



The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, December 5 - 18, 2012

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

So first, a couple of things to remember. The Sunday after Christmas, the last Sunday of the year before New Years...there will be only one service...at 11 AM only.

Second, after the Martin Luther King Sunday celebration, I will leave on a miniature Sabbatical. (Not a vacation.) My historic contract promises me a Sabbatical every six to seven years, and this is my 14th year. But instead of five months, like last time, I am only going to be taking about six and half weeks. During this time, I hope to get started, or even to completely finish, the book which Skinner House press wants me to write...on Grief.

I have an outline already, and I feel my life experience with grief to be both wide and deep, both as a parish minister and a man who lived through the AIDS era at one of its most intense city centers. I will also be one of the four preachers at the UU Minister's Association Institute down in Florida, which is going to take some good prep, I feel. And, I understand that it is an honor to be chosen to preach at such an event in front of one's colleagues. At the end of the month, my foray to Santa Barbara, with the senior ministers of large congregations. It's not amazing, but notable, how many of my colleagues are going through difficult times with aging parents.

The preachers, while I am gone, have all been taken care of. The only one you will not already know is Tim Temerson of Akron. I will preach in his pulpit later in the year, as a trade. Our affiliated ministers, Kathleen Fowler and Suzan McCrystal, will be in the pulpit, and our seminarians, Joe Pierce, Ben Iten, and Wes Thompson, will also be in the pulpit. Eric will be here to cover bases and I will leave for my brief time away with complete confidence.

I am going to visit my son and "son-in-law" for a day or two after Christmas. I have to put " around son-in-law, of course, because they are not allowed to get married in our state. That may change eventually, perhaps even with the help of our congregation. But seven years is not chopped liver for any relationship, and the fact that they have bought a house in Cleveland bodes well.

Blessings on one and all in this surprisingly warm December—66 degrees Fahrenheit on Monday, anyone?



(see *THE INNER FLAME* on page 2)

CHURCH NEWS

Labyrinth Returns to First UU between Christmas and New Year!

The Chartres Cathedral 11-path Labyrinth will be available for walking in the Worship Center, starting Wednesday morning, December 26 through Tuesday evening, January 1. Many of our members, youth, adults and neighbors have enjoyed this contemplative experience during the holiday season. The schedule will be printed in the Discoverer and posted on the daily calendar, but generally will be 10 am to 9 pm.

Tina Thonnings is organizing musicians to play or sing meditative music at scheduled times during the week. See separate article, page 2.

Art of Developing Meaningful Conversation

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 26, as the Art of Developing Meaningful Conversation explores what it takes for congregation and congregants to live our mission. This is the agenda that had been originally planned for November 3, but was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to circumstances our hosts could not overcome. We look forward to seeing you then.

Garden Club - "Indoor Plant Share"

Are your spider plants sprouting lots of babies, hanging vine plants getting leggy, or the jade sprouting too many new shoots? We're offering a plan for them. On Sunday, January 6 in Fellowship Hall, the Garden Club will be sponsoring a plant share. We'll have tables and reference books for your use as well. Feel free to bring as much as you'd like to share. Want some indoor plants? Help yourself. No need to bring anything to take something. Extra/no-longer-needed/wanted indoor gardening supplies are also welcome. Indoor plants of many varieties have been known to improve indoor air quality. Questions? Contact Christine Hardin at chrisincols@live.com.

Book Bites December 18 will be the traditional Christmas party for booklovers. Meet in Slowter Lounge 7 to 9 pm for refreshments and Christmas readings. Bring a gift-wrapped, previously-read book you can give away for the gift exchange. Kathleen, 262-4025.

(continued on page 3)

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

First off, an invitation: plans for our annual Family Christmas Eve Celebration (5pm, December 24) are well under way. As usual, this will be an interactive, creative event and include opportunities for families to be part of helping the story unfold. If your family would like to help be part of the festivities by enacting a value of the holiday, please let Jolinda Stephens or myself know.

