

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #87 December 21, 2008

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
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WORSHIP SERVICES
December Monthly Theme: Hope

December 28, 2008 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

"Kwanzaa"

January Monthly Theme: Resistance

January 4, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"Discernment- First Tool for Resistance"

January 11, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"Invisible Occupation"

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

Christmas Eve Services - Wednesday, December 24

5:00 p.m.: Family Celebration with Rev. Eric Meter and Jolinda Stephens
(Those wishing to act in the service, please be at church by 4:45pm)
10:00 p.m. Evensong with Rev. Mark Belletini

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

10:00a UU Food Co-op
5:00p Christmas Eve Family Service
10:00p Christmas Eve Evensong Service

Thursday, December 25, 2008

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 26, 2008

1:00p - 9:00p Labyrinth

Saturday, December 27, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation
10:00a Labyrinth (to 9:00p)

Sunday, December 28, 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
1:00p UU Artists; Labyrinth (to 9:00p)
6:00p Bridge Club

Monday, December 29, 2008

10:00a Labyrinth (to 3:00p)
7:00p UU Social Dance

Tuesday, December 30, 2008

10:00a Labyrinth (to 9:00p)
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
7:00p Zen Meditation

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

10:00a Labyrinth (to 9:00p)
7:00p New Year's Eve Dance/Potluck

Thursday, January 1, 2009

OFFICE CLOSED

1:00p Labyrinth (to 9:00p)

Friday, January 2, 2009

10:00a Labyrinth (to 6:00p)
12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
6:30p First Friday Potluck
7:30p Evensong; Interweave; Programs
12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

Saturday, January 3, 2009

8:30a Zen Meditation
9:30a Memorial Garden Workday

Sunday, January 4, 2009

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a Getting to Know UU
11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
12:15p Getting to Know UU
1:00p Auction Committee

Monday, January 5, 2009

11:00a UU Handcrafts/Book Society
7:00p UU Social Dance; Program Council

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

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; Zen Meditation
7:00p Caring Committee; Arts & Space Com.
7:00p Social Justice Committee
7:30p Worship Committee
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

1:00p Archives Organizing
5:00p Artist's Way
7:00p Board of Trustees
7:30p Integral Hatha Yoga; Men's Spirituality
8:00p Women's Spirituality

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

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday**, January 5, 2009. **Deadline: 1:00pm** – hard copy in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com.

Other events at First UU

The following are not church-related but use our building on a regular basis:

Sundays

4:00p Art of Living Foundation
5:00p ISKCON Feast

Mondays

7:00p Columbus Women's Chorus

Wednesdays

12:00p Vinyasa Yoga

Fridays

11:30a Vinyasa Yoga

Saturday, January 3, 2009

9:00a **Columbus Winter Farmer's Market**

Mondays and Wednesdays

9:30a ESOL

For information on these events, call Marian Garcia in the church office, 267-4946, ext. 21.

Recently, when my friends with two young boys called and suggested we have a quick dinner and then head out to the zoo, I was a little surprised. Who goes to a zoo at night in December?

As we approached the zoo, it became clear to me that lots of people knew something I didn't. That many people don't just head out to the zoo on a winter night for no reason.

"Oh, you don't know about the lights." No, I did not know about the lights. But what a perfect way to learn.

Several years ago, Bill Sinkford, now in his last year as president of our denomination, issued a call for a renewed language of reverence which prompted a loud outcry from folks concerned that he wanted us to be more like every other religion. In all the hubbub, the importance of reverence was overlooked.

There at the zoo, amid all the lights and bright, smiling faces of all ages, the crowd got it. Family and friends milled about taking in the beauty of the lights, drawn together by the experience of wonder and appreciation.

I don't remember how many lights were said to have been strung at the zoo this year, and I can't tell you how many were standard lights and how many used the new, brighter and more energy-efficient LED bulbs. What I do know is that this is what Sinkford was trying to get at. Experiences of reverence have the power to draw disparate people together. In our day and age, is there any way we can get enough of that?

