

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #91, February 15, 2009

Non-Profit Organization
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Columbus, Ohio
Permit 131

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Of COLUMBUS
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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

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WORSHIP SERVICES

February Monthly Theme: Love

February 22, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"Loving Animals"

March Monthly Theme: Brokenness

March 1, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

"Journey Toward Wholeness"

Rev. Mark Belletini is at the Large Church Ministers' Retreat

March 8, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"Are You a Pelagian?"

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Artist's Way
- 6:30p Personal Wellness Plan
- 7:00p Membership Com; UU Humanists
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality; Healing Journey
- 7:30p Know Yourself Better
- 8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, February 19, 2009

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 6:00p Communications Committee
- 6:45p Nonviolent Communication Practice
- 7:15p Governance Documents
- 7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir

Friday, February 20, 2009

- 9:00a UU Food Co-op
- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

Saturday, February 21, 2009

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 6:00p AUCTION

Sunday, February 22, 2009

- 9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU
- 12:45p White Like Me Book Discuss.; YASC
- 1:00p UU Artists; Com. on Church Ministry
- 1:30p UU History
- 2:00p PFLAG
- 6:00p Bridge Club

Monday, February 23, 2009

- 11:00a UU Handcrafts & Book Society
- 7:00p UU Social Dance; Science & Race

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

- 10:00a Archives Organizing
- 1:00p Cancer Support Groups
- 5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7:00p)
- 6:25p Peace Pals Choir
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:00p Being Atheist or Agnostic
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Artist's Way
- 7:00p Board of Trustees
- 7:00p Memoir Writing Group
- 7:30p Hatha Yoga; Know Yourself Better
- 7:30p Healing Journey; Men's Spirituality
- 8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, February 26, 2009

- 9:00a Improvisational Dance
- 6:45p Nonviolent Communication Practice
- 7:00p Soul Collage
- 7:30p Chalice Choir

Friday, February 27, 2009

- 7:00p Other Friday Film Series

Saturday, February 28, 2009

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 1:00p OWL Session (1st & 6th grades)
- 3:00p Charles Kraatz Memorial Service

Sunday, March 1, 2009

- 9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Youth Group
- 1:00p Afghan Block Knitting Bee
- 1:00p UU History

Monday, March 2, 2009

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

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

- 9:00a Newsletter folding
- 10:00a Archives Organizing
- 1:00p Cancer Support Groups
- 5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7:00p)
- 6:25p Peace Pals Choir
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:00p Arts & Space
- 7:00p Social Justice Committee
- 7:00p Caring Committee
- 7:00p Worship Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

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

7:30p Wednesdays, FOCUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 330-805-0207.

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

With a quarterly meeting of the Pastoral Team one Sunday afternoon recently and the last three Saturday mornings devoted to the biennial Pastoral Team training, I'm feeling happily steeped in all things pastoral these days. It's a good place to be.

During our worship celebration next Sunday nine new Pastoral Team members will be installed, bringing the team's membership to a very impressive 33!

These are dedicated church volunteers who have been invited and trained to provide attentive care to members of our community who are going through a hard time, or who, for whatever reason, are less able to come to church activities. By providing the attention of a team member, we extend the congregation's care to them.

Most of the Pastoral Team's work takes place out of sight, although some team members also volunteer to be available after Sunday services for those who need a listening ear or who simply wish to know how to contact Mark or me (you can always call the church office and leave a private message for either of us if we are not immediately available.)

For my money (and yes, I do pledge), these are the far-too-often unsung heroes of the congregation. While much, if not most, of what they do happens behind the scenes, the congregation would be substantially less than it has become without their efforts. So, the next time you see someone wearing a Pastoral Team name tag, take a moment to offer your thanks and be ready to see their eyes light up in both gratitude that you noticed and satisfaction with the good work they're doing.

Also, before I close I want to thank those of you who responded to my request in the last issue for your ideas for intergenerational activity ideas. Keep 'em coming. I'll be reporting more on this front before long.

