

The Discoverer

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

June 2017

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.

JOY

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

I love dogs. I admit it freely. It even runs in the family: we call my mother “Dog Woman” (and she gladly accepts the title). Dogs are drawn to her, probably because she always welcomes them. Aren’t people like that, too? Aren’t we drawn to someone who welcomes us, who offers kind words, food, and a soft place to lie down?

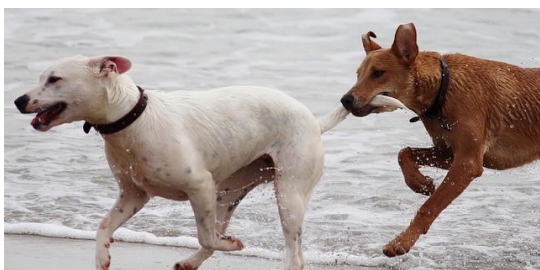
My dog Rosie is solar-charged. On a sunny day she stretches out on the grass and offers herself unabashedly to the Sun God. It’s as if she has a soul-deep knowledge of the wisdom that resonates through her connection with the Earth and sky. People need that, too: the sun’s rays re-stocking our Vitamin D supply, the gentle cradle of the ground; the soft movement of the air. For me, it’s a hammock under the dappled sun-and-shade of the lilacs.



Rosie, like many of us humans, spent a good deal of the winter curled up in soft blankets. She slept late and only grudgingly set foot on icy sidewalks. She didn’t appreciate the uncertain footing or the dangerous snow shovel on the back porch. On this topic we were in complete accord.

But when the door opens to sunlight and squirrels, Rosie leaps off the porch as if she’s been shot out of a cannon, arching over the porch steps and landing with all four legs engaged. She races to the far back as if she’s at last discovered her purpose. And it is, clearly, purpose: the never-ending purpose of playful engagement with life. She trots nose-to-ground so that she doesn’t miss a scent. She cranes her neck to look high into the trees. So much life all around her. And it’s all hers to enjoy.

In June, as we celebrate the beginning of summer with the worship theme of “Joy,” let’s engage life the way a dog does: with a fullness of being, with energy, with appreciation for the blessings that surround us, even in difficult times. Let us find the joy for life that brings a sparkle to the eye, that encourages us to notice and love the world.



Joy. The snow shovel is gone, banished to the garage. Here we are. The Earth is new again, glowing and green. How many days, how many short days, do we have to crane our necks and gaze high into the trees? May we embrace Life with joy and cherish every glorious day that welcomes us.

~ Rev. Jennifer

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

While Rev. Albert Kozma from Transylvania was visiting with us last June (can it only have been a year ago?), he and I spent part of most evenings out on the back deck talking while we watched fireflies put on a nightly display.

Those fireflies were our constant witnesses as our conversations wandered from our congregations to our families to the state of the world.

So, a few nights ago when I saw my first firefly of the season out back, I had to smile and think of Albert.

Joy. Yes, those are joyful memories, even though much of what we spoke about was serious: the ending of marriages, the fragility of Europe, the risks to Unitarianism throughout the world.

When we think of joy we often think of young children at play. Perhaps that's why I keep an eye open for expressions of joy from those who are older. And Albert had certainly not lost his ability to enjoy. From the folk dances Kevin O'Neal took him to, to the cream puffs at Schmidt's in German Village, Albert smiled often during his time with us last year.

When it comes to Joy with a capital J, I keep returning to a short passage from the great E.B. White:

It's hard to know when to respond to the seductiveness of the world and when to respond to its challenge. If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning torn between the desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.

Ah, the dance of life, moving as we do between intention and receptiveness. If there is any question whether living well is more art than science, this answers it for me.

In peace,

~ Rev. Eric



GROWING AS WE GO

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Exploration

Zest For Life

As the summer approaches, I am finding myself more inspired to get outside and go for a walk. After weeks of feeling cooped up inside, I am committing to spending an hour outside everyday. It's an experiment of sorts, to see what effect spending that much time outdoors everyday has on me. After a few days of doing this, I can report to you all that I don't feel like I am missing out on anything, that being outside has helped me notice the beauty that surrounds me more, and that my body feels good getting out and walking. It is just the stuff having a zest for life is made of. This regular, ordinary act feels like a consistent celebration of life. I am so grateful for it.