Moving on, I've received more responses from folks regarding my November 25 sermon than usual. (Hopefully, the sermon will be up on the website soon.) It seems my talking about the difficulties many of us face in communicating with extended family members and friends struck a nerve. Sadly, I can't say I'm surprised. One point I didn't mention in the sermon but that I've shared with several folks who have spoken to me about their situations, is that we have to choose our battles. While we're called to do the best we can, please remember that it takes two to tango. If someone else is not willing to meet you at something approaching half way, there may be little more you can do to engage them at the present time.

All right, enough unsolicited advice giving. You'll notice the church schedule is packed with even more great things coming up: The Yule Ball and Holiday Choirs Concert high among them. There is so much talent and drive among us. While I know we can't do everything, if you miss these examples of our congregation's talent and creativity, you'll be missing quite a lot.

In peace,

Eric

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Beth Jewell, Chair, Board of Trustees

Notice of Change to Standing Rules

In recent years, as communications methods and needs have changed in society, so has the way in which First UU functions. We are fortunate to have an administrative and professional staff, as well as some key volunteers, who have stepped up to the new challenges in managing the communications functions of our church: website, newsletter, Facebook, email lists, order of service insert, and so on. Formerly, a standing communications committee handled these needs, but that has not been the case for some time now. Managing modern communications for a church our size is an

ongoing process with constant change and innovation, and has moved beyond the scope of a standard or traditional committee structure.

With this in mind, the Board of Trustees formed a Communications Task Force last May, led by Board Member Chuck Wolfe and Administrator Brian Hagemann. The task force looked at the issues and reported to the Board, recommending that communications be officially recognized as a core administrative and staff function, and that the section of the standing rules referring to a standing committee be removed. The task force also recommended that a "communications team" of staff and members be created by Brian Hagemann to look into and develop policies for church communication where they do not already exist, and to serve in an advisory role on an ongoing basis.

Under Article XI, Section 1, Standing Rules: Any of these Standing Rules may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new rules may be adopted at any meeting of the Board of Trustees by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Board provided that notice of the proposed adoption of any standing rule shall be given the congregation through the church newsletter prior to the meeting of the Board at which such adoption is to be voted upon.

Acting upon the recommendation of the task force, the Board of Trustees recommends that Article IV, Standing Committees, Section 7.A.1. of the Standing Rules be repealed. The text of the section proposed for repeal is as follows:

A. Communications. 1) Communications Committee. The Communications Committee shall coordinate publicity functions on behalf of the church, advise in the planning and execution of advertising programs and publicity campaigns; and oversee publication of the church newsletter, the church's website and electronic communications, and the physical postings of communications on church property.

At its regular meeting on December 19, 2012, the Board will vote on a motion to remove this section.

THE INNER FLAME

from Rev Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

To be great, be whole: don't exaggerate
or leave out any part of you.

Be complete in each thing. Put all you are
into the least of your acts.

As in each lake the whole moon shines
with its lofty light. **Fernando Pessoa, 1933**

CHURCH NEWS (continued from page 1)

All Soles Contra Dance Friday, December 14, 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of contra dancing, an American folk dance tracing its roots to English dancing in the 1600's. No experience needed — some moves will be familiar to square dancers — all dances are walked-through and then prompted by the caller. **Full Moon Country Dance Orchestra** of Oxford will play old-time music, with calling by **Frank Buschermann** of Cincinnati. All ages welcome, with childcare provided for the very youngest. No partner needed; by the end of the evening you will have danced with everyone in the room. This is a warm, welcoming way to enjoy community (and great exercise!). You'll get to know folks from First UU plus the wider contra dance community. Beginners' session at 7:30; dancing from 8-10:30. \$7 (\$4 for ages 12-24).

