \$40 for two nights to share a campsite.

<https://firstuucolumbus.org/weekend-camping-delaware-state-park/>

Patricia Boughton, patriciaboughton@gmail.com

Express your voice in an art project called *Airing Out the Dirty Laundry*, Saturday June 22, 1-4 pm at First UU. This is a national project focused on women's rights, human rights, resistance and unity. It was begun by Andrea Downs, who was inspired by marching in the Women's March with her nine-year old daughter. She created an artwork, "*Airing Out the Dirty Laundry*." Last year these 250+ artworks were shown 20+ times in N. Carolina, California, Boston and Columbus. This year, we hope to have our 20 pieces to hang on the "Clothes Line" at ComFest June 29-30, here in Columbus.

Sign up as soon as possible; program is limited to 20 participants. We are asking women, cis women, trans women, trans-femme, and non-binary folx, who feel anger, oppression, and frustration, to join us and express your stories. We search for Hope together.

"We believe in equality and in our shared responsibility to create a more just world."

Register with:

Melanie Boyd, melaniemail64gmail.com, or

Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com

Facebook: WeBelieveInEquality

website: airingoutthedirtylaundry.com

Vegetarian Cooking Class Wednesday, June 26, 6pm. Discover some new ways to enjoy the bounty of summer produce. Delicious veggie burgers, easy spring rolls, and some great sauces/dressings. Healthy, delicious, and great for the planet. RSVP to: patriciaboughton@gmail.com or elaine.fujimura@gmail.com.

Bookbites will meet Tuesday, June 18, 7-9 pm, in Slowter Lounge. The topic will be *Bucket List Vacation*. The July meeting of Bookbites will be on Tuesday, July 16, 7-9 in Slowter Lounge. The topic will be *What I'm Reading Now*.

Kathleen Boston, 614-262-4025

Feed My Sheep food pantry June is Undies Sundies month. Please bring new underwear for children, all sizes, to Beach Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings. Also, it's time for our school supplies drive. Stop by the JAM table Sunday morning to see how you can help. We need: backpacks containing: 20 #2 pencils, 2 large pink erasers, 2 glue sticks, box of 16-24 count Crayola crayons, box of colored Crayola pencils, 2 wide-ruled 70-page spiral notebooks, and a ruler (with centimeters and inches). Please bring items by August 12.

Jacques Angelino, 614-439-0245

Our newest art exhibit is *Painting at the Center*—literally or spiritually. Every Thursday morning, 17 artists come together at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center to paint. Through June 30. Questions on purchase info? Contact:

Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com

UU Poets and Artists September is coming and with it our annual members' exhibit — poetry and visual art. The theme is *Telling Our Stories*. What is your story? It could be one or several. A story of your childhood, one about what you like to do now, it could be an issue or a happening. Remember the 70's? Let's begin next church year with stories of who we are. The exhibit will run August 27 through October 27. If you are interested in participating, email Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com.

Immigration Assistance

FILA=Benevolence Fund First UU's new Fund for Immigration Legal Assistance (FILA) has been established, and is accepting donations (tax-deductible) and applications for assistance. For information, go to: www.firstuucolumbus.org/fila. Donations can be made via check (payable to First UU, with FILA on the memo line) or the website, above. So far, the fund has helped a mother of two children to pay for her asylum application.

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.

For more information: Jan Phillips, (614)261-3234

FILA@firstuucolumbus.org

Bill Cohen Concert: *Facing Death...Celebrating Life* Saturday, June 29, 7:30pm. The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio invites you to this concert at First UU. With piano and guitar, Bill Cohen sings songs about many aspects of death: violence, loss, acceptance, and memories.

The songs are linked to performers such as Pete Seeger, John Prine, Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong, the New Christy Minstrels, and others.

We'll hear inspiring songs about how embracing the inevitability of death can liberate us to live our lives to the fullest. This concert is an effort to help us come to grips with one huge thing that we have in common: the end of our lives.

Free admission; donations will be appreciated. The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio, which urges people to pre-plan their funerals, so their families won't be subject to emotional and financial manipulation in their vulnerable time of grieving.