When looking into the meaning of zest, I found that joy is most often in the definition. A friend of mine was once telling me about the difference between joy and happiness and I'll try to impart their wisdom to you, knowing I will not do it perfectly. She said that happiness is a good feeling, but like most feelings, it does not last. Joy is something that comes from a deeper place, it is a baseline for how we are in the world. Many folks who experience joy regularly connect with something greater than themselves: a higher power, a community, a sense of the spiritual, or something that just puts our lives in perspective. Many folks who experience joy have had to work to get there, connecting with others when experiencing sadness or shame or doing the things they need to do to take care of themselves.

Having a zest for life means finding the deep joy of living, finding the very aliveness of living itself. I wonder what helps you get in touch with joy. I wonder what helps you to embrace fully being alive. It could be any number of things for each one of us.

My wish for you this summer is to find this sense of joy, this zest. And I don't say this to heap on your already full plate another thing. No, I say this because this world needs more people who know their joy, who cultivate zest in their lives, and who are willing to share this part of themselves with the people around them. Summer is often a time out of our regular routines, a time for changing the daily shape of our lives as kids are out of school and the weather is warm. No one needs to go on a vacation or to go away to camp to find that joy. Often these lead to that temporary sense of happiness, which is a delight, but lasts in the memories when you return. This summer, I hope you can find those parts of your life that bring you joy and then engage with those things over and over again until new habits, new ways of being are born.

May you embrace the zest of life this summer! I'll be excited to see you at church and to hear about it!

~ Rev. Lane

Please send articles for the July/August issue of the newsletter by Sunday, June 25, to office@firstuucolumbus.org.

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Sr. Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Minister Affiliated
Rev. Suzan McCrystal, Minister Affiliated
Rev. Mark Belletini, Minister Emeritus
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister, Religious Exploration
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist
Karen Madden, Choir Director
Leigh Mamlin, Children/Youth Choir Director
Cath Saveson, Children/Youth Choir Director

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Susan Roscigno, SYC Co-Associate Director
Amy Rudawsky, SYC Co-Associate Director
Jabar Cole, Sound Technician

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ginnie Vogts, Board Chair

It's hard to believe it's June already and this will be my last month as Board Chair. The year has sped by and it's been challenging and interesting. We've accomplished an amazing number of wonderful things: called a new Settled Senior Minister, fully transitioned to a Policy Governance style of leadership empowering our staff to exercise fully their skills, and embarked on a new model of fair giving. We're looking at what fair compensation of our staff would take. We've become more engaged with other faith communities and more active in community justice efforts; our Share the Plate collection was very successful, as was our Fund Our Values Campaign. We've broadened our effort to get input from the congregation through visioning circles, stakeholder meetings, and listening circles. First UU is the center of liberal religion in Ohio, an important role in these difficult times. Our welcoming of new visitors is paying off and Religious Exploration classes are growing.

One of my greatest insights has been seeing how First UU works and what it takes to keep it humming. For years, I came to Sunday services and was involved in our justice work. I didn't notice so much, or even particularly care about, the rest. I figured it just took care of itself and I wasn't curious. There seemed to be lots of volunteers offering to do various jobs, and my kid was happily ensconced in her RE classes. This year, my eyes have been opened in a big way. First, working closely with the staff, I see how hard and how much they work. Forget weekends, holidays and evenings—rarely off. I realized that sometimes they don't sleep so well, ministering to a grieving family or worrying about whether it's going to snow. I've gotten emails from Rev. Jennifer at midnight! (I haven't seen them till the morning.) Looking behind the scenes has been one of the greatest gifts of being Board Chair. I've come to realize how dependent the church is on the love and goodwill of its congregants. There is no beneficent outside resource that will swoop in and save the day. It's us folks, just us. Our creativity, sense of community, generosity and commitment are the engines that keep this church going. However, I think many members are where I was in the recent past; unaware of the complexity and the challenge of offering our rich programs and maintaining our beautiful property. If there is one thing I would ask as I move on to a "past" position, it is that you reflect on what First UU means to you and whether you are taking it for granted. Many of you are not. Many of you spend more time involved than you probably should but you still do. But many could open your eyes, like I finally did, and see all that this church is and provides. You would be amazed.