In peace, Eric

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR In late October, many of us gathered to begin working toward a new mission/vision statement for our congregation. It was an inspiring and productive experience, led by Stefan Jonasson, the UUA's Director of Large Congregations. After the retreat, a small group of our ministers and members met with Stefan to pore over the day's bounty and forge a rough draft of our new mission/vision.

The resulting mission statement was intended as *a work in progress, a starting point*. Rev. Jonasson recommended that we follow up by taking our time, letting the draft circulate for a while, and gradually moving toward a final version to be ratified at our Annual Meeting in June. This is the course we have followed.

Toward this end, the Board is now ramping up the process of moving from draft to final version. Our goal is to have a near final draft to present at the March 29 Celebration Sunday service, moving afterwards toward a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting.

We welcome every member's input. We have set up a link on our website to the draft statement, with the opportunity for members to offer their perspectives on a final version. The email address for submitting comments is mission@firstuucolumbus.org. A copy is also posted on the church kiosk in the Gallery, and comments can be placed in my mailbox. The result of this year long exploration will be a comprehensive statement reflecting who we are, what we stand for, and where we want to go.

-- David Easter

(The new mission/vision statement draft - a work in progress - appears on page 4.)

**OUR MISSION
(A Work in Progress)**

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 door 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.

--First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, October 25, 2008

RECYCLING Can you help with recycling? Remove the recycling material - plastic, cans, bottles from the church, once a week for just a one month commitment - and take it to your favorite pick-up location. Please call Judy Houston. 614-314-7777.

NVC PRACTICE If you are interested in taking part in a non-violent communication practice group, please contact Judy Houston at 614-314-7777. We'll meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 6:45pm - 9:00pm.

CHURCH NAME CHANGE The committee is concluding the first part of its exploration of changing the church name. We have been collecting of opinions and/or suggestions for naming our church should we decide to make a change. If you would like your thoughts to be heard, Please contact Carole Pruiksmas at: imauutoo@columbus.rr.com or John Dickinson at: jdickinson@columbus.rr.com

MISSING BOOKS All five copies of *In the Flames*, the biography of Servetus, are missing from the church library. Please return as soon as possible.

UU HUMANISTS *Wednesday, February 18, 7:00pm*, Shirley Hyatt, author of the recently published *Clintonville and Beechwold*, a pictorial history of Clintonville, will speak. The book features pre-1940s vintage photographs of old Clintonville including its streets, parks, and houses. The book will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

PARENTS OF INFANTS & TODDLERS

The next meeting for parents with infants and toddlers will take place on Saturday, March 7 from 11a.m. to 1p.m. Meetings are also scheduled for 4-11-09 and 5-09-09. These meetings are intended as a safe place for parents, infants, toddlers and children of all ages; new and first time parents are especially welcome.

Juice and bagels will be provided (bring food for babies). For more information call Nancy Powlick 451-4045 or email at lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

ROOTS and WINGS-Topics in the Living Tradition- What is it to live in history and to be a creative the and responsive participant in this religious heritage? In tandem with Mark's sermons, we will pick up on the March theme of brokenness, renewal, and family. By exploring some of the people, experiences and ideas that have shaped and are shaping our living tradition, participants will gain more awareness of how their personal narratives fit in the context of the larger relational whole. Tuesday, March 17, 7:30-9pm. Facilitator: Suzan McCrystal

OTHER FRIDAY FILM SERIES

The next feature will be "A Raisin in the Sun" starring Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee at 7:00 PM on February 27 in Room 8.

MEMBER ART SHOW Artists: please submit an original work of art to our annual all-congregation show: "Connecting: All Members Art Show" **March 13-April 29, 2009**. This is an open invitation to "connect" art with/to our church. Use any medium and any subject matter. Work must be framed and ready-to-hang. Entry forms are available from Deb Baillieul debbsyc@yahoo.com, 447-1223. Entry form due: Friday, March 6 to Deb Baillieul debbsyc@yahoo.com or church office. Take-in: Sunday, March 8, 10:30- 12:30, or leave in coat closet with this form by Tuesday 9 am. Take-down: Sunday April 29, after services.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SHARING RIDES First UU now has its own web-based carpooling system that you can access from our home page (www.firstuucolumbus.org) for sharing a ride to church. Look for the "**Partner PickupPal**" box. Cut back on gasoline use and car wear, get to know fellow members, reduce green house gases and congestion in our parking lot, while saving money! At the web site, sign up for a free account and either offer rides or request rides. PickupPals can track the number of rides you have given or taken and the number of miles you've traveled via ride sharing. We'll be able to keep track of the amount of carbon emissions we have reduced as a result - one more step to being the first zero footprint congregation in Ohio! Instructions are on the site, along with a user's guide. Contact Michael Greenman at 614-898-5825 or mgreenma@columbus.rr.com with questions or comments. He'll be in Fellowship Hall with a laptop on Sundays

