

The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, May, 2014

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

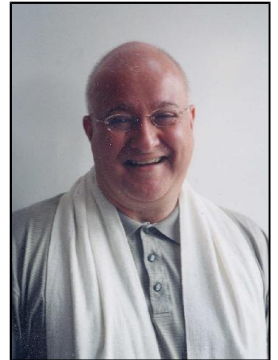
To relinquish the safety of our unexamined privilege for the freedom to engage in transforming justice

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

By the time you get this, I will be winging my way back from Tulsa, Oklahoma and my Beyond the Call preaching and worship group. One more retreat to go, in August, and then we will be finished with a two-year program. It's been intense.

I am trying to finish my book on grief by the end of April. Mary Benard, my delightful editor, wanted more, not less. Enlarged chapters. And the week after Easter I'll be busy with that, and writing the words that I will be using at General Assembly during a worship celebration there during a plenary session. These days I feel like a writer more than a congregational minister, but then I realize how much writing is involved in every Sunday Celebration, from opening words, to the meditations, prayers and the sermon. How, I wonder, did my ministerial ancestors accomplish all of their writing without a computer? It boggles the mind. I can correct and erase instantly on my computer, complain about it though I sometimes do. Did Emerson just wad up his papers when the mistakes were rife, and start over? At least when I started my ministry back in 1979, I had an IBM Selectric, the closest thing to a computer back then. And I got to be pretty good with the old "Correcto-type"! I wonder what a UU service will look like fifty years from now, when the technology will probably change in ways we can't begin to imagine.



I really want to thank all the folks who came out for clean-up day. The place looks spectacular. It was hard work, but the turnout was pretty great, which spread the work among a larger number. And I want to thank all the folks who helped with the *seder*, some of them quite impromptu. We had more people than ever before, almost half again as we had last year. I think next year we will organize for such a large number of folks in a different way, but my goodness, it was a rich experience...almost one quarter of the congregation was there. Tim Hooks crafted a menu that dazzled, and there were many first-time attendees. I, for one, wonder how anyone gets through the spring without a *seder*, but then, I have not missed one in many, many decades, and the relaxed ritual is a big part of my heritage.

I am still trying to figure out what to do this summer when I take a few weeks of vacation. I have a hankering to travel, that's for sure. I have a wedding of my good friends Matthew Nelson and Kip Beardsley out in Portland, Oregon, and I have not seen my friends in California for almost two years now. But I have a friend in Bucuresti that I'd like to visit too, and I find that, now that it's just my sister and me, I want to visit the family villages in Emilia, Fanano and Sestola. Who knows? Maybe some of this will have to wait until my retirement.

In May, I look forward to the lilacs blossoming. Especially the lilac trees just northwest of our meeting house, planted graciously by members of this congregation in memory of my dear mother, Elisa.

My blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark".

Mark

See *THE INNER FLAME* on page 6.

May, 2014

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Easter being what it is, I found myself with a rare Sunday free of afternoon program commitments. There was no Path to Membership class, no Pastoral Team meeting, or Coming of Age planning session or Covenant Group Steering Team meeting. Which meant there was time for more than 30 second conversations with folks who wanted to talk. Which, I have to say, felt a bit heavenly.

One particular conversation still resonates with me. I was talking with someone whose parents are needing more care. As spread out as our families have become, as we have to work longer and longer hours to feed the appetites of the 1% (or in hopeless emulation of them), these conversations have become more and more frequent and increasingly heartbreaking. In far too many ways, we're just not a society set up to care for one another any more.



The person I was talking with lifted up their experience with their parents' church, saying, in effect, "There's no one for us to reach out to at their church. It's all about looking good at that place. There's no support for the real issues of our lives." Ouch.

And here we were, having a conversation, working out a possible way forward, trying to resolve a very real issue in the life of this family.

Now, I'll be the first one to say that I don't have a crystal ball. I don't know if the plan we began to outline will work at all, or what obstacles the family will face in the weeks and months to come. And I certainly know that we can't meet every need. Yet, I also know that attention matters greatly, and that our congregation is as vital as it is because folks here take the time to listen to one another's hopes and needs. And it is just this kind of attention that fosters trust in each other.

Some days I wish I could simply hold up a mirror to show you how precious the spirit of this community is. To those of you who know you are a part of that spirit, thank you. My guess is that you give far more than you know. And to those who would like to be more fully a part of it, please let us know. Drop me a line, or find someone who seems to be in the thick of things during coffee hour, and introduce yourself.

As active as we tend to be around First UU, this can be a daunting prospect. This is why we assign mentors to each of our Path to Membership classes. The secret to all this, which I was gratefully reminded of recently by the sages who teach in our School for Young Children, is that none of us has to go it alone.