Happy Holidays Everyone,

Eric

Rev. Eric Meter

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR The theme of this month's worship services has been "hope." So rightfully so. In a time of economic peril and uncertainty, and political turmoil and terror, hope seems a scarce commodity. A recent New York Times headline starkly sums up our current mindset: "In Desperate Times, Taking on Fear Itself." As underscored in Mark's and Eric's sermons about hope, First UU is a wellspring of hope for all of us, in times fearful and otherwise.

One of the themes by which I have lived for many years comes from the great Italian philosopher Antonio Gramsci. It is short and to the point: "Pessimism of the intellect, optimism of the will." Antonio had much reason to be pessimistic on both counts. He wrote this and many of his great ideas while in prison for his opposition to the fascist regime of Mussolini, at the brink of World War II. He died there.

Pessimism of the intellect, for Gramsci, was an antidote to magical thinking, the mental trick of believing that if only we wish it so, it will be so. Optimism of the will, in contrast, commits us to the belief that if we choose to make it so, it may be so. Or in the words of Mark's December 7 sermon, it is "to hope, not pretend." So, in this spirit a New Year's wish: May the coming year for this congregation be filled with hope, gratitude, generosity and care. May we make it so.

Much gratitude to all those who have contributed to this year's Holiday Appeal. Your generous gifts will make a difference. For those who have yet to consider giving, there is still time. We welcome contributions of \$130, or more or less as your finances allow. A contribution at any level will help to sustain our beloved community in difficult economic times.

--David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees

LABYRINTH Add to the enjoyment and your spiritual experience of the Holidays by “walking the Labyrinth” at First UU. The 11-circuit pattern, reproducing the 1201 A.D. Chartres Cathedral original, will be returning to us on the following schedule:

Friday, December 26, 1 – 9pm – FH

Saturday, December 27, 10am – 9pm – FH

Sunday, December 28, 1pm – 9pm – FH
with live bowed psaltry music played by Tina Gratitude from 5-7pm

Monday, December 29, 10am – 3:00pm FH

Tuesday December 30, 10am – 9pm - WC

Wednesday, December 31, 10am – 9pm WC
with live bowed psaltry music played by Tina Gratitude, 7-9 pm.

Thursday January 1, 1pm – 9pm – WC

Friday January 2, 10 am – 6pm – WC
 (FH-Fellowship Hall; WC-Worship Center)

Psychologist Carl Jung called the labyrinth an “archetype of transformation.” Walkers along its sinuous path find they are often deeply affected. Rev. Lauren Artress of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, writes that people in transition periods find a calmer perspective; those with untapped gifts to offer have their creative fires rekindled; walkers dealing with grief experience peace. For millennia, the circling path that evolved from the simple spiral brought centeredness and healing to untold numbers of walkers.

Instructions and guidelines, along with information about labyrinths around Central Ohio and elsewhere will be available. Walk in silence, with gentle music on CD, or live meditative music.

-- Michael Greenman – 898-5825.



COVENANT GROUP REGISTRATION

If you are interested in joining a Covenant Group for this church year, you can register now through January 4. Groups will meet mid-January through June. Look for the registration table in Fellowship Hall after each service on January 4. You can also register through our website:

www.firstuucolumbus.org/covenantgroups/ now through January 4.

Covenant Groups are small, caring communities of up to ten people who commit to meeting regularly to explore their spiritual journeys. It is one way to feel more strongly connected to this church and its congregation. Questions? Donna Greenman, 898-5825, or Jeannie Sperling, 431-7235.

GREEN TEAM WORK DAY January 10, 9:00am. We'll install some insulation, weatherstripping etc. All are invited to help!

If you have any insulation, weatherstripping or plastic (even small scrapes) left over from a previous job, please consider donating it to the work day.

Call David Krohn, 260-6953, if you need to have the material picked up.

CONVERSATION FROM THE HEART

is a new addition to the Sunday Order of Celebration. Members and friends will be sharing their thoughts and feelings about our church, their lives, their reasons for continued generosity. If you would like to share a conversation, please feel free to call Carole Pruikma at 614-801-1830.

HELP WANTED 1) If you would be interested in coordinating a spring rummage sale, please call David Easter at 296-1811 or Judy Houston at 314-7777.

2) If you are interested in helping with the recycling just one month out of 2009, please call Judy Houston at 314-7777.

BOOK BITES January 20, 2009 in Slowter Lounge at 7 pm. New topic: a book from New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2008. Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025, for book list.