SOLIDARITY AND SANCTUARY CIRCLES

Ginnie Vogts and Jan Phillips

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to confirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The Underground Railroad was the salvation for many people of color during the 1800s. Abolitionists and sympathizers helped people find freedom by putting themselves at risk. During World War II, sympathizers helped Jews and other Europeans escape the wrath of Hitler and the Nazis.

Now is our time. Refugees and immigrants (documented and undocumented) are now facing difficult times in our country. Rapidly escalating deportations of our neighbors who have lived in this country for years, more than 400 per day nationwide, are tearing families apart and upending communities. LGBTQ rights are being rolled back. People of color are facing increased threats.

We can help by showing solidarity and providing sanctuary, in a way that fits with our congregation. What community work and organizing does First UU want to do that directly relates to those who are being targeted now because of their identities?

We invite you to join the discussion through a series of Solidarity and Sanctuary circles, beginning this Summer. The first two discussion circles will be:

Tuesday, July 11, 1:00—2:30pm, Room 7

Wednesday, July 12, 7:00—8:30pm, Room 7

RSVP to Jan Phillips at jephillips4444@sbcglobal.net

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Summer Coffee Hour Are you looking for a great way to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and just enjoy summertime at First UU? We can help. Become a coffee hour volunteer! Minimal commitment, but endless returns. Denni Hale, (614) 733-8082, rayneblueoh@gmail.com.

The Long Strange Trip—Our UU History Thursdays, July 20 - August 24, 7:15pm, Room 7. Led by Rev. Dana Reynolds, retired UU minister. This is a great way to learn about our UU development throughout the centuries, either for the first time or in a new way. The series is ideal for those new to Unitarian Universalism, but it promises new surprises for those who have been UUs for a long me. In each session, we will view the DVD (an hour or less) and have a discussion for half an hour or so. Please call or email if you need childcare (at least five days prior); danafr3@gmail.com, 612-229-5907.

Thank you and farewell to Rev. Jennifer Brooks! You are invited to a reception for Rev. Jennifer July 9, after the service. This will be her last Sunday with First UU before moving on to another church as Interim Minister. Let's send Rev. Jennifer off with thanks and good wishes!

The **Kroger Company, through their Community Rewards Program**, donates a small percentage of what you spend to First UU. In the past, one had to renew every April but that has now been changed! Now once you are signed up online, you never have to renew! So, please do so today. It's easy. You'll need to have your Kroger Rewards Card handy when you log on to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the instructions. Call Kroger at [800-576-4377](tel:800-576-4377) for any assistance. First UU's ID# is 80395. You will receive information on your email as part of the registration process. If you don't already have a card, get one first at your local Kroger store service desk. Information sheets can also be found on the bulletin board in the glass hallway.

Tom Baillieul's art exhibit, *Through Time, Space and Spirit* continues to the end of June. Questions or purchases: tbailleul@gmail.com. 10% of sales donated to First UU.

Meditation Workshop every Thursday, 6:30-7:30pm, at First UU. For all levels. No reservations required. Chairs and cushions provided. Tom Tucker, 614-263-9275.

Summer Schedule Starts May 28, 10am. We're pleased to announce that Summer Sunday School, for children preschool through age 11, will be led by the amazing Jen Bojanowski.

First Friday Potluck June 2, 6:30pm. Please contact Laurie Brown, 614-246-0170.

First UU Auction 2018 Saturday, February 10, 5pm. Save the date! The Auction Team is making some changes. We will have fewer physical items in our silent auction and more dinners, services, fellowship activities, vacations, excursions, gift certificates, and homemade food items.

Also, we will no longer split dinners between the live and silent auctions. That is, all places for a dinner will be either in the silent auction or in the live auction, but not in both. We'll send a five-minute survey via email to collect feedback from you. If you are interesting in joining us on the auction team, please contact Danya Furda at dfurda@gmail.com or [614-471-3786](tel:614-471-3786)

Labor Day Retreat, September 2-4. Intergenerational, all-congregation retreat in the beautiful Hocking Hills. Workshops, hiking, worship, fellowship, community, nature, star gazing, relaxation. Cabins, lodge or bring-your-own tent. Shared meals in the dining hall. A great way to share a relaxing weekend with other First UU folks. Contact Beth McCreary, [614-850-1463](tel:614-850-1463), or stop by the RE table or our table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

Bookbites Tuesday, June 20, 7-9pm, Slowter Lounge. Topic for June is *A Favorite Author*. The July topic is *Odd Couples*. Kathleen Boston, 614-262-4025.