So, in conclusion, thank you. Thank you also to all of you who have contributed to the congregation's Annual Pledge Drive. This community is what it is because of your generosity. I hope you'll join me in giving what you can – pledges that are both meaningful and manageable. Again, none of us has to go it alone. Together, well that's a whole different ball game.

See you at church,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric".

Eric

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

Lane Campbell, 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

Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist

Karen Madden, Choir Director

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator

Marian Garcia, Office Manager

Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper

Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant

Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant

Don Hippensteel, Sexton

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kitty Jones, Chair

Moving forward! That seems to be the theme for this spring.

We have a beautiful new roof that is lighter in color and more reflective; thereby saving us money on our cooling costs...a first step in our quest to be more "green."

The Board is considering the amount of funds raised during the Green and Growing capital campaign and how best to move forward with the rest of the projects we voted on last June. A presentation on this important issue will be made at the Annual Meeting on June 8.

The annual budget drive, Growing! Together, is moving forward with a wonderful display in the back hallway, and meaningful stories about what our community means to us, and how our yearly gifts impact the life of the church. Candidates for the Board and Leadership Development Committee are being secured. Information about these folks will be going out soon so that voting can take place at the annual meeting. Thanks to all who have stepped up to serve in this capacity, and to the hard-working Leadership Development Committee for finding them!

It is also time to start thinking about transitions. Mark gave us the gift of time when he announced earlier this church year that he would be retiring in June of next year. The Board has been considering plans of action with the help of the UUA Transitions Office, and with our CERG representatives, Joan Van Becelaere and Lynn Kerr. Their thoughtful recommendations and the Board's work on this subject will also be on the agenda on June 8. The theme, then, is not only moving forward, but also putting June 8 on your calendar. More will be coming on all of these issues so that our June meeting will be productive, thorough and meaningful.

Looking forward to seeing ALL of you there!

Kitty Durham Jones – Board Chair

kathleenjones@columbus.rr.com

614-266-4494

\$ NOTES FROM THE TREASURER \$

Judy Kleen, Treasurer

First UU Financial Facts:

For fiscal year 2014 that ends June 30, we have 459 pledging units pledging \$701,562. Pledges make up 84% of our budget. Through March these folks have paid \$518,318 and we expect to still receive the remaining \$183,244 by the end of June.

Through March we have a net profit of \$14,715. We have worked very hard to improve our financial position this year. Last fiscal year we lost \$30,832. We hope that we will continue to show a profit for the year to help offset last year's loss.

Your timely pledge payments make all the difference!

What do our donations pay for? Salaries and benefits of our ministers and staff make up 68% of our budget; mortgage and facility costs make up 17%; fair share denominational support is 6%. The remaining 9% of our budget supports our religious education program, our justice action ministry, our music program, our committee programs, as well as our office and administrative expenses.

Who makes up this budget? Finance Committee prepares a budget based on the results of the pledge drive, our recurring expenses, and the priorities established by the Board that reflect our mission. We have far more visionary opportunities than we have funds available to allocate. The budget will be presented and approved at the annual meeting in June. By constitution it must be a balanced budget.

If you have questions or comments about the budget or any financial aspect of the church, please feel free to call me at 614-326-0278, or email me at judykleen@gmail.com.

AUCTION CORNER

Danya Furda, Chair

Save the Date! Our 2014 church auction - **SPOOK-A-PALOOZA, A Devil of a Fundraiser** - will be **Saturday, October 25 from 5 pm - 9:30 pm**. We hope you will plan to come in costume for our Halloween-themed auction. We want you to be aware of a few changes that we will be making. Our goal is to move gradually toward being more of a service auction. The types of donations that do well in the church auction are: any kind of meals (whether they be dinners, lunches, brunches, picnics, barbecues), any kind of service (pet sitting, window washing, computer help), vacations, lodging, excursions, concert or sports tickets, fellowship or social activities, game nights, movie nights, cooking or craft classes, gift baskets, handcrafted items, valuable art or antiques and special jewelry. Physical items will require a minimum bid of \$15, and non-physical items will start at \$10.

Missing Tablecloths – Please help us locate them! The Auction Committee is missing five of its round black tablecloths used for dinner in the Worship Center. Please check your closets, laundry baskets, etc. for two black tablecloths measuring 108 inches in diameter and three black tablecloths measuring 90 inches in diameter. We would be so grateful to have them back! If you find them, please contact Danya Furda, dfurda@gmail.com, or 614-471-3786.

