

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #94, March 29, 2009

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
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WORSHIP SERVICES
April Theme: Restoration

April 5, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Meter and Rev. Belletini

"Restoration"

A Palm Sunday sermon.

April 12, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"What Would Easter Look Like If It Was Restored?"

Easter Service. Flower Ceremony. Please bring a cut flower for each member of your family.

April 19, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Youth Service

A service on restoration in family relationships.

Special Spring Holiday Celebrations. Please see *Markings* on page 8.

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

What worship times are best for you? Let your voice be heard! (See page 4)

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Green Team and FLOW
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:30a Improvisational Dance
6:45p Nonviolent Commun. Practice
7:15p Anti-racist Allies
7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir

Friday, April 3, 2009

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
6:30p First Friday Potluck
7:30p First Friday Programs
7:30p Evensong; Interweave

Saturday, April 4, 2009

8:30a Zen Meditation
11:00a DRE Startup Workshop
9:00a Healthy Children/Healthy Planet
9:00a Voluntary Simplicity
11:00a DRE Startup Workshop

Sunday, April 5, 2009

8:30a Breakfast
9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU
12:30p Youth Group; Audio Visual Training
1:00p Afghan Block Knitting Bee
1:00p Bookstore Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2009

11:00a UU Handcrafts & Book Society
7:00p UU Social Dance; Program Council.
7:00p CommUUnity in Hard Times

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

10:00a Archives Organizing
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7:00p)
6:00p Administrator Search Committee
6:00p RE Council
6:15p Peace Pals Choir
7:00p Arts & Space Committee
7:00p Social Justice Com.; Worship Com.
7:00p Caring Committee
7:00p Zen Meditation; Rising Voices Choir
7:30p Building Your Own Theology
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Memoir Writing Group;
7:30p Hatha Yoga; Men's Spirituality

7:30p Healing Journey
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, April 9, 2009

9:00a Improvisational Dance
6:30p SOCINIAN COMMUNION
7:00p Soul Collage; Writing Better Memoirs
7:30p Chalice Choir

Friday, April 10, 2009

12:00p Amy Goodman *Democracy Now*
6:30p PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, April 11, 2009

8:30a Zen Meditation
9:00a Healthy Children Healthy Planet
9:00a Voluntary Simplicity
11:00a Parent Infant Toddler Group

Sunday, April 12, 2009

8:30a Breakfast
9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU
12:45p Sunday Forum
1:00p Nominating Committee

Monday, April 13, 2009

11:00a UU Handcrafts/Book Society
7:00p UU Social Dance; Exec. Committee
7:00p Adult Enrichment Programs

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Membership Com.; UU Humanists
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Healing Journey
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, April 12, 2009**. Deadline: **1:00pm** – hard copy in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com.

Is there ever enough time?

In his book *Love and Death* Forrest Church recommends, as the first of three rules for living, that we *Want What We Have*. (The other two are *Do What You Can* and *Be Who You Are*.) To counter our cultural impulse to want ever more, Church suggests that we try placing the focus of our attention on what we already have. Like yoga, practicing this has stretched me in helpful ways. When I tried to translate that practice into being grateful for the time available to me, however, I found myself challenged much more deeply.

The saving grace of preaching is that while any given sermon is insufficient to say all a minister has to offer, there is always next Sunday. Sadly, that gift is not always present in the rest of our lives.

Thankfully, we can usually pick up the phone. We can reach out. While there may never have been enough forgiveness in our world, at least we have it to give when we choose to. And, of course, anyone with even an elementary understanding of Buddhism would be right to offer a simple reminder about mindfulness. Moment to moment, we are called to make the most of the limited time we have available to us.

I keep seeing the faces of those I have greeted only once in the receiving line at church, those with a tear in their eyes who have chosen not to return to our community (at least not yet). I hope you'll join me in saying a prayer for them. While we know what we have to offer them, we aren't always able to learn what they are yearning for, or what gifts they might have brought to us. Whoever they are, may they find what they need. If not with us, somewhere.

In peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR The blue insert includes the new draft of our mission and vision statements. This is the result of an ongoing process that many of you have taken part in, including the Mission/Vision Retreat in late October. The draft that emerged from the retreat was widely circulated in the congregation for discussion and critical feedback. A working group of members and staff then reviewed the suggestions, revisited the material from the retreat, and wrote the current draft.

We are now asking for a second round of feedback from members and friends. The statements are posted in Fellowship Hall or on our website. You might want to ask: *Do these statements reflect who we are and who we want to be? Is this a church I would want to join?* Comments are welcome through April 30. We hope to have a final draft to vote on at Annual Meeting, June 14. Thanks to all who have and will be contributing to this defining adventure.

--David Easter

ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH TEAM

Just to remind you, we are Anita Bucknam, Gretchen Faulstich, Judy Kleen, Roger Nash, and Kevin O'Neil (chair). We have updated the position description and have posted it on First UU's website and The Dispatch website with the deadline for consideration of 4/10/2009. We decided that the position is not open to current or recent First UU members or friends. During mid-April we will be reviewing the resumes and in late April and early May we will conduct interviews. We are on budget and on time.

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST Join us for fun, food and fellowship on Sundays before the 9:00am service. We will be serving a simple breakfast starting at 8:30am in rooms A & B. A free-will donation of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child is requested.

THE ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE closed with Sunday's Celebration. Hopefully you heard Gini Courter speak, ate some celebration cake, and made your financial commitment for the next church year. As of Sunday, March 28, our pledged total is \$465,400.00. The Finance Committee is suggesting a total of \$625,000.00 will be necessary to maintain our current programs, including hiring an administrator and a choir director. So, if you have not yet pledged, please do so now. Go online or get a form from the church office. Those who have not pledged will be receiving reminders from a member of the Stewardship Team. I want to personally thank all of you for fulfilling your financial obligation to this place I love, where I have my community, and which gives me comfort. - Carole Pruikma (The last issue's Stewardship article was written by Susan Williams.)

HEALING JOURNEY 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, April 18 to May 13**. Facilitated by Suzan McCrystal and Kathleen Fowler.

**What worship times are best for you?
Make sure your voice is heard...**

Please complete the 2-minute survey at <http://tinyurl.com/am9cmn> or look for a copy at the table in Fellowship Hall. YOUR input is important!

SUNDAY FORUM *April 12, 12:45 pm.*
Dr. Margaret Mills, OSU Professor, Near Eastern Studies, will speak on the topic, *Looking at the Landscape of the Near East from a Different Perspective.*

BOOKBITES *April 21, 7-9pm* 7 to 9 pm, new topic is *Little Known Women*. Questions, call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

PARENTS OF INFANTS & TODDLERS *Saturday, April 11 from 11am to 1pm.* All parents, infants and young children are welcome. For information call Nancy Powlick at 451-4045 or e-mail lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

END OF LIFE PLANNING *Five Wishes for Me and My Loved Ones.* No one looks forward to End-of-Life planning, yet doing so can be one of the most loving gifts you can give to yourself, and also to those who will survive you. On *Sunday, April 19, 12:45 - 3:00pm* in the Worship Center, this Pastoral Team workshop will include discussion of Living Wills, choosing a Health Care Power of Attorney and communicating your wishes to your family and loved ones. All are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a topic for adults of any age. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have child care needs, please call Marian at the church office, 267-4946, **by Monday, April 13.**

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY April 3 at First Friday. April is Poetry Month. Bring a poem or two (yours or others) to share. Maybe we'll write our own.

And let's celebrate Easter Sunday by wearing our Easter bonnets!-- Jeanni Ray

FIRST FRIDAY *April 3*, Potluck at 6:30pm; programs at 7:30pm. Amjad Waheed of the Afghanistan and Pakistan communities in the Columbus area will speak on the topic, "Will Afghanistan prove to be the Waterloo of America?"