Feed My Sheep School Supply Collection August 13. Each child needs: a backpack, 20 #2 pencils, two large pink erasers, a ruler with centimeters and inches, crayons (a box of 16-24), two 70-page wide-rule spiral notebooks, and two glue sticks. We want to provide for 150 children this year. The food pantry also needs: peanut butter, tampons, dog and cat food, diapers, and children's books. Please bring items to Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 1

6:00pm Summer Work Session
(Jeff Boughton, boughtj57@gmail.com)

Friday, June 2

6:30pm First Friday Potluck

Saturday, June 3

9:30am Single Payer Action Network (SPAN)
(Alice Faryna, alice.faryna@gmail.com)

Sunday, June 4

11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, June 14

1:00pm & 7:00pm On Being Civil
(Susan Williams, mudwitch3@gmail.com)

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 that uses the power of organized people to hold local officials accountable for serious community problems. Through our work in BREAD, First UU has won numerous victories over the years on issues such as affordable housing, restorative justice, payday lending, and, most recently, expanded community mental health care. Officials listen to BREAD because BREAD staff and congregational volunteers do thorough research, meet dozens of times with pertinent officials, and turn out thousands of supporters every year to our Nehemiah Action. On May 1, First UU met its turnout commitment by having 363 people at this year's Action to help increase the total number of attendees to 2,524 with the following results:

Juvenile Justice in Columbus City Schools –

Superintendent Dr. Dan Good:

YES—go with BREAD leaders to visit the Pittsburgh Public Schools to see Restorative Practices.

YES—meet with us within 60 days of the Nehemiah Action to plan for the trip to Pittsburgh.

YES—work with us to create a system to enable the police assigned to the schools to make referrals to the Juvenile Court's Restorative Justice Program.

YES—give an update at BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 13.

YES—meet with us quarterly over the next year to begin to set up a plan that would include specific benchmarks in order to reduce suspensions and improve school climate.

Juvenile Justice in the Courts – Lead Juvenile Court Judge Elizabeth Gill:

NO—cannot agree **at this time** that an external group qualified to evaluate Restorative Justice Practices should assess the Restorative Justice program, **BUT** she will send its coordinator to two additional trainings

YES—get a quote from a qualified organization that could do an external assessment by August 1.

YES—meet with us by October 13, 2017 to discuss findings and next steps.

YES—give an update at BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 13.

Crime and Violence – Court of Common Pleas

Administrative Judge Stephen McIntosh:

YES—personally participate in and support a collaborative effort (the CIRV program) led by the Department of Public Safety to reduce gun and gang member violence

YES—advocate for the support of the entire Court of Common Pleas and the Department of Probation and then call for a vote by the judges to support this initiative by June 30, 2017.

Municipal ID – Columbus City Council Member Michael Stinziano:

YES—draft legislation for a municipal ID within 60 days of the Nehemiah Action

YES—work with *One ID Columbus* to hold a meeting of stakeholders within 30 days of the draft

NO—introduce legislation within six months of the Nehemiah Action

YES—give an update at BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 13.

Jobs & Economic Opportunity – OSU Associate Vice Provost Stephen Myers:

YES—commit that OSU and BREAD engage collaboratively as champions for strengthening neighborhoods, which include (a) working toward a twofold goal of decreasing food insecurity in and around Columbus while also promoting purchasing power of anchor institutions to build new economic systems in marginalized neighborhoods, (b) promoting the procurement of goods and services from small, disadvantaged businesses and vendors, and (c) collaborate to bring other stakeholders to the table.

YES—be a point of contact from the OSU Provost's Office and attend BREAD meetings as requested.

YES—attend BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 13 to give a joint OSU/BREAD progress report on the collaborations.

Jobs & Economic Opportunity – Columbus City Council Member Elizabeth Brown:

YES—personally committed to using the City's purchasing power to create a bidding preference for employers seeking city contracts if they hire restored citizens

YES—draft an ordinance that uses the city's purchasing power to reward bidders in the construction industry who commit to increasing hiring of people with felony records

YES—initiate and attend a meeting with BREAD, the City's Director of Finance and Management and the head of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council to work through the details.

YES—continue working with BREAD on a broader ordinance to apply to all companies seeking contracts with the city and continue to work to get a majority of City Council members to support the broader ordinance.