FIRST UU MUSIC

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Our musical season ends with a flourish on two big Sundays in May. The **Spring Choral Concert** will be on **Sunday, May 18 at 3:00 pm**. The concert, entitled “Three Spring Splashes,” will include three of our choral ensembles: Peace Pals will present *How Was Your Day?*, Spirit of Life will sing music of *Americana*, and Chalice Choir will perform *Choral Classics*. There is no admission charge, and child care will be available.

Peace Pals are hard at work preparing *How Was Your Day?*, a set of songs from a larger cantata entitled *A Day in the Life of Me* by Mark Burrows. It's music about the big stuff that goes on in their day. From ice cream headaches to lost shoes, and hiccups that just won't go away, they will regale you with the songs and stories of their day.

Spirit of Life gives voice to *Americana*, some of our most beloved American music. Aaron Copland's ballad *Long Time Ago*, several powerful spirituals, and the moving lyrics of the Quaker hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing?* arranged by Gwyneth Walker, will evoke both nostalgia and hope.

Chalice Choir sings *Choral Classics*, a set of timeless and highly-renowned choral music spanning over three centuries. Selections are from works of the great composers: *Laudate Dominum* by Mozart, *Lobet den Herrn* by J.S. Bach, *Bogoroditse Devo* by Rachmaninoff, *How Lovely are the Messengers* by Mendelssohn, *Ching-A-Ring Chaw* by Copland, and *Three Madrigals* from Shakespeare by Emma Lou Diemer.

Rising Voices will not be part of this concert because of a scheduling conflict with a CON (youth conference). Instead, they will present their portion of “spring splashes” a week earlier, during both services on **Sunday, May 11**. They will be singing a fabulous set of 1960s music for the youth-led services that day, including *Turn, Turn, Turn* by Pete Seeger (made popular by the Byrds), *Put a Little Love in Your Heart* by Jackie De Shannon, and *Here Comes the Sun* and *Yellow Submarine* by The Beatles.

That will be a big day, because the **A Cappella Choir of Bowling Green State University**, directed by Mark Munson, will perform a program of sacred and secular choral music at First UU later that same day, **Sunday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.** The sacred portion of the program will feature a variety of styles, ranging from a 16th century English anthem to a contemporary setting of *Cantate Domino* by Lithuanian composer Vytautas Miskinis, to an African-American spiritual and a gospel song. Secular pieces will include Norman Dello Joio's well-known *A Jubilant Song*, as well as a light-hearted arrangement of a Shaker dance. The A Cappella Choir consists of 30 singers who are primarily music majors. Although there will be no charge for admission, a freewill offering will be taken to help defray the expenses of the choir.

CHURCH NEWS

Members are invited to consider leading a summer service here at First UU. This summer's theme is *Green and Growing*, and we want to hear a variety of voices! We have a list of topic ideas and suggestions, on the Proposal Form. If you are interested, proposal forms are available in the Worship Committee's mailbox or by emailing Gina Phillips at ginaphillips224@att.net.

Green and Growing...it's happening! The preschool wing of the building has been outfitted with on-demand water heaters. The church's main water heater had rusted out and we took the opportunity to replace it with a more energy-efficient alternative that we have been talking about since 2005. The new water heaters only use energy when the faucet is open and, being right at the point of use, there is no need to heat up 100 feet of pipe before the water runs warm. Also, these are institutional-style water heaters, which have a thermal shut-off, so that the water will never exceed 103 degrees – no child will ever be scalded.

This is just one example of the many opportunities we will have in the next few years to show our commitment to reducing our impact on the planet that sustains us. If you want to learn more about why going green is important morally as well as practically, check out the summary of the latest report from the International Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.climatechange2013.org>

Climate change, caused by human-induced global warming, coupled with unsustainable resource consumption, has the very real potential for collapsing human civilization. While the threat is real, we have the chance to express both our values and have a positive impact on the world by the choices we make.

Tom Baillieul, Chair, First UU Green Team

First Friday May 2. Potluck at 6:30pm. Family-friendly activities at 7:30. Families with Young Children will meet in the Toddler Room. Contact Cara Greenberg for information, carasande.greenberg@gmail.com.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio's annual meeting will be held at First UU **May 24, 12:00**, with a buffet lunch, business meeting and a program.

Vanessa Niekamp, Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, will speak on *Overview and Challenges for the Funeral Industry*.

To register, call [\(614\) 263-4623](tel:6142634623). No charge; donations are welcome at the door. A 50/50 auction will be held, and copies of *Before I Go You Should Know* will be available. (This booklet helps people prepare funeral planning documents and record their location. For information, contact Jan Waters, FCACO board member, at janwsyc@yahoo.com.)