SPRING WORK DAY *Saturday, May 2.* Breakfast at 8:30am. Help with indoor and outdoor projects from 9 - 12. Sponsored by the Building and Grounds committees. Watch for people with clipboards on Sundays to sign up! - Roger Nash

TRAVEL NOTE If you are planning or considering travel to another country, wouldn't it be great to get perceptions and recommendations from other UUs? Well you can! There is a list of countries that UUs have visited and are willing to be a resource for. If you are interested in a copy of the list, contact Rick Kritzer at 781-1799 or rick94037@yahoo.com. Or let him know if you are willing to be included as a contact for countries you've visited.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

YWCA FAMILY CENTER 4th Friday Dinner One of the mothers at the Center came up to Candyce and said that she had never seen her son eat as much as he had that evening. She was so appreciative of the tacos and brownies (as was her son)! It is a simple meal, but the message of love goes so deep. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers this month: Kenny, Lindsey, Cliff and Holly Adams, Candyce Walchesky and her friend, Diane, and Chris McCutcheon. We couldn't do this without you! If you would like more information or to volunteer please email me at mcutcheoncathy@yahoo.com. Very gratefully yours, Cathy



Is there a vacant property in your neighborhood or do you know of one nearby? BREAD's Neighborhood Blight Committee is asking members of all BREAD congregations to nominate their "worst of the worst" properties for BREAD to submit to the city and county for action. (Blocks with accessible vacant structures have twice the crime rate as blocks without, and, in the North Linden area, property on blocks with three or more vacant properties had a value decrease of \$8,750 as compared to blocks

with zero-two vacant properties, according to the research of BREAD's Neighborhood Blight Committee.)

By *Monday, April 6*, please send the address and photo or description of such a property to Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, 563-0536, alice37@insight.rr.com, or to Sara Williams, BREAD staff, 220-9428, 727-483-4789, sara@thedartcenter.org. (Alice will take the picture if you are not able to.)

THEN help BREAD demonstrate its concern for this and other issues, e.g., health care and payday lending excesses, by bringing your entire family to the **Monday, May 4 Nehemiah Action Meeting** at Vets Memorial (Registration: 6:15 pm; Program: 7:00-8:30 pm; childcare for ages 3-7). 3,000 at Vets on May 4 should certainly get the cooperation of our elected officials!

NEWS FLASH! Amy Goodman, host of the daily grassroots global news hour, **Democracy Now!** will speak about her new book, *Standing Up to the Madness: Ordinary Heroes in Extraordinary Times* on **Friday, April 10, 12 noon** at the church. Suggested donation \$10. For more information, contact Jayme Richards at 447-00296 or jayme@simplyliving.org. The program is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and Simply Living.

APPALACHIA MINISTRY We are going to be filling Easter baskets for the food pantry in Mineral. We need money for hams and yams! \$25 buys two hams; \$15 buys one. We also need food: peanut butter, canned meats, fruits and vegetables etc. And don't forget your empty aluminum cans. All donations will be welcome at the Social Justice Table in Fellowship Hall.

We had a great work party of UUs at the Mineral pantry: six adults and six children. Great fun was had by all, and our children got to put their compassion and UU hearts into action. -- Jacques Angelino

WARM UP APPALACHIA Afghan Knitting Bee after church on the first and third Sundays in April, 12:45 - 2:30pm.
-- Gretchen Curtis, 734-1214

CARING CORNER

Scott Lewis and **Kathleen Fowler** interviewed with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the UU credentialing committee, on Friday, March 27.

Congratulations to **Rev. Wendy Fish** on the arrival of her new granddaughter Willa Grace Fish in Portland OR; and to **Carol Bohumolski** and **Gary Kopp** on their recent retirements.

Our caring thoughts are with: **Diana Newman** who had surgery for a detached retina; **Teena Price** who was hospitalized after an asthma attack (she is home and doing well); **Karen Oldham** whose mother is recuperating following major heart surgery; **Marylou MacDonald** who had thyroid surgery, March 19; and **Beth Peterson** who had a surgical breast biopsy.