YES—give an update at BREAD's Annual Assembly on November 13.

For more information about BREAD, contact Alice Rathburn (eulala1905@me.com, 614-895-2109 or 614-563-0536) or Chris Johnson (chris@underspecified.com or 614-946-1287).

CARING CORNER

A memorial service will be held for long-time member **Laura Adams** on Saturday, June 10, 2pm at First UU.

Jo Anne St. Clair has now moved to Harrisonburg VA. We wish her well and appreciate the leadership roles she held at First UU, most recently her devotion to the success of the auction.

Congratulations to:

Tima Henderson-Bernard, who went to the Columbus City Schools District track finals. Her 400m relay team placed first and she placed second in the city in the 200-meter dash.

Dick Dawson, who received a Living Faith Award on May 25 for his service on behalf of social justice through First UU and the Church for All People.

Alice Faryna, who was given the Smilie Healthcare Justice Award at SPAN's (Single-Payer Action Network Ohio) 14th Annual Conference on April 29.

Barb Fiorini, who won first place in the William Redding poetry competition.

Rev. Kathleen and Joe Fowler, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on May 1.

Lauren McCrystal and **Samantha Papadakis**, who were married on April 29 at First UU.

The family of **Morgan Patten and Cara Greenberg** who welcomed Asa Rae Patten into the world on May 1.

Ruby and Matt Booth, whose son Ollie had a child dedication ceremony last month.

Jennifer Nichols, whose son Devan had a child dedication ceremony last month.

A speedy recovery to:

Carol Hughes who had been diagnosed with a neuro-endocrine tumor on her lung. She had surgery at OSU Hospital on May 25.

Our sympathy to:

The family of **Connie Hansen**, First UU community member and Our Whole Lives teacher, who died April 24, after a long battle with breast cancer.

The family of longtime church member **Helga Muladore**, who died peacefully on May 16. No memorial service is planned currently.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, Historian

While working with the Archive files, one discovers little treasures about our church and our roots. One such item entitled "Important Universalist Dates," by Carl G. Seaburg, provided an in-depth but brief history. The dates are all in the Common Era or A.D.

325 Origen, Christian philosopher and one of the church Fathers, advocates universal salvation.

553 Emperor Justinian gets the Council of Constantinople to declare Origen's universalism a heresy.

1315 The Lollards, a 14th century English reform movement, maintain a belief in universal salvation.

1637 Samuel Gorton, pioneer Christian Universalist, is driven out of Massachusetts for his radicalism.

1684 Joseph Gatchell has his tongue pierced with a hot iron for stating that "All men should be saved."

1723 English born George de Benneville undertakes first preaching mission on the European continent.

1741 John Murray, one of the leaders of American Universalism, is born in Alton, England.

1741 de Benneville emigrates to Pennsylvania and started sharing a Universalist gospel.

1743 Christopher Sower, Universalist Quaker, with de Benneville, prints the first Bible in America.

1750 James Rely in England becomes an independent preacher of the doctrine of universal salvation.

1759 *Union*, theological treatise on universal salvation, is published in London.

1770 John Murray arrives from England at Good Luck on Barnegat Bay, New Jersey. On September 30, Murray preaches his first sermon in America in the meeting house of farmer Thomas Potter.

1771 Hosea Ballou, later Universalism's prime spokesperson, is born in Richmond, New Hampshire.

1774 John Murray preaches in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

1778 Caleb Rich organizes The General Society to ordain ministers and issue preaching licenses.

1779 Gloucester Universalists organize the first Universalist church in America; call Murray as minister.

1785 The first Universalist Convention with delegates from churches is held in Oxford, Massachusetts.

1786 Gloucester Universalists win the right not to be taxed by the state to support the established church.

1787 Elhanan Winchester, American Universalist leader, preaches Universalism in England.

1788 Murray wins the right for Universalists to be ordained ministers with authority to perform marriages.

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Columbus OH 43214

614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924

office@firstuucolumbus.org

<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org>

June 2017

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

June's Theme: *Joy*

Sunday, June 4, 10am

Coming of Age Service

Rev. Lane Campbell and Coming of Age Class

Sunday, June 11, 10am

Welcome Home

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, June 18, 10am

Rev. Eric Meter

Sunday, June 25, 10am

Rev. Lane Campbell
