

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #83, October 26, 2008

Non-Profit Organization
U.S.Postage PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit 131

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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

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WORSHIP SERVICES
November Theme: Gratitude

November 2, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"On Not Being the Higher Power"

*Don't forget to set your clocks **back** one hour.*

November 9, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"And So?"

The Sunday after the November 4th election.

November 16, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Kathleen Fowler

"What a Methodist seminary taught me about Universalism"

Kathleen is a First UU member, currently completing her studies for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Mark will be preaching for Rev. Bill Gupton in Cincinnati; Bill is on Sabbatical. Social Justice offering.

♪ **The musical offerings at these worship services are listed on page 6.**

► **Getting to Know UU** meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge after each Worship Service.

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Film: Women Artists
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga
7:30p The Healing Self
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, October 30, 2008

9:30a Improvisational Dance
7:00p Artist's Way
7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir

Friday, October 31, 2008

9:00a UU Food Co-op
7:30p All Souls Contra Dance

Saturday, November 1, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation
9:30a Memorial Garden Workday
1:00p HappensDance
7:00p Turning of the Earth Wheel

Sunday, November 2, 2008

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a Getting to Know UU
11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
12:15p Getting to Know UU
12:30p Youth Group
12:45p YASC; Book Discussion
1:00p Partner Church Info Session
1:30p Bluegrass Jam
5:30p Vegan Cooking Class

Monday, November 3, 2008

11:00a UU Handcrafts and Book Society
7:00p UU Social Dance; Program Council
7:00p Healing Journey;

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

10:00a Archives Organizing
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7pm)
6:15p Peace Pals Choir
7:00p Caring Committee; Social Justice Com.
7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Zen Meditation
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Nonviolent Communication
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Integral Yoga
7:30p The Healing Self
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, November 6, 2008

9:30a Improvisational Dance
7:00p Global Warming
7:30p Chalice Choir; Writing for Life

Friday, November 7, 2008

9:00a UU Food Co-op
12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
6:30p First Friday Potluck, Programs, 7:30p

Saturday, November 8, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation
8:30a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
8:30a Work Day

Sunday, November 9, 2008

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a Getting to Know UU
11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
12:15p Getting to Know UU
12:45p Sunday Forum

1:00p YASC Elections; Nominating Com.

Monday, November 10, 2008

11:00a UU Handcrafts/Book Society
7:00p UU Social Dance; Healing Journey
7:00p Executive Committee
7:00p Adult Enrichment Programs

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

9:00a Newsletter folding
10:00a Archives Organizing
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7pm)
6:15p Peace Pals Choir
7:00p Rising Voices Choir; UU Bible School
7:00p Zen Meditation
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Worship Committee
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Memoir Writing Group
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga
7:30p The Healing Self
7:30p Covenant Group Steering Team
8:00p Women's Spirituality

7:30p Wednesdays, FOCUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 447-8407.

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday, November 9. Deadline: 1:00pm** – hard copy in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com.

LINKS

Because I voted by absentee ballot this year, I'm keenly aware of what I'm missing. For me at least, sealing the envelope and dropping it in the mail box were not as satisfying as going to the polls on Election Day.

I remember my mother taking me with her to vote when I was a little boy. The booth was a grey metal monstrosity that scared me and filled me with wonder. The sound of the lever I helped her pull to register her choices is one that'll I'll remember for the rest of my life.

Last year in upstate New York, I was thrilled (if surprised) to see that style of voting booth still in use. The lever still made the same satisfying sound. *Kah-Chunk*. If there is a better purely mechanical sound, I don't know it.

When I was in my middle twenties, my boss asked me to take him to vote for the first time. A refugee from Cambodia, after many years in the U.S., MengKruy Ung had just become a citizen. Even if we had voted for completely different candidates, it wouldn't have mattered to me. Witnessing someone's long-held dream come true was worth so much more.

I don't know how the vote will go on November 4. I don't know what the outcome will be, or what role Ohio will play in it. All I know is that what is possible for us as a nation (let alone the larger world) will depend on what happens in voting booths across our nation. Whatever else you do that Tuesday, unless you have already cast your ballot by other means, make sure you take part in that most important ritual of our nation - get to the polls and vote.