PARENTS OF INFANTS & TODDLERS

The meetings for this group will resume in the new year. These gatherings are intended as a safe space for parents, infants and toddlers of all ages; new and first time parents are especially welcome. Let's share stories and celebrate milestones. Juice and bagels will be provided (bring food for babies). Gatherings will be monthly from 11-1 on a Saturday, the first scheduled for **February 7** (then 3/7, 4/11 and 5/9). For more information, call Nancy Powlick, 451-4045, or lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

HEALING JOURNEY (Grief/Loss)

A series of six sessions for anyone experiencing a loss that affects one deeply: the loss of a loved one, of a relationship, a job loss, loss of a pet. *Weekly, 7:30 - 9:00pm, on Wednesdays, beginning January 21 and going until February 25.* Sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Eric Meter and Kathleen Fowler.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

Women's Spirituality will not meet on December 24 or 31. We'll be back January 7.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOMETHING SPECIAL! The 24th Annual Martin Luther King Birthday Breakfast Celebration will be held **Monday, January 19, 2009**. The Columbus celebration is the largest

event of its kind in the country, with more than 4000 expected to be in attendance.

This year's event will be extra-special because our First UU Chalice Choir has been invited to sing. The keynote speaker will be Rev. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., a renowned scholar, acclaimed preacher and author of more than 16 books. His most recent book, *Speak Until Justice Wakes*, inspires those who proclaim peace and justice.

The Social Justice Committee and the Communications Committee will be working to encourage First UU members to attend and stand "shoulder to shoulder in the struggle for civil rights" and be inspired by a powerful celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday.

This event will be sold out. Tickets will not be available at the door. Bill Fullarton is facilitating the purchase of tickets for First UU members so that we can be seated at tables of 10. Contact Bill at 669-4970 or bfullarton@yahoo.com for more information and/or to purchase tickets.

WARM UP APPALACHIA Be part of the project that sends hand-knitted afghans to Mineral, OH. Donate yarn (whole skeins or small balls in any color) via the marked box near the Social Justice table on Sundays. Yarn is knitted into 7x9 inch blocks. If you can help knit blocks, templates with directions are located in the yarn donation box. Want to learn to knit? Join Pat Larson's knitting class on Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm, starting January 6. To enroll, call Pat at 268-7670. Knitted blocks can be donated throughout 2009
- Gretchen Curtis at 734-1214.

YWCA FAMILY CENTER 4TH FRIDAY TACO AND BROWNIE DINNER

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the November dinner. It was fantastic to have so many newcomers. I hope you all return. The wonderful individuals who came, prepared, served and then cleaned up were Gretchen Faulstich, Cheryl Roberto and

David Magee and their kids, Holly Borghese, Jessica Mize and her friend, Henry, Sherri Stubbs and her kids, plus Holly, Cliff, Lindsay and Kenny Adams. You all are GREATLY APPRECIATED!
-- Cathy McCutcheon

CARING CORNER

Our thoughts are with **Robert Hughes** who is recovering at home from outpatient sinus surgery; **George Schoyer** who fell at home and spent five days in the hospital (he is now at Wesley Glen for re-hab); **Michael Brennan** who is recovering from outpatient surgery which he had on December 17; and **Karin Erickson** who had foot surgery last week and is doing well.

Liz and Adnan Shiblaq invite everyone to a "**Read In**" at their home on January 1. Bring a book and come for silent reading as early as 3:00pm. Please arrive before 4:30pm. Potluck at 5:30pm. 500 East Beaumont Rd.; 267-3085.