Muslims for Progressive Values conducts an Islamic Prayer Service every Friday at 1pm at First UU. All Muslims and friends of Islam are invited to participate in this gender-neutral and LGBT-welcoming Jumma Prayer. For information, contact Frank Parmir, frankparmir@yahoo.com, 614-274-7330.

Women's Spirituality Every Wednesday, 7:30 – 9pm.
May 7: birthdays, poetry and sharing
May 14: I remember Mama
May 21: forgotten women
May 28: we talk it over
Contact Jeanni Ray, 985-6176, jeanniray@gmail.com.

First UU Bookstore Book Exchange Sunday, May 11. Bring your unneeded books and exchange for someone else's unneeded books. You may have a book or two left after the rummage sale to swap! No cash required.

Library News A set of six DVDs entitled *Long Strange Trip* has been added to our holdings. The series covers the history of UU thought from the early Christian era to the present. Another DVD, *Two Who Dared: The Sharp's War*, has been donated by Rick Kritzer. These are in the Unitarian Universalist section, ready to be checked out. Also, a set of CDs covering ten years of the Chalice Choir's Sunday musical offerings has been donated to the library, and is ready to be checked out.

The DVD history series has been purchased with funds from the Leona Hollander Library Fund. New books are also obtained through this fund.

Kathleen Boston, Library Team Coordinator

Book Bites Next meeting May 20, in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9 pm. For May, read a "Book that Made You Laugh." Questions? Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

YOUNG ADULTS

Ben Iten, Campus Ministry Chaplain

FOCUUS, First UU's campus ministry group, meets monthly. Also, on the last Sunday of the month at 5pm, the group presents Soulful Sundown services in the Worship Center at First UU. Contact Ben Iten, ben@firstuucolumbus.org.



Soulful Sundown
Sunday, May 25, 5:00pm

Join us for a dynamic, interactive, contemporary service in the Worship Center. Drinks and snacks will follow.

Contact Ben Iten, ben@firstuucolumbus.org,
614-329-2915, with questions.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)

Steve Palm-Houser, Chair



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity, 220-9363, www.facebook.com/breadorganization) is our interfaith social justice organization to hold local officials accountable for serious problems in our community.

BREAD Nehemiah Action

Monday, May 12 – 6:45 pm, doors open: 6:00 pm
Celeste Center (State Fairgrounds)
717 E. 17th Ave, 43211

Carpools from First UU (5:45-6:15 pm)
Childcare for children out of diapers-age 8.

Free tickets: BREAD table after services or your BREAD Justice Ministry Network Member (Why tickets? Not mandatory but facilitate entry, counting attendance by congregation, AND media coverage)

Why come?

- To *live* your values.
- It's only ONE evening out of 365!
- If not you, who? If not now, when? (Rabbi Hillel, modified)

Large numbers = more publicity and greater cooperation by those who can:

- help solve the problem of inadequate access to mental healthcare - over 54,000 in Franklin County have severe, persistent mental illness (SAMSHA, 2012);
- get local law enforcement to accept the Matricula Consular ID, a photo ID more secure than a Mexican passport. Not a driver's license. Now accepted by 14 states, 800 police departments, Bank of America, Fifth Third, PNC, and US Banks;
- implement proven, positive alternatives to out-of-school suspensions for truancy and disruptive behavior.

Why carpool? Parking is free to us; but BREAD pays \$5 per vehicle! However, don't let an inability to carpool stop you from coming! We need at least 300 to represent First UU, and 4,000 total.

Seating: A First UU section will be roped off, but **ONLY** until 6:35 p.m. **Wear** your yellow Standing On the Side of Love T-shirt, if you have one.

Help needed (5:30 p.m., May 12) for:

- Childcare
 - Registration Team to collect/count tickets
 - Floor Team to monitor seating and demeanor
- Contact Alice Rathburn (895-2109, or 563-0536) or the BREAD office (220-9363) to volunteer.

More information, signups for carpools, tickets, and T-shirts (\$17-\$22) at the BREAD table Sundays, April 27, May 4, and May 11, or any BREAD Team member.



Over the years, Unitarian Universalists have been instrumental in overcoming deeply-rooted systems of injustice. Living out spiritual principles through social action, UUs have worked together for the abolition of slavery, women's voting rights, civil rights, and marriage equality.

These national transformations all begin at the local, grassroots level. That's why public advocacy networks have formed in more than a dozen states in the U.S., including California, Washington, Florida, Michigan, and Ohio.

At the Annual Meeting on June 8, the Justice Action Ministry (JAM) at First UU will be asking the congregation to join and support the UU Justice Ohio Network (UUJO).

UUJO works to support public policies that are consistent with key Unitarian Universalist principles:

Promotes social, economic, environmental and racial justice that fosters the dignity of all, the right of conscience, use of the democratic process, liberty and peace.