after the 11:00 service to help you register and to get familiar with the system."



Do you have these dates on your calendar:

Monday, April 20, 7:00pm:

BREAD Rally, Congregation Tifereth Israel (6:30 p.m.-registration) – for all Justice Ministry Network members and anyone else interested.

Monday, May 4, 7:00pm:

BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting, the BIG ONE, Veterans Memorial (6:15 p.m.-registration) – for everyone!

BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) **needs you**, your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and associates to help other BREAD congregations fill Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 4. Ever-increasing numbers at this one big meeting each year will garner the publicity and clout BREAD needs to help increase access to health care and early childhood education and reduce neighborhood blight, crime and drugs, and truancy. Let's turn out 300 from First UU. Contact Alice Rathburn at alice37@insight.rr.com, 895-2109, or 563-0536 for information about BREAD (www.breadcolumbus.org), First UU's BREAD Team, and/or our congregation's BREAD Justice Ministry Network.

ROE V WADE ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Tuesday, February 24, 6-9:30pm at the OSU Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road. "An Evening With Filmmaker and Author Jennifer Baumgardner." Dinner at 6:30pm. Film screening at 7:30pm. \$35.00 General Admission; \$25 Student/Low Income. Call 614-221-2594 or e-mail FOCOhio@gmail.com to reserve your ticket. (This event was rescheduled due to weather.)

ATHENS COUNTY/APPALACHIA MINISTRY The food pantry in Mineral, Ohio needs our help. Please donate children-friendly food: peanut butter, mac and cheese, spaghetti and sauce, canned meat, and tuna, canned fruits and vegetables. If you prefer, you may donate \$25.00 to buy a large bag of groceries or \$15.00 for a small one.

And don't forget to bring in your empty aluminum cans. All donations will be welcome at the Social Justice Table in Fellowship Hall. - Jacques Angelino

WARM UP APPALACHIA Donate washable yarn in any color via the marked box near Jacques' table on Sundays. If you can help knit blocks, templates with directions are in the yarn donation box (donations accepted throughout 2009). You are invited to the **Afghan Knitting Bee** on the first and third Sundays of March and April at 12:45 to 2:30 pm in Slowter Lounge. Call Gretchen Curtis at 734-1214 or see her at church on Sunday.



BAKE SALE The kindergarten "Web of Life" class will be holding a bake sale on March 1, 2009 following the 1100 service. Proceeds to benefit **Heifer International**.

Let's help them make this a Big Success!

A new feature: The following community event is presented for your information and is not sponsored or endorsed by the First UU Church or the Social Justice committee. If you have a community event you would like publicized, please contact the SJ committee chair, Karin Grant at ankgrant@netscape.net

The Citizens Grassroots Congress will be holding a meeting February 28, 9:30am to 5pm at 2231 N. High St, Northwood Building, room 100. The purpose is to help advance an enlightened, reform agenda for Cental Ohio in the areas of Social and Economic Justice, Sustainability and the Environment, Grassroots Democracy and Peace. Bring a potluck item for snack/salad, pizza will be provided. For more information, contact Doug Todd at Dougsftc@yahoo.com.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Linda Weigelt** whose daughter, Seana Harned Huizenga, gave birth to a baby boy, Toby Oliver; and to **Karen and Dick Dawson** on the birth of a new baby granddaughter on Valentine's Day.

Healing thoughts go out to **Rev. Carol Brody** injured in a fall. She is now at home recuperating following surgery; to **Bob Spranfka** at Grant Medical Center following prostate cancer surgery; and to **Kati McGuire** who is in Children's Hospital with a severe migraine headache.