*The Caring Committee will sponsor a program on **Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.**, focusing on "**Spiritual Journeys - Close to Home.**" Our featured speaker will be Nancy Stranahan, Director of the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System (aka Highlands Nature Sanctuary), located in southern Ohio. Watch for more information!*

DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 19 - 22, 2009. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara

Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit our web site: <http://www.uunex.net/>
Email : uunex@yahoo.com
Telephone : (716) 745-7149 or (716) 791-4453
UU Niagara Experience Administrator
Marie Howard 3392 Lutts Road
Youngstown , NY 14174
Phone (716) 745-7149 or (716) 791-4453
Email uunex@yahoo.com

PLAN AHEAD Winter Institute 2009
The 9th Annual Winter Institute will be held at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, OH on **February 13-16, 2009** (President's Day Weekend). This relaxing "schedule and stress free" weekend is an intimate gathering for UUs of all ages. There are outdoor activities such as sledding, hiking and cross country skiing to do; the pool and hot tub are available for use; and there's always a few board games and puzzles around for those who want to be inside. **January 23, 2009** is the registration deadline. To learn more and to register, visit: Ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html

OMD ANNUAL MEETING The 2009 District Assembly will be held March 27-28, 2009 at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, Shaker Heights, OH

The Keynote Speaker is Michael Durall and the theme is **Extravagant Generosity**. Every congregation will receive a copy of Durall's Beyond the Collection Plate to read beforehand.

Tuesday Night Suppers

If you find that you're rushing to get yourself, the kids or your carpool gang to First UU on a Tuesday night and don't have the time or energy to get dinner on the table, please consider joining us at church for a **Community Supper** open to all, **5:30pm-7:00pm** every Tuesday night that the children's choirs are scheduled to rehearse, from **January 6** until **May, 2009**.

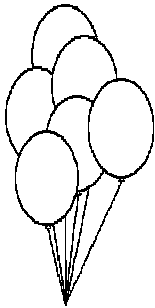
I prepare wholesome, kid-oriented meals from scratch, using fresh, all natural ingredients. There is always a vegetarian and non-vegetarian option. Cost for the supper is **\$6 for adults and \$4 for children** (11 yrs old and under). 10% of all proceeds go to First UU Church.

Please **contact Adrienne Novak to make a reservation by 2pm the Monday before.**

Email anovak@iglide.net or leave a **voice mail (preferred) at 614-570-0041.**

Food shopping is done on Monday and **your RSVP is important** to ensure the correct quantity of food is purchased! Menus will be posted in the kitchen and on the First UU bulletin board.

Hope to share a meal with you soon! -Adrienne



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Second Annual New Year's Eve Dance and Potluck.

Come celebrate the New Year with us.

Bring a dish and enjoy dinner

or

Just come to dance the night away!

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

Potluck at 7:00pm

Dancing from 8:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.

Cost: \$8:00

For more information, call James Brown, 354-2487



I will be visiting my folks for a few days, weather permitting, starting December 26, and ending December 31. (I have to get back for a physical therapy session, and I have several scheduled before the holidays.) I will be driving, so I certainly hope the snow and ice keep at bay until I get back. The weather forecasting has certainly been wrong a lot lately, so maybe the week of snow and grey predicted on the weather channel of my iphone is just a mistake.

I will preach at the Grosse Pointe Church while up in Michigan.

My son Tony is in town from Albuquerque, and that has filled my life with such joy that I don't even feel the pain in my frozen shoulder unless I think about it. He will be with the foster family who raised him while in high school while I am away, but we will spend New Year's Eve together.

Thanks for the lovely cards and gifts, which soften the hardship of these difficult times.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday night, two services, 5 and 10. The early family service will be different and totally delightful, I think, with "sets" that will put a smile on your face, lit by candles.

The Ten PM Evensong will feature a Christmas Sermon on hope, December's theme, and great music and candlelight.

The Fire Within

*Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself around you like a shawl.
But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it too,
with melody that would last forever.*

Bess Streeter Aldrich 1939

Words from the Song Cycle I wrote in 2003:

*No other day but this true day.
Neither dawn's topaz door on the day,
nor midnight's indigo gate on the morrow
but, this moment, now, here; ah!
not in some small town under a comet
nor wrapt tight in claim or acclaim, but born
new, fresh, crying out, reaching, now!
Alleluia!*



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

Here's my Solstice/Christmas/Chanukah/Kwanzaa gift for you – a prayer written by the Fourth and Fifth Grade group with some editorial help from their teacher, Stephanie Mesler-Evans.

Hey God! It's us!

We think you are pretty great and we'd like to thank you for all the great things you have already given us. You are so great that there are too many to name, but we'll try to mention the greatest of your gifts.