Musicians and singers, both amateurs and pros, are needed to play for labyrinth walks during our hosting of the labyrinth, December 26 through January 1. Daytime or evening times available. Youth are encouraged to participate. Sign up now so we can publish the list by December 20. Contact Tina Thonnings, 614-436-2902, ktgratitude@yahoo.com.



Google Docs

Volunteer needed. Are you a frequent user of **Google Drive and Docs**? Would you be willing to help First UU set up our accounts? Please contact Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946, ext. 25.



UU Animal Ministry meets every second Tuesday of the month, at 7pm, Room 8. The next meeting will be held December 11.

Make a pledge to not consume flesh on Mondays and you will be included in a drawing for prizes. And, your name will be in our newsletter. Stop by the Animal Ministry table on December 16, to get a coupon for 50% off a second serving of ice cream or yogurt at the Groovy Spoon, which has soy-based yogurt. To date, we have 46 pledges, of which 12 are vegan. Italian, Asian, Mexican and Indian foods provide many options. And then there's American mac and cheese. Ask any Animal Ministry member for ideas. And visit us on Facebook at UUAM. Send your pledge to rick94037@yahoo.com.

PFLAG Author Visit and Dessert Fundraiser, Sunday, December 9, 2-4pm. Alexis Wilson will discuss her book, *Not So Black and White*. \$10 donation. For a \$30 donation, you can receive a signed copy of her book. Call Barbara Byrd, 614-262-9070, for more information

Parents of Infants and Toddlers The next meeting is on Saturday, December 8, from 11am to 1pm. Contact Nancy Powlick for more information. lpowlick@columbus.rr.com.

Women's Spirituality meets Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9pm.
December 5 Birthdays, poetry, and sharings
December 12 Holiday readings
December 23 Let there be light (Winter Solstice)
December 30 We talk about new beginnings
December's theme is *Let There Be Light and Celebrations*. Contact Jeanni Ray, 614-985-6176, jeanniray@gmail.com.

Entertainment Books Full of discounts for local restaurants, Columbus Ballet, Columbus Chamber Music group, Capital University and Ohio State University sporting events, Cincinnati Reds, retail stores, fast food places, and more. \$30, of which \$6 goes to First UU's Coming of Age youth group. Karin Erickson, 834-3988.

UU Elevator speech

“UU is an approach to human life that emphasizes humans' capacity for *doing together*. UUs view humans as learning agents who are [1] capable of working together to remedy the confounding moral challenges that they seem inclined to inflict upon each other and Spaceship Earth, [2] responsible, each to self and to the others, for allocating life, time, energy towards attending to such challenges, and [3] supportive of each other in such efforts.”

—Bob Letcher

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

FOCUUS, First UU's **campus ministry group**, meets every Sunday (except the last Sunday of the month, when is when it meets at First UU for Soulful Sundown) at 7pm at University Baptist Church, 50 W. Lane Ave, near OSU. Contact Chaplain Ben Iten, theitens@gmail.com, 329-2915, for information.



Soulful Sundown

Sunday, December 30, 5:30pm.

Join us for a dynamic, interactive, contemporary service in Fellowship Hall. Drinks and snacks will follow.

Contact Ben Iten, theitens@gmail.com,
614-329-2915, with questions.

OHIO MEADVILLE DISTRICT

Ohio Meadville District's Chalice Lighter's program is an opportunity to support UU congregations who want to make a larger impact in their community, by making improvements in their building, hiring staff, or extending the reach of the UU message in their community. An OMD Chalice Lighter is an *individual* who pledges to respond with a minimum of a \$10 contribution when the call comes. There is a maximum of four "calls" per year. First UU was the recipient of a grant last year to start the OSU Campus Ministry Program. The current call is to help congregations whose buildings were damaged by Hurricane Sandy, or who are helping those most affected.

Please consider becoming a Chalice Lighter. The District website is www.ohiomeadville.org/challight. Or contact Rev. Kathleen Fowler, kathleenclarkfowler@gmail.com.