Our sympathy to **Judith McDowell** and to **Ernest Kraatz** (Charles's brother) on the death of longtime member **Charles Kraatz**. *A memorial service will be held at the church on February 28 at 3:00pm.*

We send our condolences to **Bob and Sarah Graffagnino** on the death of Bob's mother.

FIRST UU AUCTION 2009

February 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.,

UU Space Odyssey: Bid As You Have Never Bid Before

After all the preparation and hype and the pulpit admonitions from Rev. Mark - it is finally here! You will not want to miss a single minute of the fun. As of this count (2/15/09), we have 330+ items - so **there is something for everyone's budget and taste** - you just have to be the high bidder! Among the many items are: cat sitting, weekend childcare, baubles, bangles, and beads from chic to retro, handmade sweaters and hats, delicious delicacies, massages out the ying yang, original artwork, and dinners from around the world. These great items are equally distributed between the silent and the live auctions.

One item featured in this last newsletter before the BIG DAY is the Victorian Lake Cottage in the Finger Lakes Region near Ithaca, NY. It is fully furnished with all the amenities (you just need to bring your own linens and towels) and sleeps between 6 - 8 persons, depending upon how friendly you are! Take in Cornell University, go antiquing, taste the wines of the region, see Seneca Falls - or just enjoy the beauty of the setting.

Volunteers still needed. An event of this magnitude and financial relevance to the church, does not function without many hands. Many have signed on to help on the day of the Auction - thank you. We still need persons to bring side dishes and baked goods for the bake sale, help with kitchen cleanup after the dinner, and get the church ready for worship services the next morning. If you can help with any of these needs, please call (268-1923) or email Jo Anne St. Clair @ joastclair@aol.com

Doors open at 6:00pm on February 21 - tickets are \$15.00 at the door. Join the 160+ persons who have already purchased their tickets for a fun evening that you will be talking about for weeks after.

On behalf of the Auction Committee, thank you for your support of this endeavor.

OK - "Beam Us Up Scottie!"

-- Jo Anne St. Clair and Cathy O'Neil

I am sharing my column this week with Michael Greenman. He writes: We are in hard times – probably getting a lot harder before getting easier! Jobs disappearing, homes foreclosed, health insurance gone – and more! But it’s precisely in hard times that families and close communities come together to “weather the storm.” We are such a congregation. Our members and friends, individually and collectively, possess amazing skills and creativity that can be brought together to smooth the path for all.

Plans are being set in motion to create a caring network from within our community to reach out and help with job counseling, training, teaching skills to live more “lightly” (and economically), financial advice, emotional support, home ownership ideas, perhaps, eventually, even shelter and financial support. We can gather and provide information on existing community, state and federal programs that will help.

If you are interested in helping to organize this community outreach program and/or have suggestions regarding resources that are available elsewhere, please let Michael know if you would be available to attend a tba meeting to begin organizing by sharing such things. We can weather this together!

By the way, the Finance Committee is preparing a budget for next year, and the Stewardship Committee has been working through committees and the mail to make sure you have plenty of time to figure out what you can promise to give in support of this community so that the budget being prepared is sensible and responsible. The leadership of the congregation encourages us to live well, within our means, despite the difficult times. But we need to know solid facts and figures in order to plan with integrity, and without having to guess. In years past, responses often trickled in slowly, often not until we have already tightened the belt. We hope to have all your responses in by the end of March, as a simple kindness to our responsible and tremendously hard working stewards. Fiscal planning like this takes joyful cooperation. On March 29, Gini Courter, our Unitarian Universalist Moderator will be our guest preacher in celebration of what we have accomplished...and what a preacher she is. We are lucky indeed to have her!

Blessings and thanks for your generous kindness in this uncertain season.



Rev. Mark Belletini

PS If things are quieter up in Michigan (my brother is still very sick, although he is, to the surprise of the doctors, out of intensive care), I will go for a few days to the Large Church Senior Minister’s conference. I got so much out of it last year (including the idea of doing theme months, which has been, so far, a noted success). I would leave February 23 and be back March 1.