We offer our sympathy to **Sheila Kallas** and to **Eve Catus**. Sheila's mother and Eve's cousin and aunt died recently. Our sympathy also to **Olden and Myrna Paris** on the sudden death of Olden's son, Stephen; and to **Cathy Yerington** whose brother, Jack Cannon, died of stomach cancer

A note from Beth Peterson: I would like to express my gratitude to First UU Church for their care and concern for me this past Friday when I underwent my surgical breast biopsy. I deeply appreciate the caring card, the phone calls and the hot meal that the Neighborhood Network brought me.

CommUUnity in Hard Times goes Active!

We now have a name and are planning a first activity to introduce programs and services to help members and friends thrive in the economically and environmentally challenging times we are in. A

“CommUUnity Spring Fair” will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, April 5** following each service. Members and friends will host tables with information about Simply Living programs, job hunting, health care, ridesharing, a food-buying club, the Caring Committee, the Neighborhood Network, Columbus’ “First Link”, and the Pastoral Team. For families with young children, bring your outgrown (but serviceable!) spring and summer children’s clothes to trade for larger sizes. Clothes left over will be donated to a charity.

Want to offer a service to members needing assistance in these or other areas? Want to suggest additional services that might be needed? A sign-up sheet will be available to help us to grow our CommUUnity support! For information contact Michael Greenman, 898-5825 or mgreenma@columbus.rr.com.

DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA 09) June 24-28 in Salt Lake City: Early Registration (until the end of April) is \$300 (scholarships and volunteer opportunities are available).

More information can be found about GA <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly>. Contact Debra Boyd about housing options at debra_boyd@columbus.rr.com

LAST CHANCE TO OBTAIN AUCTION ITEMS, SERVICES, & EXCURSIONS

WE have a few spots still available. If interested please contact Jo Anne St. Clair @ 268-1923 or joastclar@aol.com to secure and arrange payment.

- 1) Annual Spring Fossil Hike - \$10 - 8 spots - 4/25/09
- 2) Meditation Class - 2nd Thursday, 6 - 6:30 p.m. - 12 sessions based on Quantum Spirituality - 5 spots available - \$30
- 3) Summer Nature Hike/Mound Excursion w Steve Molk, 8/8/09, 6 spots available at \$10 each
- 4) Pinochle w dessert & beverages @ Bob Rice's 8/15/09 - 6 spots available @ \$10 each
- 5) Sacred Circle Dancing (Greek, Israeli, Sufi, etc.) w Snacks & Refreshments - 5/30/09 @ Greenman's - multiple spots @ \$15 each
- 6) Spring Barn Party 5/3/09 w May Pole Dance & outside games. Fun for the whole family. \$10 for adults - \$5 for children - Snacks & punch provided - multiple spots available
- 7) Summer Hula Hooping for Adults @ the Park of the Roses, 6/13/09 w a home-made hula hoop provided - 8 spots available @ \$10 each
- 8) Airport Shuttle - leave your car @ Jim & Danya's - Dropoff and pickup from airport provided. One spot available @ \$20
- 9) Intelligent Conversation w Dr. Robert Letcher- Discuss current affairs, philosophy, or other subjects of your choice Time TBA - 3 spots available @ \$10 each
- 10) Trial 1/2 hour Piano Lesson w Donna Greenman - all ages/abilities - 3 spots @ \$20 each
- 11) Janine Bourdo will knit a winter scarf in your preference of color - Get a jump on your Holiday Shopping - one available @ \$15
- 12) Painting for one medium-sized room w earth-friendly Aura paint from Benjamin Moore - Walls only - Time TBA w Constance Mengel - Value\$510 - closeout price \$175
- 13) Family Pool Party @ the Haldeman's 8/29/09 - traditional cook-out fare w veggie option - Only 1 spot left @ \$15
- 14) An afternoon w David Easter & Steve Abbott @ Comfest. Lunch & Beverage included from extensive Street Fair Options - Relive Com Fest lore from 2 veterans - 2 spots available @ \$15 each on 6/27/09
- 15) "Hello Dolly" Cookies made of crushed cookie crumbs, nuts, chocolate chips & coconut. Cookies available w @ least 1 weeks notice - 12 orders available @ \$10 each
- 16) Trekking in High Altitudes Information from intrepid world travelers Barb Avery & Courtney Chapman - Illustrated by slides & pictures - Snacks provided - Date and Time TBA (Sat. or Sun. evening) 7 spots available @ \$10 each
- 17) Flute lesson w flutist Lea Pearson - Time TBA - One spot available @ \$15
- 18) One pair of Iranian silver wall sconces - can be electrified or used with candles - \$20
- 19) One Brass and Etched Glass Overhead Light Fixture - only \$8.00
- 20) Blue & White Folk Art Porcelain figurines Gzhel, Russia - Four figurines @ \$3.00 each
- 21) Small Black leather Daytimer - only \$2.00
- 22) Hallmark Christmas Ornament - holds picture of that special daughter- granddaughter; pewter finish w ballerina motif - 3 available @ \$2 each
- 23) Four walnut 5x7 picture frames @ \$2 each
- 24) Set of 3 gold-rimmed china cups and saucers for only \$6.00