In peace,

Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR Thanks to the inspired work of those who gathered at the Mission/Vision Retreat on October 25, our congregation took a big first step toward the

creation of a new statement of who we are, why we exist and where we want to go. Our last statement was written two decades ago, during a different time and a different stage in the life of our church. It was time to take stock again. Led by Rev. Stefan Jonasson, the UUA's Large Congregations Consultant, we spent an intensive day immersed in the process of discernment, discussion and discovery. A small group of members and ministers then poured over the day's bounty and drafted the following mission statement: *Grateful for the wisdom of our forebears and desiring fulfillment for ourselves and our children, we aspire:*

- *To deepen and strengthen our beloved community through beautiful celebrations, tender care and generosity.*
- *To sustain our legacy of spiritual freedom by holding our doors open to all.*
- *To manifest, beyond our doors and on our hearts, our vision of a better world by engaging in powerful acts of conscience and well-organized work for justice.*
- *To nurture opportunities for honest self-questioning and transformation.*

Now we continue the conversation, and your voice is most welcome. We are not under the pressure of a deadline, so the natural inclination to wordsmith is less important at this stage than whether this statement approaches the broader objective of being both accurate and compelling.

The Board will explore this question over the next few months; you are invited to do so as well. Then we'll go from there.

-- David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees
The highlights of the October 22 Board of Trustees meeting appear on the blue insert

WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?

Wednesday, October 29, 7-9pm. A documentary film to view and discuss, depicting the careers of five women in art. Please join us.

NVC *Planting the Seeds of Compassionate Communication* Wednesday, November 5, 7:00-8:45pm A discussion of ways we can develop and maintain enriching relationships in our lives. Boo Krucky and Andy Workum of Compassionate Communication of Central Ohio will lead us in exploring the riches and treasures of Nonviolent Communication (NVC). Please join us. Donations at the door.

FIRST FRIDAY *November 7. Potluck at 6:30pm, followed by programs at 7:30pm, including a screening of **Crossing Arizona** sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. This award-winning film (Sundance, Mexico, Munich, Atlanta) tells about our nation's immigration experience. It examines the issue through the eyes of those affected by it. Call Cathy Elkins, 267-5884, with questions. Other programs are listed on the yellow insert.*

HELP! To trim costs, we are accepting donations of office supplies, especially pens (that work), pencils, paper clips, and paper (gently used on one side is fine). Also, please help fill the green and yellow recycling bin in the parking lot. This will generate income for the church. **Acceptable** items: all newspaper, catalogues, office paper, magazines, mail (including envelopes with plastic windows), school paper. **Unacceptable** items: corrugated cardboard, plastic, glass, metals, trash, phone books. Thanks. -- Michael Brennan

ALL SOLES CONTRA DANCING *Friday, October 31* in Fellowship Hall -- a Halloween Contra Dance (costumes encouraged) featuring caller Susan Moffett and Hot Club of Derbytownt, all from Louisville, KY. Veteran performers Tom Cunningham, 'Django' Jim Webb, and Blue 'Bleu' Murphy provide red-hot gypsy melodies and old-time blues and ragtime. Teaching at 7:30; dancing from 8:00-10:30, Admission is \$7 (\$4 for under age 25). Children are welcome to dance if interested

and able. Childcare is also available. Feel free to bring a Halloween-themed snack or dessert to share! Bring a refillable water bottle. Details at <http://firstuucolumbus.org/AllSoles> or call Kate Power at 789-0652.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Get ready for the holiday season. Buy a book and help our Coming of Age group at the same time! \$20 each with \$4.00 going to the Coming of Age group. 50% off coupons for bakeries, eating places, pizza, sporting events, discount stores, arts centers, ballet etc. Available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays through mid-December, or call Karin Erickson, 833-6479

“HAPPENDANCE” Jo Dickinson, MA, will guide adult woman and men in a dancing, mainly improvised, expressive experience using everyday movement abilities. Saturday, **November 1, 1-3pm** in Fellowship Hall. No need to pre-register. Wear clothing to allow full movement...and sneakers. No fee; contributions to AEP gladly accepted. -- Jo, 888-7677.

FALL WORK DAY *Saturday November 8.* All who contribute to First UU in any way are invited to a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at 8:30a.m. Working after the breakfast is not a pre-requisite for your participation! Work will include some bulb and bush planting and raking leaves (if you have a rake, please bring it). Register with the B&G committee after services so we know how much food to prepare. Child care available. If you need transportation, call 267-4946x25.