Marylou MacDonald, 614-433-7273

macdonaldmarylou@gmail.com

www.funeralsohio.org

Also at First UU: Peter Mayer Concert Saturday, July 20, 7pm. Minnesota singer-songwriter, Peter Mayer, composer of "Blue Boat Home" (a UU hymn), "Holy Now," and other inspiring songs, will present a concert in the Sanctuary. Admission: \$10 donation at door. Hosted by In Spirit Ministries. For more information about Peter Mayer's music, visit <https://www.petermayer.net/>

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

2019 General Assembly June 19-23, Spokane, Washington. At this, the annual meeting of the UUA, attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. For information on registration and housing, programming, and financial aid, see <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Your Chalice Lighter dollars help spread UUism throughout the Central East Region, funding special projects. More information available at: <https://www.uua.org/centraleast/programs/chalicelighter/erclcurrentcall>.

Rev. Kathleen Fowler
kathleenclarkfowler@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, Historian

Our Universalist Roots Universalists were active in Columbus as early as the 1830s. Universalist ministers would visit occasionally, holding services 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 its actual beginning; some say 1844, others say 1840. We can document 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, dedicated in 1891. They sold this building in the 1920s and moved to the OSU area, on E. 16th Ave. There, they celebrated the 100th anniversary. The guest book from that celebration is in the archives here at First UU.

After the Universalists and Unitarians merged in the early 1960s, the church on 16th Ave. continued services for several years. It would hold services in July, and the First Unitarian Church, in August. As the merger began to take hold, First Universalist members began to join other churches, including the church on Weisheimer. First Unitarian Church member Ed Slowter, now deceased, undertook the selling of the property.

Depending on which date one takes for the beginning of the Universalist church, it would be celebrating its 174th or 179th anniversary this year.

CARING CORNER

Each year, the Caring Team sends high school and college graduates Caring Cards of congratulations. Please contact Jane Reisman, jmdreisman@aol.com, or fill out a Caring Card request, on-line, with information about the graduate.

Congratulations to:

- **Vanda Hughes**, on her retirement after a 32-year career as an art teacher, 23 of which have been at Columbus Alternative High School. Vanda grew up in this congregation, and now plans a move to Florida.
- **Ministerial Intern Amanda Hays**, on receiving her Masters of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.
- **Julie Duhigg**, on accepting a promotion to Director of Counseling Services at Ohio Wesleyan University.
- **Doris Oursler**, on her retirement. May 10 was her final day with JPMorgan.
-

Appreciation to:

- **Tony McDonald**, who is retiring from his role as First UU Music Director
- **Leigh Mamlin**, who is retiring from co-leading the Peace Pals Choir, for our youngest children
- **Cath Saveson**, who is also retiring from co-leading the Peace Pals Choir

Happy Birthday to:

- **Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart** who will celebrate her birthday on June 3.

Caring thoughts to:

- **Michelle Miles**, whose father will have triple bypass surgery on June 4. Positive thoughts and prayers are appreciated, as well as cards and phone calls.
- **Bob Aldridge**, who had reconstructive surgery.
- **Joan Shkolnik**, who was readmitted to Riverside Hospital, with various health concerns.

Sympathy to:

- **Margie and Ron Starbuck**. Margie's brother, Joe, died on May 9.
- **Nate and Harrison Blake**. Their grandfather, Marv Blake, passed away May 8.

Friday, May 10 marked one year since **Susan "Suse" Collis** passed away after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Her daughter **Barbara Harry** will forever be grateful for the community at First UU and the love, support and caring provided to her mom throughout her time here.