I was very moved, as I know many of you were, by the Fauré Requiem last Sunday. I was grieving for my friend Devere, whom I had buried the day before up in Cleveland, and so I was totally held in the arms of the music by the wonderful coincidence of it being sung on the day after his eulogy. But so many of you told me of the ones you were grieving too, and how much the Requiem blessed the course of your grief. It's really wonderful when the pastoral and the artful completely blend, the spiritual and the music. I've come to know those days as the great days in life.

Eric and Dick have been helping some of our seniors work through the Five Questions, a pamphlet which addresses end of life concerns. But the three of us are convinced that this is not just for our seniors, but for all of us. There are both practical and spiritual gifts which you may receive by working through those questions, no matter your age. Eric has written more on this elsewhere in this newsletter, and I commend his words to you.

The Easter season brings with it several ceremonies. The first is the Socinian Communion. Remember that we were called Socinians long before we were called Unitarians or Universalists. Our ancestors in Poland/Lithuania were scholarly, peaceful, questioning and experimental. They deeply valued the Communion ceremony as they celebrated it. This is not a traditional ceremony by some lights, but of course it includes the breaking of bread and a cup of juice. (April 9, Thursday before Easter, 6:30pm in the Worship Center.) All are welcome.

The Friday before Easter (April 10) is the annual Passover Seder. Our Socinian ancestors in Ukraine celebrated this along side their Jewish neighbors, because they took their Jewish roots as seriously as their Christian roots. This will cost some money for the food, and you must sign up in advance. It's 6:30pm again. The food does not begin until the first part of the ceremony is over with, usually 7:30pm or so. Hungry children might need to nibble a bit before they come. Vegetarian options, of course, and far more juice than wine.

And on Easter Sunday itself we celebrate the Flower Ceremony. Please bring a cut flower for every member of your family for the common vases. What a rich, rich season for the spirit!



Rev. Mark Belletini

Fire in the Heart... Spiritual writing from William Stafford's Passwords 1991

Yes

It could happen anytime. A tornado,
earthquake, Armageddon. It could happen.
Or sunshine, love, salvation.

It could, you know. That's why we wake
and look out—no guarantees
in this life.

But some bonuses, like morning,
like right now, like noon,
like evening.

Faith Development for All Ages

As we approach the end of my first church year at First UU, I'm even more excited about being here than when I first arrived. My only complaint is that it is hard to keep up with it all!

What's going on in Sunday School amazes me and challenges me and sometimes give me goose bumps. Our adult programming seems to be getting better and better. And, last Sunday after the beauty and perfection of the *Requiem*, I participated with a few of our leaders in drafting a Mission Statement that is so challenging we will never fully fulfill it and we will change ourselves, our congregation and at least the world around Columbus in our attempts. Being associated with people who want to make First UU more powerful, a source of transformation even, was a heady experience.