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

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

As I write this we have just completed our Thanksgiving Celebration for our religious education volunteers. I am so grateful and so proud of those who work with all ages and stages of our congregation to support faith development in significant ways. These are people leading very full lives, who find their lives fuller because they volunteer in religious education.

I am also more than a little daunted. Each one of those 150 or so names I called out represent positions that must be filled for next year. I'm just going to say it straight out. Please don't make me come looking for you.

Filling that many positions is very time consuming, particularly because I am new and don't know everyone. Let's just imagine that I have to make five phone calls for every position and that each phone call takes 10 minutes. That is 7500 minutes or 125 hours. Over the next four months that's three-quarters of a week each month devoted to phone calls to fill religious education slots.

There are teaching slots, slots on committees, special coordinators and those who work with youth groups, helping them plan events that incorporate fun, community, justice work, worship and leadership experience. There are spots for people with special skills. And we're looking for four rugged outdoors people to lead an outdoor class at the early service. Rain or shine, this group will gather outdoors to explore more completely the interconnected web of existence, to tell stories around a fire pit and explore all the wonders of nature.

There are training, support and teams to make it easier. And there are amazing kids and youth and ways to use your talents you never dreamed about. Interest sheets will be available at the Sunday School Information Table or just drop me an email (dre@firstuucolumbus.org) and let me know about your interests, talents and dreams.

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education

RE NEWS...

Check Out the New First UU Parents' Blog Each Friday at

<http://www.firstuuparents.blogspot.com> for information about your children's groups; this week in Unitarian Universalist history; lively discussions about Sunday School; the latest in religious education news!

For Your Calendar

- **Web of Life Heifer Bake Sale - March 1** - come prepared to buy scrumptious goodies to benefit the Kindergartners' Heifer International project
- **First Friday - March 6** featuring Harry Potter!
- **Turn the World Around - First Celebration - Vernal Equinox (Ostara) - Friday, March 27** - child-friendly but not child-centered celebrations of the earth.

- **Mystery Buddies - four weeks in April and May** - a great way to bring the generations together
- **Peace Camp - August 3 to 14** - Plan your summer now! The first week is for those going into 1st through 3rd grades; the second is for those going into 4th through 6th grades. Registration will open for First UU members on March 1, 2009.

Adult Enrichment Programs

- **Roots and Wings** - see page 4
- **Science and Race - Monday, February 23, 7:00pm** - Tom Baillieul and Dr. Laurie Nandyal take a look at race from a scientific and a medical perspective, and ask some provocative questions in this month's session of *A Year of Science*.
- **A Raisin in the Sun - Friday, February 27, 7:00pm** - an Other Friday Film Series selection in this year's focus on racism in films with Len Powlick

Quick Reminders

- **Zen Meditation - Tuesdays at 7:00pm; Saturdays at 8:30am** - everyone is welcome
- **Improvisational Dance Thursday at 9:30am**
- **UU Handicrafts and Book Society - Mondays at 11:00am**
- **UU Social Dance - Mondays at 7:00pm**

Not to be Missed Events in March

- **(M)other : The Play and (M)other: a Rehearsal for Action Workshop** - see insert.
- **Principled Commitment: A Program for Unitarian Universalist Couples - Saturday, March 14 and Saturday, April 18, 9am to 4:00pm** - Love is usually credited as the basis for a healthy relationship, but other qualities are needed as well: trust, dignity, and collaboration to name a few. These elements will be explored. The program is free and open to committed couples of all sexual orientations who are seeking to enhance their relationships. It is not designed to fix broken relationships or serve as a substitute for couples therapy. Childcare will be available on request. Required registration is limited to 15 couples. Cathy and John McCutcheon, mccutcheoncathy@yahoo.com or Kathy Ritchey at Ritkm0723@aol.com. Participation by people of all physical abilities is welcome.
- **Unimagined: A Muslim Boy Meets the West - Saturday, March 21, 2:00pm** - in a sometimes hilarious, sometimes poignant talk, British author Imrad Ahman will describe what it was like growing up as a Muslim immigrant from Pakistan. He offers a look at his own spiritual journey and offers his take on a society built on religious pluralism. Open to all.