UU Justice Ohio Network (UUJO) facilitates collaboration between our congregations as well as partnerships with other Ohio social justice organizations promoting social, economic, environmental and racial justice that fosters the dignity of all, through education and by organizing concrete action and public witness with and on behalf of marginalized groups and individuals. Individuals may register at <https://ohiomeadville.wufoo.com/forms/m7m4m7> to receive periodic news updates, to identify issues of interest, and to volunteer time. All Ohio congregations have also been asked to join by designating an individual liaison to register at <https://ohiomeadville.wufoo.com/forms/m7m4m7>. For more information, visit the UUJO website at <http://ohiomeadville.org/uujo/>.

A big Thank You from the "Flying Spaghetti Monster Spaghetti Benefit Dinner" team!

We would like to express our gratitude to the church community for its enthusiastic support of this interfaith fundraiser on behalf of the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, co-sponsored by the First UU Atheists/Agnostics/Skeptics group and Columbus area humanist, secular, and skeptic groups. We raised about \$1800 and gathered 360 pounds of donations to help feed the hungry in Central Ohio. There were many church members among the over 170 folks who attended the dinner: thank you in particular, and an especially big thank you to the 35 volunteers who participated. With this level of support from the church community, we shall continue to collaborate with local humanist, secular, and skeptic groups to do good, help communities, and pursue social justice regardless of religious affiliation or the lack thereof.

FIRST UU MUSIC

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Holiday Concert of the Choirs December 16, 4:00 pm. Peace Pals and Rising Voices will present unique pieces, among them *Japanese Snow Song*, *Starry Night of Winter*, and *Gonna Catch That Santa*. They'll combine with Spirit of Life Choir for *Candlelight Silent Night*. Spirit of Life will sing classics, including *Little Drummer Boy* and a fun, jazzy version of *Jingle Bells*. Chalice Choir will sing works from four musical periods: Charpentier (Baroque); Haydn (Classical); Mendelssohn (Romantic) and Pinkham (20th century). Some pieces will be accompanied by a small orchestra of many of our fine UU musicians. The Pinkham Christmas Cantata will be accompanied by brass. There will be a reception, hosted by members of Program Council. There is no admission and, once again, it promises to be a full house.

As in past years, we've been invited to participate in the **Messiah Sing-along** put on by ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, on Friday, December 14, 7:30 pm, at the Southern Theater. It's a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, singing through the choruses of Handel's famous oratorio, accompanied by a professional orchestra. Open to anyone in the church. If interested, please let me know immediately at musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org. The deadline for free tickets is Friday, December 7.

We've also been invited to participate in the **chorus that sings for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast**, Monday, January 21, at the Convention Center downtown. Open to anyone in the church, not just choir members. Contact me at the above address if you would like to join in this chorus and/or see the complete rehearsal schedule. The first two rehearsals are Monday, December 3 and 17 at Trinity Baptist Church, 461 St. Clair Avenue & E.A. Parham Street.

Church members will be **caroling for our seniors** in assisted living situations Wednesday, December 19, starting at 6:00 pm. Please be at the church then for warmup; we'll carpool from there. Open to all, not just choir members. If you haven't caroled with us before, please consider it. It's a heartwarming experience.

Thanksgiving I'd like to thank the people who made our first ever Halloween Campfire Sing-along on October 26 a success. Alison Katz spent all night anchoring the kitchen food preparation, with help from Deb Boyd and Kelly Rothert, and cleanup from Mark Merchant, who thought up the whole idea. Thanks to Cath Saveson and Leigh Mamlin for leading the singing, and to Debbie Shaw for scary ghost stories. We simply cannot do events without outstanding volunteers like these.