BOOK BITES *November 18 in Slowter ounge, 7-9 pm.* New topic: a book about gratitude, to celebrate Thanksgiving. -- Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

STEWARDSHIP *Foreclosures, Bank Failures and Fear Impact on First UU Finances* It's scary to see major financial institutions in jeopardy. Many of us feel poorer as the value of homes and investments falls. Some people have lost their jobs; others fear losing theirs. Often, as a protective reaction, we slow or stop our discretionary spending. That's not a bad thing. But as you categorize your expenditures, especially if you are still employed, we hope you will keep your support for First UU in your "essential spending" category.

This church community has not lost value. It is even more important in tough times to know that we will get through this together - supporting each other and our community in love. So, if you have delayed paying your pledge, but can do so, please pay it now. If you have the good fortune to be in a position to pay your pledge a bit ahead, please do. Those paying the bills will be grateful. And, if your circumstances have changed, and you find yourself unable to pay your pledge, please let us know, and we will work with you. We want and need your presence and participation at First UU.

Together, we will make our way through these fiscal challenges. It's been said that talking about personal finances is the last taboo, but maybe this is the time to come to terms with our inhibitions on this subject. If you would be interested in information on personal finances in these tough times, please let me know. We are considering putting something together (a class? a support group?) and would appreciate your input.

With gratitude, Gretchen Faulstich for the Stewardship Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE

YWCA FAMILY CENTER October is one of my favorite months, probably because it's the month my oldest son, Sean, was born. Sean is the person who encouraged me to take on coordinating of the YWCA Family Center

Dinner. This heartwarming activity has allowed me to meet and interact with so many wonderful people who volunteer their time and energy. I am so appreciative of each and everyone of them. This month Candyce Walchesky, Diane Gochnour, Holly Borghese, Scott Burch, Connie Connelly, Margaret and Kate Haldeman, Megan and Barbie Luna shared in the preparations, cooking, serving and clean up. They each got there despite rain and traffic standstills!

We are always looking for new people to join in this activity. It is a once a month, a two to three hour commitment at most. The families at the center truly appreciate our service to them. This month I had two small children come up to ask questions and to share stories. I know that others have had similar experiences. Every Friday at least one family will come up and express their sincere gratitude. If you are looking for a way to reach out and really make a difference, and you are available the fourth Friday of the month, please email me at mccutcheoncathy@yahoo.com.
Very gratefully yours, Cathy McCutcheon

NATIVE AMERICAN Harvest Dinner. Sign up at the Social Justice Table to bring food items for this traditional NAICCO fall event. First UU members and friends have helped with this for many years. Please see Jackie at the Social Justice Table.

EMPTY BOWLS Saturday, November 15, 11am-2pm. This annual event is a fundraiser for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Please join us! It's a great way to connect with church members. Volunteer to bring a pot of your favorite soup, help serve soup or just stop by for hot soup and good company. For a \$10 donation, you can enjoy soup and bread and choose a handmade pottery bowl to take home. Look for the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or contact Sherri Stubbs (614-577-9277 or stubbscpa@sbcglobal.net)

ATHENS COUNTY/APPALACHIA MINISTRY Turkey time!!! \$25 buys two turkeys. We also need cranberry sauce, dressing mix, yams, green beans, corn - by the last Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please bring food donations or a check made out to "Feed My Sheep" Food Pantry. And don't forget those aluminum cans!. Please bring items to the Social Justice JusticeTable

"WARM UP APPALACHIA" - This new addition to the Athens County Ministry involves sending hand-knitted afghans to Mineral, OH. Donations of yarn (whole skeins or small balls in any color) are welcome in the marked box behind Jacques' table on Sunday mornings. Yarn is knitted into 7x9 inch rectangles to create patchwork afghans of 36 or 49 blocks. If you are interested in knitting a few - or many - blocks, templates with directions are located in the yarn donation box on Sunday mornings. For information: Gretchen Curtis, 734-1214.

NEWS of B.R.E.A.D.

1) **BREAD House Meetings** "I'm so glad we (mother and daughter) went to the house meeting....I see the value of the process now, and I'll attend them in future years."
LAST CHANCE for you to be a part of the demo-cratic process to surface serious local problems BREAD should address. These will be narrowed to three by the teams from all of the BREAD congregations, and to one by everyone attending the Annual Assembly on Monday, November 24.
§ Tuesday, 10/28, 6:45 pm–8:45 pm sharp (Susan Gorman; Hilliard; 546-8867)
§ Wednesday, 10/29, 6:45 pm–8:45 pm sharp (Madelon Timmons, Bill Miller; Dublin; 766-9422)
§ Sunday, 11/2, 1:45 pm–3:45 pm (Doug and Rose Rossiter; Worthington; 436-9266)
2) **Issue 5, Payday Lending:** a) Ask everyone you know to vote YES to retain the bipartisan

legislation limiting payday loan rates to 28% annually. A NO vote supports 391% annual interest. b) **Thursday, October 30, 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.** - Attend some or all of BREAD's Issue 5 preach-in/teach-in on the Broad St. side of the Ohio Statehouse, Numbers count!