Organizes concrete action and public witness with marginalized groups and individuals in Ohio.

Between now and June 8, JAM will be sharing more information with you about UUJO. You can also learn more at: <http://ohiomeadville.org/uujo/>



Feed My Sheep Food Pantry needs clothing, blankets, and food (canned meats, peanut butter, dried beans, canned fruits and vegetables). Bring these to church on Sunday, or put them in the bin in the Window Hallway. Questions? call Jacques Angelino, 614-888-8052.

THE INNER FLAME

from Rev. Mark Belletini

This is one of the best portraits of community that I have run across over the years.

A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.

Wendell Berry, *The Long-Legged House* (1969),
"The Loss of the Future"

CARING CORNER

Thank You to many for memorial service receptions:

Close friends, devoted and new volunteers and several young people were among those helping with a host of things, including food contributions, to make our church welcoming to families, friends and members attending memorial services and receptions. My gratitude to all who helped March 31 for Peggy Carr, and April 19 for Kati McGuire. Carole Wilhelm, co-coordinator

Senior Gathering Thursday, May 22, 11am to 1pm.

Eunice Lovejoy, celebrated her 90th birthday April 18, in Prescott, Arizona. **Rev. Carol Brody**, our Minister Emerita, celebrated her 86th birthday on April 20.

Congratulations to **Ryan** and **Sarah Conroy**, who welcomed son Jacob (grandson of **Carol** and **Robert Hughes**), born January 19; and to **Pat Snyder** and **Bill Hurley**, who became engaged recently.

Rich Humenick retired April 30, after 38 years with Chemical Abstracts Service.

Denise Deschenes was hospitalized recently, and **Susan O'Donnell** is recovering from surgery on her ankle.

With great sadness, we announce the recent death of six-year-old **Sasha Vompe**, a former SYC student.

A memorial service for **Kati McGuire** was held on Saturday, April 19, at First UU.

We send sympathy to **Carole Pruiksm**a, whose mother died in Cleveland on April 13, and to **Bob Rice**, whose three-day-old grandson in California died April 10.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

The Leadership Development Committee awards partial scholarships for First UU members to attend events promoting leadership development. If interested, please contact Susan Williams, mudwitch2@gmail.com.

The District's Growing in Racial and Cultural Equity Team is seeking people interested in building intentionally multicultural UU congregations. Contact Evin Carvill-Ziemer (eziemer@uua.org) or Samuel Prince (sprince@coloursofliving.com).

Ohio Meadville District Chalice Lighters(donating at least \$10 per call). The February 2014 call is for North UU in Lewis Center! They need a new audio system to replace a decades-old system. The impact will be felt throughout the greater community as more residents tune in to their website. For more information or to donate, see www.ohiomeadville.org/challight/currentcall or call Rev. Kathleen Fowler, 263-4404.

UU Christian Fellowship Are you interested in finding out more about UU Christianity? Would you like to start a Christian fellowship group in your church? A member of the Cleveland Chapter of the UU Christian Fellowship is available for consultation and support. Contact Rev. Kathleen C. Rolenz at kathleen.rolenz@gmail.com

General Assembly 2014 In Providence, RI, June 25-29. The theme is *Love Reaches Out*. Early Bird deadline is May 1. Ware lecturer is Sister Simone Campbell from the *Nuns on the Bus*. Visit www.uua.org/ga. If you plan to attend, contact Rick Kritzer, rick94037@yahoo.com.

Summer Institute July 13-19. An intergenerational week of fun, learning, networking and music at Oberlin College, with speaker is Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, formerly of *Sweet Honey in the Rock*. \$75 registration fee is waived if you register by June 1. www.omdsi.org

The **OMD UU Young Adult Network** conference (ages 18-35). May 30-June 1, UU Congregation of Erie. See www.ohiomeadville.org. Also OPUS, the continental gathering of young adults, will be on August 12-17, at Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning on Ohio. Details are on the OMD website.

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Stephanie Rottmayer, Director

Children's Playgrounds

The weather is calling us outside to play. Here are a few reminders about using our children's playgrounds.

- Our school playgrounds require adult supervision of all-age children to be safe.
- Please put away the toys before you go. Playgrounds are used as "the outside classroom" at SYC, and it's discouraging for teachers to find them in disorder when they arrive on Monday morning to prepare for school.
- Please don't open the bike shed. The bikes, shovels, rakes, etc. need to be supervised too carefully for general play, and the bikes are designed for 3, 4 and 5-year-olds.
- Each playground was designed for a preschool age group. Some of the equipment is not safe for toddlers and won't properly support older kids, so watch carefully.
- Our playgrounds were designed to accommodate 10-18 children at a time. More bodies than this can cause overcrowding accidents.