I've been following what's going on in the Middle School class all year as they have learned about racism, particularly institutionalized racism. Their teachers, Beth Jewel, Damon Reynolds, Gina Phillips and Betsy Duckworth, have been creative and sensitive and altogether wonderful in working with the group of about 20 6th and 7th graders. And they are truly impressed with the group. Together they have grown in their knowledge of racism and of themselves. Now they are putting together a video of the racial views and experiences of the congregation. Watch for it!

The growth in our Sunday School among the younger children - babies through first grade - is exciting. Today we had five babies and preschoolers in our new Orientation for New Families class. They toured the building and found where their classes will be and the preschoolers learned about our chalice and made chalices to take home while their parents learned more about what First UU has for families. Next year we expect to have more in Sunday School for this age group, including Spirit Play, based on the Montessori Method.

And this afternoon I sat down with the youth members of the Youth-Adult Steering Committee as they planned the youth service for April 19. We moved efficiently and quickly through the tasks as they developed an inspiring worship service. I was very impressed.

Certainly, I'm not saying that everything is wonderful. I can probably list more challenges associated with religious education here than you can. But we are moving forward as a team to solve our problems and improve what's already good. There is a wonderful spirit. One way to insure that this continues is to contribute your expectations and knowledge to the Start Up this Saturday, April 4, 11am - 2pm. Call the RE office, ext 28, so we know to prepare you a lunch.

I will be away April 14-16 as a part of a four-year study program in Interspiritual Leadership. My normal office hours are 1 to 5 pm Monday through Thursday. Call or email for an evening appointment. - Jolinda, Stephens, Director of Religious Education

RG&E News

Parent Blog: <http://firstuoparents.blogspot.com>

Kathleen Fowler, our CONcierge, wants to make sure all Junior and Senior High students and their parents know about the district events this spring. "There are two upcoming events for youths that promise to be fun and enlivening. The Spring Con is May 15-17 at West Shore for youth in 9th to 12th grades, as well as 7th-8th grade youth who have attended a con before. Plus the planning YAC meeting for this con is April 17-18 in Marietta. Please contact Kathleen Fowler at kfowler@mtsoalum.org or go to ohiomeadville.org/yac/events/php for more information."

Special Sundays (All Ages) for Children in April On Easter Sunday the children will participate in the beginning of the worship service, as they normally do. The elementary-aged children will gather in Room 9 to celebrate a Unitarian Universalist Children's Tenebrae in which the children participate in lighting and extinguishing candles as they tell the story of the human prophet and teacher, Jesus. At 9 am the younger children will also join the Tenebrae. At 11 am younger children will meet in the 4/5 Fellowship Room for Easter fun.

At the end of the worship service the children will reenter the Worship Center to take an active role in the flower ceremony by distributing the flowers. This is a day off for our Sunday School teachers. More adult volunteers are needed for each age group.

On **April 19** the youth will lead the two worship services on *restoration in family relationships*. The elementary group will celebrate Earth Day by exploring the ecology right around the church. Coordinated by our Green Team and our Building and Grounds committees. The activities may include walks to local water sites. This requires a good adult/child ratio of no more than 1 to 6. Please volunteer by calling the RE Office or emailing dre@firstuucolumbus.org. Preschoolers will celebrate in the play yards, weather permitting. Unless there is a hard rain, the elementary group - All Ages Sunday - will be outdoors. Please dress your children for sprinkles if it appears necessary, and send them from the Worship Center with their coats.

The Peace Camps Are Filling Up Fast Get your application in now. They are available on Sundays at the Sunday School Information Table or by emailing dre@firstuucolumbus.org.

Aug 3-7: Peace Camp 1 for those completing Kindergarten through 3rd grades

Aug 10-14: Peace Camp 2 for those completing 4th through 6th grades

Adult Enrichment Offerings

Learn to Use Our Laptop, Internet Connections, Sound and Digital Projector

Teachers and facilitators, speakers and storytellers, events planners and worship coordinators. Don't miss the audio visual training session in the Worship Center, Sunday, April 5, 12:30pm. Tom Baillieul will lead this training session.