Happy Holidays everyone.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)

Care Share Time Banks monthly meeting and potluck, and date change. This month's meeting will feature David Krohn, who'll be teaching simple electrical repair techniques. We'll be meeting in Fellowship Hall this Sunday, December 9, a departure from our typical third Sundays, due to the Choirs Concert next weekend. See you from 6:30 to 8:30 to share delicious food, learn from one another, and earn time from attending the meeting. Questions? Contact Michael Greenman, mgreenmanoh@gmail.com.

Feed My Sheep Food Pantry News Thanks to all who donated for Thanksgiving. We reached our goal of 150 turkeys. Special thanks to Marla McMichael-Liston, Barb Fisher, and Gary Miller and Moriah Miller-Gnann for help with transportation. Rev. Ogburn and the recipients of the turkeys send a great big thanks!

We are now collecting for hams and Christmas food boxes. We also have a list of 17 children who need to be sponsored for Christmas presents.

We also need: canned stew and chunky soup, peanut butter, dried pinto beans, canned meat, coats, scarves, gloves, mittens, blankets, and children's books.

We are still collecting aluminum beverage cans, soda and beer only. Bring your donations to the Social Justice table in Fellowship Hall.

If you know anyone who needs help with food or anything else, please contact Jacques at the Social Justice Table after Sunday service. Complete confidentiality is honored.



Fair Trade Table

The next fair trade sale will be Sunday, December 16. Fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil, almonds, and hand-made Indian wrapping paper will be on sale following both services in Fellowship Hall. Great for holiday gift baskets!

Please note we are in need of volunteers to keep this a once-monthly activity. To volunteer, please email Barbara Taylor (btaylor1787@gmail.com) or sign up at our table. Thank you for your support of fair trade!



Our congregation was a founding member of BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity, www.breadcolumbus.org), the Central Ohio interfaith community organization that works with and holds accountable the powerbrokers of the community to solve local problems of injustice.

One of those problems is access to primary health care. As a result of the BREAD Healthcare Committee's recent efforts and the annual BREAD Nehemiah Action, "patient navigators" have been assigned to the East Central, Lower Lights Christian, and Capital Park Community Health Centers. By November they had identified and screened 50 Medicaid patients who had been using the Emergency Room to "treat" conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes and enrolled them in an intensive case management program to help improve those conditions. Similar initiatives have improved health and saved millions of dollars in Milwaukee, Cleveland, and Camden.

BREAD expects that more than 100 will be enrolled in this program by December. Exciting progress, but just a beginning! BREAD is continuing its work to hold our local healthcare system accountable for the health of people in our community.

For additional information about BREAD, the problems it is/will be addressing, and/or to get involved, contact Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, alice37@insight.rr.com.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Seth Kraut** and his wife **Rachel Green** on the birth of Molly Amanda Kraut, October 29.

Happy Birthday to **Vera Toran**, who celebrates her 92nd birthday on November 28.

Condolences to **Terry LeMaster**, whose mother Alice Myrtle LeMaster died early Thanksgiving morning, and to **David MacDonald**, whose great nephew Henry Defala died last week.

Congratulations to **Suzan McCrystal**, who will celebrate her ordination into the ministry of Unitarian Universalism. She was ordained on December 5, 2009.

Our thoughts are with **Helga Muladore**, who is receiving rehab at the Laurels of Norworth following surgery on her leg, and **Mary McMichael-Liston**, who had emergency surgery November 29.

Our sympathy goes out to **Donna Jarrell**, whose mother passed away last week.

AUCTION CORNER

Danya Furda, Auction Chair



Donations, donations, donations! We need donations of all sorts – vacation lodging, dinners, services, items, etc. - to make our auction successful on **February 16, 2013**. Please enter your auction donations online at <http://firstuucolumbus.org/auction> or see us at the auction table in Fellowship Hall after the services and fill out a paper donation form. We also have auction gift certificates for purchase which make a great holiday gift or gift of appreciation for service!