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
- Book Discussion: *Out of the Flames*: 6/5 & 6/12, 7pm
- BREAD Team: 3rd Thursday, 7pm
- Bridge Group (614-499-2434): 4th Monday, 6pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Sunday, 6:30pm
- Caring Team: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- Coming of Age Team: 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Facilitators: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Drum Circle: 1st Saturday, 3pm
- Engagement Team: 1st Thursday, 7pm
- Expressive Collage: 2nd & 4th Thursday, 7pm
- Families with Young Children: 2nd Saturday, 10am
- Finance Committee: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- First Friday: 6:30pm (offsite in summer)
- Food Co-op: every 4th Wednesday, 1pm
- Francophones Bavard(e)s: Wednesdays, 6pm
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after the 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
- Little Minyan Kabbalat Shabbat: 1st Friday, 7:30pm
- Memoir Group: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Monday Men's Spirituality: 1st & 3rd Monday
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- Navigator Scouts: 1st & 3rd Sunday, 3:30pm
- NIA Exercise Class: Fridays, 11am
- Nominating Committee: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm
- Rainbow Connexion: 3rd Friday, 5:30pm
- RE Team: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm
- Sacred Song Circle: Wednesdays, 6pm
- Scriptures Class: 3rd Saturday

- Stewardship: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- Trans Youth Support Group: 3rd Saturday, 2pm
- Transparenting: 3rd Thursday, 5pm
- 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: 2nd Saturday, 8:30am; 4th Tuesday, 7pm

Saturday, June 1, 2019

- 2:00pm Pastoral Team
- 6:00pm Coming of Age Potluck Banquet

Sunday, June 2, 2019

- 11:20am Annual Congregational Meeting

Saturday, June 8, 2019

- 2:00pm Memorial Service for Marian Clover

Sunday, June 9, 2019

- 11:30am JAM Food Insecurity Team

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

- 9am & 5:30pm Summer Work Day

Saturday, June 22, 2019

- 7:30pm All Soles Contra & Square Dance

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

- 5:30pm Vegetarian Cooking Class

Saturday, June 29, 2019

- 10:00am Single Payer Action Network (SPAN)
- 7:30pm Bill Cohen Concert: *Facing Death... Celebrating Life*



Thank you to the 321 members of the First UU community who showed up to the BREAD Nehemiah Action on May 6! Together with our friends from around 40 other diverse Central Ohio congregations, we turned out 2600 people to hold our local decision-makers accountable for addressing the problems we see in our community.

Highlights from the Nehemiah Action:

- Our **Jobs** campaign celebrated a \$58,000 OSU grant that will allow us to partner with the Democracy Collaborative to plan the next steps in using worker-owned businesses to capture wealth in disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- **Juvenile Justice:** Dr. John Stanford, on behalf of Columbus Schools Superintendent Dixon, committed to ensuring that Restorative Practices are implemented with fidelity, evaluating the program by the end of July 2019, and meeting with BREAD quarterly.
- **Eldercare:** Lt. Matthew Parrish, Columbus Division of Fire, agreed to meet with us following an evaluation of a pilot program connecting older adults who are frequently calling 911 to a social worker. He also agreed to explore possible funding options, and to attend BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 11. Joe Mazzola, Health Commissioner of Franklin County Public Health, committed to co-lead a "Life Expectancy Task Force" with Director Michelle Missler from the Franklin County Office on Aging to address the staggering life expectancy gap in Central Ohio.
- **Municipal ID:** No Columbus City Councilmembers attended to commit to work with One ID Columbus to advance the ID program. The committee will continue to look for a new champion on Council.
- **Affordable Housing:** While no officials showed up to the Nehemiah, Council Member Shayla Favor did meet with nearly 60 BREAD members the following day. She agreed to work with us on a plan to encourage developers to set aside 20% of new units. We made sure that she knew that we want those units to be for families making LESS THAN \$42,000 a year. She has not agreed to work to secure an additional \$5 million for the Trust Fund. BREAD leaders stood firm, and we want to work to change that "no" into a "yes." We will meet with her in September in order to move forward.
- Rev. Tim Ahrens wrote [an excellent piece for the Dispatch](#) on May 21, responding to pushback BREAD has gotten from the Franklin County Commissioners on additional funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Everything BREAD does depends on us showing up year after year. Want to learn more? Come to the **BREAD Celebration** June 24, 7pm, at Congregation Tifereth Israel (1354 E Broad St). Meet members of other BREAD congregations, celebrate our victories, and learn more about BREAD's past, present, and future. This will also be the kickoff of our annual investment drive.

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.