All these make using our playgrounds challenging, but we know this community can make it work. You are welcome to play, meet new friends and work together to have fun out there.

Thanks so much for your cooperation!

GROWING AS WE GO

Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Education

It's one of those hymns that stick in my head for weeks. You know the ones—I'm sure you've experienced the same. "We're gonna sit at the welcome table/ We're gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, halleluiah/ We're gonna sit at the welcome table/ Gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days." Once it's sung, it is there for some time.

I'm pondering what it means to provide welcome, especially for all people. This song promises that we all will be at that table, each and every one of us. It's a powerful image born out of a Spiritual, dating back to when Africans were enslaved by white masters, when hope for equality was what got people through very difficult times. It's an image of hope, one many have been working towards for generations. Getting to that table isn't always easy; being welcoming takes effort.

I have seen so much welcoming here at First UU, with people warmly greeted as they enter our building, in the preparation of food or coffee, in a hug to someone. Welcome is important to this church, hospitality is in the first line of our mission statement. And First UU has been such a gift in so many lives, a gift that deserves to be shared.

I'm wondering how we could do better. I'm wondering what it would look like to extend intentional welcome across this entire congregation. To create groups and classes that are welcoming, to create welcome at every entrance to this building, to create welcome that extends through each one of us Sunday morning and beyond. I'm wondering how we can all answer: How do we welcome the stranger? And how do we welcome back the people we have known for years?

It will take effort. And from what I have witnessed, this church is ready and poised to provide hospitality to the greater Columbus area and beyond. This month, Rev. Eric and I are trying something new. We will be offering a New Family Orientation, designed specifically to welcome families into our church. On May 17, we want to invite any families new to the church to join us for a morning of hearing about who you are, sharing a bit about First UU, and honoring our words of welcome and hospitality. Come, sit at this welcome table—a table for all of us, a table where all are welcome.

Lane

Religious Education

Help Support Our Summer Youth Justice Trip...by eating delicious treats! Our youth will be supplying us with baked goods at a bake sale on Sunday, May 4, between and after the services. There will also be an Ice Cream Social, alongside a screening of the movie *The Education of Shelby Knox* on Saturday, May 10 with a \$5-10 suggested donation. Come support this important cause and have fun while doing it!

New Family to First UU? Join us for a New Family Orientation Saturday, May 17, 9am-1pm, hosted by Rev. Eric Meter and Lane Campbell. Learn about First UU, Unitarian Universalism, and what our church can offer your family. Lunch provided, as well as childcare. RSVP to Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Education at lane@firstuucolumbus.org.

Who Wants to Hang Out with Our Little Ones and Their Families? We have a volunteer position to host our Families with Young Children group. Have fun hosting space for them to meet at First UU one Saturday afternoon a month.

Sunday, May 5, **the 9:15 Web of Life class will go to Slate Run Farm.** They invite all elementary-aged families to join! Gather at the farm at 11am for a tour and a picnic. Contact Anne Chunko by April 30, achunko@gmail.com.

Spring Junior & Senior High CON Youth in grade 7 through high school are invited, May 16-18 at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland in Shaker Heights, OH. CONs are weekend-long, fun-filled, worshipful, community-building events where UU youth get together. If you are interested in attending, please contact Katie Swett at kswett@sbcglobal.net.

Last Day of Sunday School Snack Potluck!

Bring a treat to share for our last day of Sunday School on May 18. Kids will enjoy snacks and games together to celebrate the end of our RE year. Please be mindful not to include peanuts or nuts in any of the snacks you bring, as we have allergies. See you there!

Adult Enrichment: What's Your Passion?

Adult Enrichment is currently looking for folks to offer courses here at First UU, where people can grow together and connect. Want to lead a book group? Have an artistic practice or spiritual practice to share? This is your chance to bring your gifts forward and to create better connections with people here in our community. Please contact Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Education with any and all ideas at lane@firstuucolumbus.org.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBUS
Election Candidates
Annual Meeting
June 8, 2014, 12:00

The following members have been placed in nomination for the positions of
Moderator, the Board of Trustees, and the Leadership Development Committee.

Candidates for the Board of Trustees (four to be elected to three-year terms)

Joe Pierce In more ways than I thought possible, I have grown up in the community that is First UU. A graduate of Ohio State, a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and a seminary graduate (M. Div), I have served as a Sunday School teacher (3 years), Pastoral Care Team member and trainer, Worship Committee member (and service coordinator), and preacher (two sermons). My career goal is to be an ordained UU Chaplain serving in the U. S. Armed Forces. I bring unique skills and experiences that will strengthen the fabric of our church.