This Discoverer's featured auction item is: **Napa Valley Wine Country Tour Package for Two or Four** donated by the UU Fellowship of North Bay, California. Enjoy three nights lodging with two days touring in beautiful Napa Valley, California. You arrange the dates anytime between April 2012 and October 2012. Accommodations for up to four people at once, touring together but with different couples staying in different UU Fellowship homes. Both homes have guest rooms with private baths. Your UU Fellowship guides will tailor a two day excursion to your interests. Package bidding begins at \$595 per two people and includes three nights lodging, three breakfasts, one picnic lunch, tour guides (some in the wine industry), all transportation between arrival in and departure from Napa, California, plus magazines, brochures and event listing for the area. See the auction table for more information and a flyer. Questions about the auction, contact Danya Furda at dfurda@gmail.com or (614) 471-3786.

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Stephanie Rottmayer, Director

At SYC, we are proud that our early childhood program has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children since 1987! NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. To achieve accreditation, programs volunteer to be measured against the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Only about eight percent of U.S. preschools are currently accredited.

This year, we are going through the re-accreditation process once again. We have been preparing for the last year by collecting evidence to show that our program meets over 400 criteria within 10 standards. The NAEYC assessor was here last week for two days to go over our evidence and observe our program.

If we pass the on-site visit, we will become re-accredited for a five year period. Throughout the five-year term of accreditation, we must submit annual reports and are subject to random, unannounced visits by assessors to ensure that we continue to meet the standards.

All in all, this process is very detailed and time-consuming but we are excited to be able to document exactly how children learn through play in our program.

NAEYC's 10 Standards:

1. Promote **positive relationships** for all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth.
2. Implement a **curriculum** that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
3. Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate **effective teaching approaches**.
4. Provide **ongoing assessments** of a child's learning and development and communicate the child's progress to the family.
5. Promote the **nutrition and health** of children and protect children and staff from injury and illness.
6. Employ a **teaching staff** that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development, and to support families' diverse needs and interests.
7. Establish and maintain **collaborative relationships** with each child's **family**.
8. Establish relationships with and use the resources of the **community** to support the achievement of program goals.
9. Provide a safe and healthy **physical environment**.
10. Implement strong personnel, fiscal, and **program management** policies so that all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES

Jolinda Stephens, Religious Education Director

Our Sexuality Classes

As a religious educator, I have always been grateful for our OWL (Our Whole Lives) classes, the values-based comprehensive sexuality education classes developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ together and offered by our two denominations and by Planned Parenthood and colleges. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore together how we live our UU values in the real world, using one of the most complex aspects of our lives - our sexuality and our intimate relationships.

This year, however, my appreciation has grown greatly. This year, I'm co-leading the 8th Grade OWL class with George Byrd, Lou Bernard and Megan Garbe. This weekend, we went into retreat with eight hours of concentration on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. For six hours on Saturday, we did lecture and exercises on those themes plus a pizza party, a funny movie on the theme, and a wonderful half hour with Rev. Mark.

On Sunday morning, we returned to listen to an 11-member panel, covering much of the sexuality spectrums. It was a rich and engaging experience as we heard how the theory we learned the day before was lived in the real world. George Byrd put together that extraordinary panel, and I want to thank him and the 11 panelists who gave up their Sunday morning to spend it with us. And, I want you all to know how thoughtful and mature the youth are in the class. They truly reflect on their lives and on the relationships.

OWL classes for the first grade and for the fifth and sixth grade begin in January. Mandatory orientation is Saturday, January 5, 10 am. OWL classes for adults 35 and younger begin on January 27. Register for adult OWL at bit.ly/qdhKqH.

Jolinda



Playground Rules

We have had problems the last few weeks with riding toys being removed from the sheds on Sunday morning. The riding toys are for SYC only and are not to be used on Sundays. They are designed for young children. There are balls in those sheds which everyone is welcome to use, but everything removed from the shed must be returned.

No child is to use the playground unsupervised. If your children want to play outdoors before or after Sunday School, an adult must be with them.