Writing Your Ethical Will Based on the Seven Principles: Dates set by participants. Leave a record of your life lessons and values for your children and grandchildren. Or, write a letter to your yet-unborn child about what matters to you. Candidate for UU ministry, Kathleen Fowler facilitates. *Registration required.*

Childcare is always available on Tuesday nights starting at 7 pm through mid May. It is available for other AEP events by calling (ext 21) or emailing Marian Garcia, marian@firstuucolumbus.org.

Register for AEP classes and events at the AEP Table opposite Fellowship Hall or at www.firstuucolumbus.org. Scroll down to the green text block near the bottom of the home page and click on General Information Requests and Sign Me Up Forms. The select Adult Enrichment Program Course Sign-up Form.

AEP is seeking members of the committee that makes all these great events happen. Parents of children and people in their 20s and 30s, particularly heritage UUs are needed to add balance to the committee. Contact Judy Fettman (judyfet375@gmail.com) or Jolinda Stephens (dre@firstuucolumbus.org).

SYC's 40th Anniversary Celebration

The School for Young Children will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary on Saturday, April 25th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The preschool has been a vital outreach program of this church since the summer of 1969. Many church families have had children who once attended or are currently enrolled in preschool classes at SYC. We invite you to join us for our celebration as we share memories of the old days and hear stories about life after preschool.

- 4:00 – 5:30 PM Visit the Classrooms
- Watch the old Slide Shows
- Look at Class Pictures and old photos
- Add to our collage poster “What Are You Doing Now?”
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM Potluck Dinner in Fellowship Hall
- (Please bring a dish to share—we will have water, iced tea and coffee)
- Enjoy music performed by former SYC students
- Hear and Share Memories of SYC
- 7:00 – 8:00 PM Visit with old Friends and Teachers
- Sing-a-Long of old SYC songs

If you can't come but would like to share stories about what your former SYC students are up to these days, or a memory from SYC, please send them to Stephanie Rottmayer at sycdirector@firstuucolumbus.org or put them in the school mailbox in the mailroom next to the church office. I will add your stories to our collection to share at our celebration.

All current and former children, families and staff are invited to join us. Classrooms and playgrounds will be open with simple activities (with children supervised by parents.)

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

Mission Statement

We are here to learn and practice authentic hospitality, to revere both the reasoning mind and the generous heart, to claim the challenges of our diversity as a source of spiritual strength, and to relinquish the safety of privilege for the freedom to engage in transforming justice.

Vision Statement

To fulfill this Mission, and to make it come alive in ourselves, our children, and our world:

1. We seek to always center ourselves in worship and other Celebrations. Thus do we express our desire for wholeness in a broken world: with communal joy, shared sorrow, artful beauty and an engaged spirit.
2. We seek to build caring, honest relationships in all aspects of congregational life. Thus do we grow an inter-generational, multicultural community of lifelong learning, spiritual growth, a liberating conscience, and responsible, grateful stewardship.
3. We seek to live lives of active engagement. Thus do we embody the power of our Unitarian Universalist tradition to advocate for religious freedom, to acclaim the value of each unique spiritual journey, and to help us claim our own free place in that shared history of compassion and love.
4. We seek to honestly confront suffering, and the seen-and-unseen effects of oppression in this world. Thus do we act for social and ecological justice, organize to deepen our pastoral care, and open ourselves for transformative interfaith cooperation.
5. We seek to welcome all persons to our central Ohio congregation, no matter who they are, or how they define self or weave family, to claim their share in co-creating this beloved community. Thus do we envision a world transformed by the practice of justice into a common home of peace.> (Draft 03/2009)

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GREEN TIP

If you are buying coffee to go, bring your own travel cup. Some coffee shops, such as Starbucks, will give you a 10% credit. Even better, you are not wasting one (or two when double-cupped) paper cups.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Discover part of our Universalist past with the Archives Team display on Sundays, April 19 and 26. How does Columbus's well-known Kelton House fit into our past?

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 5, 12:30pm, in the Worship Center, An AEP Special workshop on "How To Use Audio Visuals Within the Church." The workshop will be led by Thomas Baillieul, former Chair of the AEP Committee. Open to all interested persons within our congregation.