Debra Boyd Since 2003, I have served a term on our Board of Trustees and on the Ohio-Meadville Board as Secretary and Vice President, as Treasurer of the congregation twice, as Chair of Stewardship Committee, as a Compensation Consultant and a Healthy Congregational Consultant for our District, and am currently serving on the General Assembly Planning Committee. My commitment to Unitarian Universalism and this congregation is reinforced by the work we have done in the past decade around Respectful Relations and our experiment with our Justice Action Ministries.

Carlos Hoyt A UU for over 30 years, I chose to live close to First UU when I moved here in 1996. I met Margaret Allen during coffee hour, and we were married in the church. My grown twins Ben and Nina attended SYC and Sunday School. My youngest daughter, Isabel, is also growing up in the church. I've led the Stewardship campaign, taught Sunday School for six years, and served on the Leadership Development Committee. I recently retired from a 30-year engineering career.

Marge Lynd I have been a member of First UU since 1976. My three daughters grew up in this church, and my first involvement here was religious education. I taught Sunday School, served on the Religious Education Committee, and have been involved in many district youth conferences. I've served in our Social Justice Committee/Justice Action Ministry (JAM), and chaired it for several years. As local representative for UUSC, I hope my experience at OSU (teaching and administration) will be useful to the Board.

Candidate for Moderator (one to be elected to a one-year term)

Tony Skrabak My wife Elaine Fujimura, our daughter Heather and I were active Friends of First UU before we became members in 2003. I have served on the Board of Trustees, including a year as Chair. During that tenure, I was an ex-officio member of Program Council, Governance Documents, RE Council, and Leadership Development Committee. I have served on the Coffee Team and currently lead Getting to Know UU sessions. My professional life involves developing and presenting training to state employees on software applications.

Candidates for Leadership Development Committee (four to be elected to two-year terms)

Christine Raffaele I serve on the Caring and Strategic Planning committees, attended UULTI and Healthy Congregations, and work at the Caring Table. I have a strong interest in organizational development and change. Professionally, I contribute to social justice, assisting with implementing specialized dockets, such as drug courts. I am married with two children, ages eight and five. I am very grateful for acceptance in the First UU spiritual home and family. I am willing to use my best abilities to serve First UU.

Pat Snyder I joined First UU in 2010 because of its spiritual openness and sense of community. My most meaningful volunteer work has included co-facilitating a covenant group, leading laughter exercises, and working with Meaningful Conversations. As a member of LDC, I would draw upon my professional experience coaching organizations and individuals to soar with their strengths. After years of practicing law, I became a coach, founded a local chapter of The Transition Network, and earned a masters degree in applied positive psychology.

Edgel Alley A member of First UU since 1979, I have served on almost every church committee, including the Nominating Committee twice, and served two terms on the Board. I have been a member of the choir, often as a soloist, for most of that time. I am a retired sales manager in the adhesives industry. Part of my responsibility in that position was training distributor personnel in use of my product and salesmanship. I feel these skills are useful in leadership development.

Catherine Saveson A lifelong Unitarian Universalist (grandfather was a Unitarian minister), I've been a First UU member for nine years and an active RE teacher. I helped organize the First UU camping group and Goddesses in Training, and I sang in the Spirit of Life choir for three years, sometimes with my son on my hip. My husband, Rick, and I have been married seventeen years and have two children, ages 14 and nine. I work as a scientific analyst for Chemical Abstracts.

Diana Cook First UU became my family's spiritual home in 2006. In addition to teaching an RE class, I have been involved in RE, the annual budget drive, coffee hour, and several community-building groups. I served on a school board Search Committee for a new principal. I have experience conducting training and workshops on facilitation, consensus-building, skill-set analysis, diversity programs, and constructive communication. My jobs have included components of mentoring, training, and resource development. I love empowering people—watching them fly, once given wings.

Peggy McKee Since 2009, my happily active service to First UU includes: five years Chalice Choir and auction volunteer; two years each Choir Council; auction bake-sale coordinator, and a previous term on the Leadership Development Committee. My leadership experience includes over 20 years in administration at NYU Law School and Cornell University. As an associate director at the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance, I attended a year-long leadership development program. I would be honored to bring my energy and experience to the LDC for a second term.

Wesley Thompson A member of First UU for over ten years, I have been an at-large member of JAM from the beginning, have served on the Membership Committee, and am currently co-chair of the Worship Committee. I have been working for the past 15 years as an independent provider of Medicaid services for children with autism. Recently, I completed a Masters of Arts in Counseling Ministries and a Masters of Divinity with the intention of becoming an ordained minister in the UUA.