Celebration Sunday is March 29th!

Come and share together the successful culmination of this year's pledge drive!

We are delighted and honored to have Gini Courter, the moderator for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in North America, joining us in celebration at both services! This dynamic and inspirational leader believes that *"Unitarian Universalism is not an inert faith. Our faith is deep thinking and big hearted."* One of her favorite hymns – For All That Is Our Life *"reminds us that giving and receiving are the same in some essential way . . . that we must be able to receive as well as give to have balance in our lives . . . We can choose to build the common good, to serve justice, to show mercy, to live epic lives of service, exemplary lives of compassion. And if our own days are brightened as a result, well, that's not an accident. The gladness keeps us in the game, keeps us coming back for more day after day, year after year . . . Friends, alone each of us is small, frail, mortal, temporal and temporary. Together, we are the very stuff of which hope is made. There is endless potential for world-shaking change generated by those well-worn paths from one human heart to the next to the next."*

Please join us also in Fellowship Hall for a reception honoring Gini Courter.

Kick off Celebration Sunday by joining us Saturday evening, March 28th, in Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. for a unique opportunity to meet Gini Courter.

All members and friends of First UU are welcome! Childcare will be provided.

Gini Courter

Gini Courter was elected by the UUA Board of Trustees in 2003 as Moderator for a two year term. She then has since been elected twice by the UUA General Assembly delegates most recently in June 2005 for a four year term. She has also served Unitarian Universalism in her congregation and district, on committees and on the UUA Board - Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint Board and Building Committee 1985-1987, UU District of Michigan Finance Chair 1989-1995, UU District of Michigan Extension Committee member 1990-1992, UUA Board of Trustees 1995-2003, Chair, UUA Finance Committee 1999-2003, Chair, Annual Program Fund Task Force 1986, Liaison, Electronic Communications Committee 1995-1998, Liaison, General Assembly Technology Task Force 2000-2001, Chair, Information Technology and Electronic Communications Team 6/2003-6/2004, General Assembly Planning Committee 6/2003-10/2003, and UUA Moderator 10/2003-present. In her professional life, Gini is a partner in TRIAD Consulting (a woman-owned consulting and training company), the author of twenty-nine books, and a nationally recognized speaker on collaboration and productivity software.

(M)OTHER, a One-Woman Performance

7:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2009

and

A Rehearsal for Activism Workshop

9:00 am to noon, Saturday, March 21, 2009

(M)OTHER is a one-woman show performed and directed by Beth Osnes, MAU Co-founder and professor of theater at the University of Colorado. The show explores what it might take for the mothers of one country to authentically care about the mothers and children of another country.. The show's opening describes a fictional program, called "Baby Swapping," created by the United Nations to generate care for the world's children. In this small, limited pilot program, seven mothers from seven nations from around the world are required by their governments to swap their six-month-old babies with another mother from another nation for one month. What follows is an intimate look at one of these mother's experience and her eventual realization of her interconnectedness with these other mothers, their children, and their nations.

THE WORKSHOP, asks mothers* to identify their most passionate concern for children and helps them gain skills, confidence and practice declaring this concern. The workshop leads each mother to her own brand of leadership in creating a world in which children's needs are prioritized and their rights protected.

**Mothers are defined as those who offer care and protection for children. The term is not gender-specific.*

Space is limited for the workshop; please RSVP to Jolinda Stephens, dre@firstuucolumbus.org or 614-267-4946, ext 28

Childcare is provided, if you reserve a slot by March 16 with Marian at marian@firstuucolumbus.org or 614-267-4946.

For more information, please contact: Jolinda Stephens.

*"We are excited and delighted to host Dr. Osnes, who is flying in specifically for this event, in a live theater experience and workshop. It brings together important elements of Unitarian Universalist belief and practice: our view that the world is an interconnected web, our passion for caring for the earth and our concern and work for economic justice around the world."
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education*

Sponsored by the Adult Religious Program and the Social Justice Committee in partnership with *Mothers Acting Up* and *Philanthropiece*.