Don't Miss the 2nd Annual Yule Ball with Kate Power and Live Music Fri, Dec. 7

Remember the Yule Ball from the fourth Harry Potter Book? Get your Hogwarts gear together or come in your holiday finest. Bring the whole family 6:30 Friday December 7, for fun at Honeydukes, featuring making decorations, learning about child slavery in the chocolate industry, contra dancing, and goodies made with Fair Trade chocolate. Sponsors are the Harry Potter club Enlightened Hippogriffs, the Fair Trade project of JAM (Justice Action Ministry), the Social Committee, and All Soles Contra Dance.

Create a skit for the Christmas Eve Family Service. This year, it will be "How the Unitarians Saved Christmas." The three skits, titled "Gifts," "Food," and "Family," will update the Christmas scenes from the book *Little Women* to explore how these themes resonate in a post modern world. You will receive a paragraph description of the scene that your group will use as a basis for your improvisation. To volunteer, please contact either Jolinda or Rev. Eric.

General Assembly Seeks 14 to 35 Year Olds For Worship Music and Dance

Our annual gathering of UUs from the U.S. takes place June 19 to 23 in Louisville, KY. The band and music leaders are seeking younger musicians, vocal and instrumental, as well as liturgical dancers to take part in one or more of the nine worship services as members of choirs, bands, and dance troupes. More information and the application process can be found at <http://uua.org/ga/programming/277496.shtml>. The call for applicants includes all ages, and they are making a special effort to encourage younger applicants.

We are a congregation rich in talent, and Louisville is within driving distance. Please spread the word to talented UUs. There are scholarships available, some earmarked specifically for those 35 and younger. Let's have a great First UU representation in the GA music this year.

High School Transylvania Pilgrimage Meeting December 9, 1pm

Be a part of this exciting trip to our Unitarian roots and to Bölön, our Partner Church. You'll hang out with the Bölön Youth Group, learn some Hungarian, experience a festival that dates back to the 16th century, see UUism in a more universal framework, and understand the world more completely. For details, call Rev. Eric (ext 23) or Jolinda (ext 28).

Deadline for commitment: December 31.

Dinner with the Ministers for High School Seniors starts Sunday, January 12, at 5 pm. The first dinner will be hosted by Rev. Mark at his newly-redecorated loft. Cook with Mark and Eric and enjoy a leisurely conversation about life, love and the spirit. Second Sunday evenings. R.S.V.P. at <http://svy.mk/SRsBBX>. Other dinners will be at the church.

Common Read Book Discussion Group on First Fridays, 7:30pm

Join us in reading Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. We discuss a chapter a month, as a part of our First Friday event. (Optional potluck at 6:30.) The book takes on racial profiling, criminalization and mass incarceration of African Americans, and demonstrates that in the last few decades,

America has created a new racial caste system through our criminal justice system. Register at <http://bit.ly/qdhKqH>.

New Sunday School Leaders Needed

Some of our leaders will be shifting to OWL and one got an exciting job in New York, and another is moving to another university for a semester. Whether you're new to Sunday School, or an experienced Sunday School pro, or a youth wanting something more in your church experience, join us in our life changing work. Time commitment is no more than twice per month. Volunteer at the Sunday School Table or contact Jolinda.

One More Coordinator to promote/organize Guest Chef Cooking Classes. Recent immigrants will teach us to make a meal from their home country, then we'll enjoy the meal together. We already have two coordinators ready to go. Contact Jolinda Stephens, jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org.

Parents, Infants and Toddlers Meets at 11 on December 8. Contact Nancy Powlick for more information. lpowlick@columbus.rr.com.