Alice Rathburn, 614-895-2109, 614-563-0536

eulala1905@me.com

Chris Johnson, 614-946-1287

chris@underspecified.com

PEACE CAMP

Jen Bojanowski, Director

As we start the summer programming at First UU for our youth, I wanted to update you on our plans. This summer we are exploring our UU Principles through stories created by Dr. Seuss. The stories not only have wisdom, but are fun, and yes, silly.

We started our journey with One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. When asked, our kids noticed Principles represented in the story, including “growing by exploring,” and “respecting people.” The book actually has several little stories within it, with an all overarching theme of accepting differences. “From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere.” For our activity, we created “fish” and “creatures” to go into two boxes, to act as an aquarium or display. And, what wonderful things were created: Sock Nock; Fire Liar; Stinky Yink; Slub, Smouse: Sprkly the Macaroni Eating Fish; Spy Monkeycom; Evil Sunflower; Stratopilar; and a Cat-o-pillar.

In the weeks to come, we will engage in activities, games, and stories. This week, we will explore the world of the Sneetches. We can only succeed in our program through the assistance of volunteers, so please sign up to assist one or two Sundays. Peace Camp is coming up quickly: July 29-August 2 is for 5-7-year-olds, and August 5-9 is for 8-11-year-olds. We still have a few spots open. Sign up today!!! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jenifer Bojanowski

Peace Camp Director, jenifer@syccolumbus.org

Touchstones Theme: Transcendence



Transcendence is a fundamental part of the human experience. Since the dawn of our species, people have been losing themselves in ritualistic prayer, song, and dance. ...Most people have had some sort of transcendent experience...and about a third of the population has had “intense experiences of unity.” ...You can lose yourself

in love, or feel awe watching a lightning storm from your porch ...[or] when you step outside of your head while listening to a beautiful piece of music [or] “major transcendent experiences,” where your sense of self completely dissolves and you feel at one with the universe. ...

Transcendent experiences ...bring perspective, helping us to abandon the conceit that we are at the center of the world. “We can experience union with something larger than ourselves,” as William James put it, “and in that union find our greatest peace.” *Emily Esfahani Smith*

Who made the world? / Who made the swan, and the black bear? / Who made the grasshopper? / This grasshopper, I mean—/ the one who has flung herself out of the grass, / the one who is eating sugar out of my hand, / who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down— / who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes. / ...I don't know exactly what a prayer is. / I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down / into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, / how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields, / which is what I have been doing all day. / Tell me, what else should I have done? / Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? / Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?