Event Calendar, May, 2014

Recurring Events:

- Adult Enrichment Committee: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm
- Archives: Tuesday, 9:30am; 1st & 4th Wednesday, 1pm
- Book Bites: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4th Wednesday, 7pm
- BREAD Team: 3rd Monday, 7pm
- Breakfast: Sunday, 8:45am
- Bridge Group (call 499-2434): 4th Sunday, 6pm
- Building and Grounds: 1st Wednesday, 7pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Sunday, 7pm
- Caring Committee: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- Choirs: Chalice: Thursday 7:30pm; Tuesday: Peace Pals 6:30pm; Rising Voices 7pm; Spirit of Life 7:45pm
- Committee on Shared Ministry: 2nd Sunday, 1pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Creative Open Studio: Monday, 3-5pm
- Dance Your Way: 1st & 3rd Saturday, 11:30am
- Defense Within Our Values: Tuesday & Thursday, 4pm
- Executive Committee: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- Families with Young Children: 2nd Saturday, 11am
- Finance Committee: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- First Friday Potluck/Activities: 1st Friday, 6:30pm
- French Study Group: Saturday, 11am
- Goddesses in Training: 2nd Sunday 1:30pm; 4th Sunday, 6:30pm
- Green Team: 2nd Sunday, 1pm
- Harry Potter Alliance Youth: 4th Thursday, 4pm
- Hispanohablantes: Saturday, 11am
- Improvisational Dance: Thursday, 9:30am
- Justice Action Ministry: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Kaleidoscope Board Meeting: 2nd Monday, 7pm
- Memoir Writing: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Men's Spirituality: Wednesday, 7:30pm
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- Muslims for Progressive Values: Friday, 1pm
- Personnel Committee: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- PFLAG: 4th Sunday, 2pm
- RE Council: 3rd Thursday, 7pm
- RE Teacher Continuing Education: Sundays, 1-3pm
- Small Group Ministry Team: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm
- Soulful Sundown: last Sunday, 5pm
- Stewardship Committee: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- UU Animal Ministry: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Monday, 7pm
- UU Food Co-op: (varying) 4th Wednesday, 9am
- Women's Spirituality: Wednesday, 7:30pm
- Worship Committee: 1st Tuesday, 8pm

- Write-In: 2nd Saturday, 2-5pm; Tuesdays, 3-5pm
- Youth Group: 1st & 3rd Sunday, 1pm
- Zen Meditation: Saturday, 8:30am; Tuesday, 7pm (orientation 2nd Saturday, 8:30am; discussion 2nd Tuesday, 7:45pm)

Friday, May 2

- 6:30pm First Friday Potluck
- 7:30pm Politics and Folk Music with Scott Alarik

Sunday, May 4

- 1:00pm Covenant Group Planning

Monday, May 5

- 7:30pm Program Council

Saturday, May 10

- 7:00pm Justice Trip Ice Cream Social and Movie

Sunday, May 11

- 12:30pm Pastoral Team
- 7:00pm Concert: A Cappella Choir of Bowling Green

Monday, May 12

- 6:15pm BREAD Nehemiah Action (*offsite*)

Saturday, May 17

- 9:00am New Family Orientation (*see page 8*)

Sunday, May 18

- 12:30pm Strategic Planning
- 1:00pm Auction Committee
- 3:00pm Spring Choir Concert (*see page 4*)

Saturday, May 24

- 12:00pm Funeral Consumers Alliance Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 25

- 12:30pm Strategic Planning
- 5:00pm Soulful Sundown (*see page 5*)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June issue of
The Discoverer is Sunday, May 25.

Please send articles to marian@firstuucolumbus.org

The DISCOVERER

May, 2014

Return Service Requested

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>

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WORSHIP SERVICES

May Theme: Community

Sunday, May 4, 9:15am/11am Rev. Mark Belletini
"Community and Solitude"

Sunday, May 11, 9:15am/11am
Youth Led Celebration

Monday, May 12, 6:30pm
Nehemiah Assembly at the Fairgrounds (*see page 6*)

Sunday, May 18, 9:15am/11am Rev. Mark Belletini,
Chaplain Ben Iten

What Determines *How We Do Community?*

3pm: **Spring Choir Concert** (*see page 4*)

10am Services Begin ~ One Service Only

Sunday, May 25, 10am Rev. Mark Belletini
The Largest Community on Earth

Sunday, May 25, 5pm Chaplain Ben Iten
Soulful Sundown (*see page 5*)

Hearing devices, large print materials are available at the rear of the Worship Center. Past sermons can be found on the church website.



As part of our commitment to caring for the Earth (our UU Seventh Principle), this publication has been printed on 100% recycled paper.