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Minister Affiliated
Rev. Suzan McCrystal, Minister Affiliated
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Don Hippensteel, Sexton
Beth Jewell, Chair, Board of Trustees

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CALENDAR December 5 - 18, 2012

Wednesday, December 5

- 1:00pm Archives Organizing
- 5:00pm Campfire Girls & Boys
- 5:30pm Move to Amend Task Force
- 7:00pm Membership Committee
- 7:00pm Building & Grounds Committee
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality; Men's Spirituality

Thursday, December 6

- 9:30am Improvisational Dance
- 11:00am Hispanohablantes Aspirantes
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do
- 7:30pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 7

- 12:00pm Cooking for Faith Mission
- 6:30pm First Friday Potluck
- 7:30pm Multicultural Families Meeting
- 7:30pm Common Read Discussion Group
- 7:30pm The Yule Ball

Saturday, December 8

- 8:30am Zen Meditation
- 9:45am Zen Meditation Orientation
- 11:00am Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Sunday, December 9

- 9:15am & 11:00am Worship Service
- 10:30am & 12:15pm Getting to Know UU
- 10:30am Dance Choir
- 12:30pm Enlightened Hippogriffs
- 1:00pm Auction Committee; Green Team
- 1:00pm Committee on Shared Ministry
- 2:00pm PFLAG Author Visit and Dessert
- 3:00pm Wellspring
- 5:00pm High School Senior Group
- 6:30pm Time Bank Potluck Meeting
- 7:00pm FOCUUS (OSU area)

Monday, December 10

- 7:00pm UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00pm Adult Enrichment Committee
- 7:30pm Healing Journey

Tuesday, December 11

- 9:30am Archives Organizing
- 1:00pm Cancer Support Group
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do
- 6:30pm Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Feminism 3.0; Personnel Committee
- 7:00pm UU Animal Ministry; Social Committee

(continued next column)

- 7:00pm This Month in Science
- 7:00pm Zen Meditation
- 7:00pm Rising Voices Choir
- 7:45pm Zen Discussion; Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, December 12

- 7:00pm Small Group Ministry Steering Team
- 7:00pm Memoir Writing; Executive Committee
- 7:30pm Women's Spirituality; Men's Spirituality

Thursday, December 13

- 9:30am Improvisational Dance
- 11:00am Hispanohablantes Aspirantes
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do
- 7:00pm Expressive Collage
- 7:30pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 14

- 7:30pm All Soles Contra Dance

Saturday, December 15

- 8:30am Zen Meditation
- 11:00am Sound Team
- 11:30am Dance Your Way
- 2:00pm Move to Amend

Sunday, December 16

- 9:15am & 11:00am Worship Service
- 10:30am & 12:15pm Getting to Know UU
- 12:30pm Strategic Planning
- 1:00pm Auction Committee; Youth Group
- 4:00pm Holidays Choirs Concert
- 6:30pm Young Adult Covenant Group
- 7:00pm FOCUUS (OSU area)

Monday, December 17

- 7:00pm UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00pm Justice Action Ministry

Tuesday, December 18

- 9:30am Archives Organizing
- 9:30am Newsletter Folding
- 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do
- 7:00pm Stewardship Committee
- 7:00pm Zen Meditation
- 7:00pm Book Bites
- 7:30pm Finance Committee

Next newsletter deadline: Sunday, December 16.

Please send articles to office@firstuucolumbus.org, or leave them in the newsletter mailbox in the workroom.



The
DISCOVERER
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WORSHIP SERVICES

Theme for December: Peace in the Heart, in the World

December 9, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“What Would World Peace Really Look Like?”

December 16, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Deadlines, Clarity and Peace”

December 23, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Intergenerational Celebration: Illuminations

December 24, 2012

5 PM Family Christmas Celebration

Rev. Eric Meter, Jolinda Stephens

10 PM Christmas Evensong

Rev. Mark Belletini

December 30, 2012, *only one service*, at 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

► Hearing assisted devices, large print hymnals, and a few copies (in large print) of the Sunday readings and sermon are available at the rear of the Worship Center. Copies of CDs of our worship services will become available for sale at the bookstore. Audio and text of recent services can also be found on the church website.