Mary Oliver



Join us in exploring Transcendence

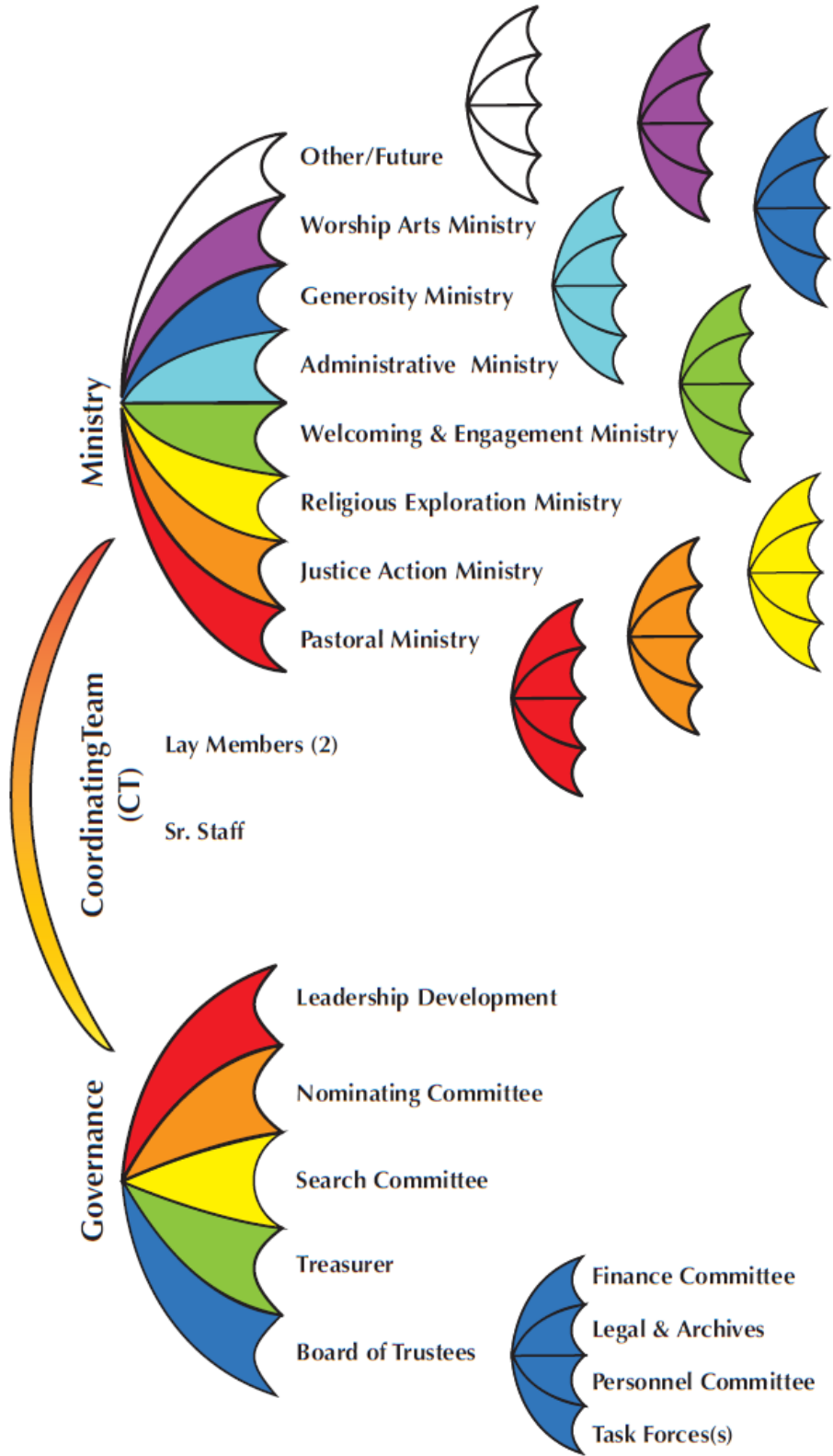
Photo Credits (top to bottom)

- ♦ Walk in the Forest, photo by Chris Besett, January 1, 2004, (CC BY 2.0), <http://www.flickr.com/photos/crispee/3139623810/>, photo by Jeremy Bishop on Unsplash
- ♦ Photo by Nick Cooper on Unsplash

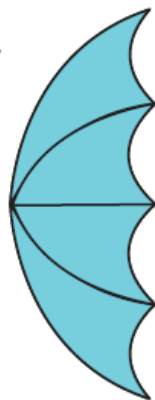
First UU Church of Columbus

Partnership in Action

Vision • Congregation • Mission



Director of Administration
Administrative Ministry



Administration
Buildings & Grounds
Communications
Rentals / Outreach

Partnership in Action

Sr. Minister
Generosity Ministry



Acorn Society
Annual Canvass
Auction
Fund Raising

Sr. Minister
Worship Arts Ministry



Arts
Music & Choirs
Worship & Services

Associate Minister
Pastoral Ministry



Caring
Pastoral
Support Groups

Associate Minister
Religious Exploration Coordinator
Religious Exploration Ministry



Toddler
Summer Programming & Peace Camp
Peace Pals
Sunday School & OWL
Coming of Age & Youth
Lifespan / Adult

Congregational Life Coordinator
Welcoming & Engagement Ministry



Development
Engagement & Events
Welcoming

Sr. Minister
Justice Action Ministry



B.R.E.A.D.
Human Rights
Environment
Food Security
Healthcare
Immigration & Racial Justice

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 2019

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

June's theme: *Transcendence*

Sunday, June 2, 10am

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, June 9, 10am

Stonewall 50

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart, with First UU's Rainbow Connexions group

Sunday, June 16, 10am

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

Sunday, June 23, 10am

Freddy's Message

Rev. Jef Gamblee

Sunday, June 30, 10am

Ministerial Intern Amanda Hays, with Rev. Eric Meter