3) **Annual Assembly, Monday, November 24,** Faith Ministries. Learn about the three critical local problems remaining after the house meetings and the all-team meeting; vote for the one BREAD should address in 2009.
-- Alice Rathburn, 895-2109; 563-0536; alice37@insight.rr.com

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Rev. Carol Brody**, Minister Emerita, who was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry 10/12/81.

Our sympathy to Sonia Solomonoff, mother of **Nicole Solomonoff** who died last month of a brain aneurysm; and to **Jim Pinkham**, whose grandmother died on October 18.

Our caring thoughts go to **Rose Lynd** and to her mother **Marge Lynd**. Rose is receiving treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering for a recurrence of her neuroblastoma.

♪ Worship Services Music ♪

November 2: 9:00 A.M. "I Know Where I've Been"- Kelly Blake, Soprano. "Thula Klizeo"/Shabalala - The Rising Voices Choir. 11:00 A.M. "I Lift My Eyes" - Chalice Choir

November 9: 9:00 A.M. "Kwaheri" - Spirit of Life Choir. 11:00 A.M. "Bright Morning Stars Are Rising" - Chalice Choir

November 16: 9:00 A.M. "Meditation" from Mass/Leonard Bernstein - Sarah and Peter Case. 11:00 A.M. "Sanctus"/Kleucker - Chalice Choir

Although in this case, “thank you” seems disproportionate, it’s all I can say. The celebration of my tenth anniversary was simply perfect in every way. The speakers, the music, the structure, the details, the flow. Nothing to be added, nothing to be subtracted. I was so proud of how it all turned out, and happy for the church and my life here both.

Thanks especially to Jane Reisman, who chaired a committee which consisted of Cathy Elkins, Bob Gordon, Su Ann Farnlacher, Olwen Firestone, Judy Kleen, Tony McDonald, Linda Royalty, Jan Waters and Chas Williams. Thanks to Steve Abbott’s most excellent (as usual) presidship. And David Easter’s beautiful and moving words.

Thanks to the choirs who sang to the acclaim of all, especially my local friends who went on and on about them for days afterward, and to their directors, Elizabeth Woodhouse and Doug O Neal...and especially for the surprise of the *Sanctus*. Thanks to Tony McDonald, our able Music Director, Nathan Hamm, on the piano, Lea Pearson on the flute and Sarah and Peter Case on piano and cello respectively. Again, the feedback from my awed friends was so wonderful to hear. Thanks for the roses, and Pam Argus’s lavish and simple arrangement of them.

Thanks to all who brought food, cooked amazing dishes, decorated, cleaned, ushered, printed and folded programs, and wrote messages which I will treasure all of my days. Thanks to Claire Bauza who hand painted all the invitations. Thanks to those who mailed them out, who ran errands, who set up tables, and yes, who conceived of the idea in the first place. I felt so good in my heart when it was all done that I told my friend Michael Buck, “I don’t think I’ll be feeling neurotic for a while. I am at peace.”

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Rev. Mark Belletini

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Consulting Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Doug O’Neal/Elizabeth Woodhouse, Choir Directors
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist

Michael Brennan, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Administrative Assistant
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees
Bob Graffagnino, Co-Webmaster
Kevin O’Neil, Co-Webmaster

Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

Faith Development for All Ages

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education, is out of town until Tuesday, October 28. Her next column will appear in the November 9 issue. There is no yellow insert this issue.

Here are some reminders about what's happening in our Religious Education program:

Don't forget First Friday, November 7. Potluck at 6:30pm. At 7:30 there are at least two opportunities for the generations to come together. Ramona Moon will lead an art workshop for all ages. Ramona is a very creative and talented artist and will have a project that will challenge everyone. The DRE, Jolinda Stephens, will lead Evensong for all ages. This month the group finds inspiration in family rituals. Come prepared to represent the ways that greet and say goodbye each day, the rituals around your daily meals and your bedtimes.

The *Turning of the Earth Wheel* celebration of New Year, "That Which Is Remembered, Lives," has moved to November 1 and features a participatory circle worship to honor those who have come before us, using music, rituals and readings from many cultures. Please bring a photo or other item to represent those you would honor and non-perishable food for the food bank.