Let's start with books. We love them all! God bless the books! We think horses are one of your better ideas, so we pray for them too. Goddess, bless the horses and the books! Then, there are Skittles. Everyone knows how great those are. Higher Power, bless the Skittles and the horses and the books. We thank you for your inventions: ice cream, cookies and cake. And bless you for letting us eat them whenever we like.

God bless the books and the horses and the Skittles and the sweets. In your wisdom, Goddess, you created the llama. Llamas are cool, Goddess, and we appreciate them. And we appreciate hawks. Allah, bless the books and the horses and the Skittles and the sweets and the way cool llamas and the hawks.

There are a few things that we would like you to accomplish that you have not yet accomplished. We'd like to have our grandparents with us forever, so YHVH, we ask you to keep our grandparents safe and available.

We also make intercession on behalf of The Davis Center for Performing Arts. Goddess, please keep The Davis open.

Global Warming is a blight on your creation, YHVH, so we ask that you guide us in our efforts to correct damage already done and prevent future damage.

Happiness and Cooperation are two of your nicer attributes, Holy Spirit In Us All. Please guide us in the path to happiness. Allah, God, YHVH, Goddess, Spirit, Higher Power you are magnificent and powerful. Amen.

Have a great one, or two or however many holidays you celebrate. I look forward to the new year with you.

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education

Meet the Creative You

This time-tested course, The Artist's Way, is designed to help you know and practice your inherent creative self. The class will meet on Wednesdays, from 5 to 7 pm for ten consecutive weeks, starting January 7, 2009. Jo Dickinson, for the third time, will facilitate. Please register with AEP before January 5. There is no fee; contributions to AEP are welcome. Class limited to 12 women.

Senior High CON at First UU

If you know high school youth who may not be attending right now, please let them know about the Senior High CON the weekend of January 9. Please ask them to contact the RE Office (ext 28) or our CONcierge, Kathleen Fowler, at Kfowler@mtsoalum.org. Registration forms are on the OMD website. Remember that they require the DRE signature.

Adult Volunteers Needed for CON

The Senior High Youth of the District are having their Winter CON (short for conference) at our church the weekend of January 9. We need a few volunteers to help our volunteer cooks. One or two people are needed to help purchase the food prior to the CON and two people are needed at each meal to see that the kitchen is cleaned. That would be the three meals on Saturday and breakfast early Sunday morning. Contact Rich Humenick (Rich@RichardHumenick.com).

Exciting New Year for Children and Parents

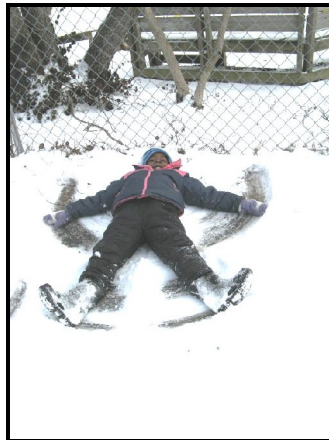
Nancy Powlick (lpowlick@columbus.rr.com) is renewing a group that Rev. Wendy Fish led for *parents of infants and toddlers*. She will provide a safe space for parents to share stories and celebrate milestones. Juice and bagels will be served for toddlers and adults (bring food for the littlest). The first of four monthly gatherings is from 11 am to 1 pm on February 7.

Chrys Gee is organizing *a playgroup for First UU kids*. It is designed to allow free unstructured play once a month. Contact Chrys or the RE Office (ext 28 or dre@firstuucolumbus.org).

OWL for First Grade and for Fifth and Six Grade will begin in late January. There will be a limit on the number of participants we can accommodate, so sign up now. Fill out another registration form at the RE Table on Sunday or send an email to dre@firstuucolumbus.org. If we have a registration on file indicate name, birthdate and grade in school. The required Parent Information meeting is Sunday, January 25 at 9 am.

The Nandyals are interested in getting together regularly with other *parents of teens*. If you have teens and are interested in parent gatherings, please email Lauri at lnandyal@yahoo.com.

Pick up your copy of the **Adult Enrichment Programs** for the Winter Session and fill that new calendar with lots of great programming from First UU. The catalog is available at our website and you can register online. You can also get a catalog and sign up at the AEP table in the RE Information Area across from Fellowship Hall.



A child in our Web of Life class exults in our first snow.