The second *HappensDance* happens Saturday, November 1 from 1 to 3 pm, led by Jo Dickinson, who says, "The dancers cannot be wrong in their response. This authentic dancing self will engage fully in Whatever Happens."

Don't miss *Planting Seeds of Compassionate Communication*, Wednesday, November 5 at 7 pm, led by Compassionate Communication of Central Ohio. This is an introductory discussion of ways we can develop and maintain enriching relationship in our lives using Non-violent Communication (NVC).

The Healing Self, led by Dr. Jeanne Desy, begins the first of four Wednesday sessions, October 29 at 7:30 pm. It explores four classic methods for lowering stress and encouraging the healing capacity of our own body/mind/spirit.

The Adult Enrichment Committee is seeking proposals for classes and event for the Winter and Spring in theology, scriptural study, comparative religion, Unitarian Universalist roots and history, worship, celebration, arts, creativity, dialog and communication, social justice, ecology and personal development.

-- Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education

PARTNER CHURCH UPDATE

Soon we should have a partner church identified! After several years laying the groundwork, the Partner Church workgroup has submitted our application to the UU Partner Church Council. We are in conversation with representatives from the UUPCC, and will share input coming from the information session scheduled for *November 2* after the second service.

A partner church relationship is a long-lasting connection between a UU congregation in North America and one in another part of the world. Most overseas Unitarian and UU congregations are located in the part of Romania known as Transylvania, in the Khasi Hills of northeast India, and in the Philippines, though there are scattered congregations elsewhere. For more information, visit the UUPCC website at uupcc.org or come to the information session!

Once we have given all our input to the UUPCC, they will identify a potential partner church for us. The Board of Trustees of First UU will vote to pursue the partnership and we will begin to establish a relationship with our partner church. Within the first year or so, we expect to develop a covenant between the congregations. This will be shared with the congregation and voted on at a membership meeting.

Please come November 2 to learn more about the possibilities for our congregation in becoming a partner church, and to share your thoughts and dreams. As we said in our application, "We hope to develop long-term friendships between people that help us all understand better our places in the world. We hope our young people and yours will find opportunities to get to know each other, to visit, and to develop relationships that will enrich their lives."

Gretchen Faulstich, for the Partner Church workgroup

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - *Highlights of the October 22 meeting of the Board.* Full minutes will be available on the bulletin board in the Window Hallway and on the church website after they are corrected and approved at the November 19 meeting.

Staff Report presented by Eric Meter:

- Michael Brennan is working with two new ad hoc committees: the Green Committee, and the Safety Committee. He is also helping to redesign the church website, as well helping with the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for November 8. In light of the financial situation, he is monitoring the budget carefully.
- Jolinda Stephens is training the new RE Assistant, Deb McGuire, as well as computerizing Sunday school paperwork, getting to know parents, children, and youth, and developing regional and internal relationships. During the last week of October, she is at two professional meetings.
- Eric Meter participated in the OMD UU Ministers Association, and also the Ohio River Study Group, for the first time. He will offer a new grief group with Kathleen Fowler and is in conversation with staff and members about anti-racism work. His pastoral duties continue to increase.
- Mark Belletini is working to increase diversity in Sunday worship, and also to create more opportunities for the arts. He taught about Christian/UU dialogue for young adults at North UU, worked on various life transition ceremonies, and attended the UUMA and Ohio River Study Group.

Treasurer's Report: Frank Phillips reported that pledges continue to be more than \$40,000 short of budget. As a result, Finance Committee has asked for a freeze on non-essential spending. They will have a special meeting in early November to revamp the budget accordingly.

Safe Congregation Policy: Board established an ad hoc committee on safe congregation policies and procedures, to report to the Board before the mid-year meeting. The committee will organize existing policies and establish new ones. Issues include background checks for RE teachers, procedures for possible incidents on Sunday morning, medical emergencies, and others.

Holiday Appeal: The Holiday Appeal will be crucial this year, and also possibly challenging in these uncertain financial times. Mark Belletini, Eric Meter, and Kevin O'Neil will help Gretchen Faulstich draft the "ask" letter.

Annual Budget Drive (pledge campaign): This year's canvass will begin February 1, '09. Celebration Sunday will be March 29, 2009. The guest speaker will be Gini Coulter, Moderator of the UUA.

-- Bob Gordon, Secretary of the Board of Trustees