

First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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First Unitarian Church Welcomes All For Special Worship Service by Ugandan Minister

“Celebrating God Together” will be the theme of a special worship service led by the Rev. Mark Kiyimba from Kampala, Uganda at First Unitarian Church of Louisville, KY on **Wednesday, July 8, at 7:00 PM.** The service will be one-of-a-kind, the highlight of Rev. Kiyimba’s visit to Louisville. Rev. Kiyimba promises to sing in his native language and preach about the very recent birth of Unitarian Universalism in Uganda. First Unitarian welcomes all to attend the service and experience the music and spirit of Ugandan Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Kiyimba, originally trained as a Pentecostal minister, sought a church that offered more spiritual liberty. Finding none in his native Uganda, he founded the Unitarian Kampala Central Church in 2004 and is the leader of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Uganda. The church sponsors an orphanage and a school for children who have lost parents to AIDS.

Before the service, the Church will serve the usual Chalice Night meal at 5:30, also open to all, for just \$4.00. To help assure there is enough for all, please, if possible, call the Church (502.585.5110) in advance if you plan to attend the meal.

Work, Learn, and Eat: "Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart." --Anonymous

Two upcoming volunteer-related events: Kathy Kremer, House and Grounds Committee

Kitchen cabinet cleaning **July 25:** After many, many potlucks, dinners, and special events, the kitchen cabinet doors and shelves need some deep cleaning. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, July 25, anytime between the hours of 9AM and 5PM to stop by for awhile and join in an assembly line of wiping down the doors and shelves. Lunch will be provided.

House & Grounds, Churchyard Friends, and Chairioteers Show and Tell:

On two Sundays, **July 5 and July 26** after service, an information table will be set up for church members and friends who would like to know more about three volunteer opportunities at First U: House & Grounds (fix up and clean up), Churchyard Friends (plant and water flowers), and Chairioteers (help move Sanctuary chairs for special events). Current volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and give you the real picture of what these groups do.

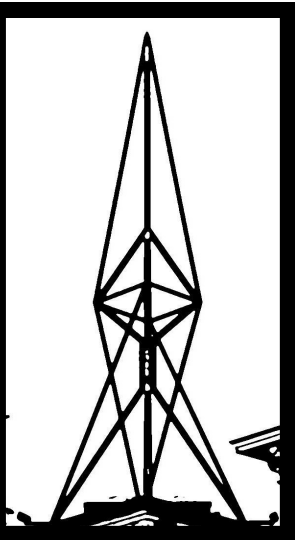
If you have any questions, please call Kathy Kremer at 459-4109 or email kathy.kremer@louisville.edu.

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Love is the spirit of this church...

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

STEEPLETALK





Women's Alliance

Gathering Saturday, August 22: All women of First Unitarian are invited to attend our Goal Gathering.

We will have a potluck brunch at 9:30 am in the Social Hall. So between now and August 22nd, think about activities and events you would like the Alliance to participate in during this new church year (2009 - 2010) that fit into our mission and our areas of interest; outreach, sistership, education, spirituality and service to First U. Please bring your ideas and a food item to share.

Any questions please contact Kathy Thackeray 454-7631 or womensalliance@firstulou.org

Money Talk\$ You will be reading this in the **new** church year, 2009-2010. But I'm writing it in the waning days of the **old** church year, 2008-2009. So it is too soon to report on closing out the fiscal year. Someday, I'd love to see us go to a fiscal year that matched the calendar year, avoiding a lot of confusion about who paid what pledge when. But that's a topic for another day. In the meantime, I can report on a couple of things that have happened in June:

The bad news is that we had to transfer another \$8,000.00 from our capital assets account to our checking account. Why? If we didn't, we were going to bounce several checks—including the end-of-June payroll checks. This is in addition to the \$58,824 we had budgeted to transfer during the 2008-2009 church year. There were several reasons we needed this additional money: We under-budgeted for some items, particularly the staff retirement funds, which hadn't been paid since 2007, so we had a lot of catching up to do. The taxes on the parking lot were more than double what we expected, based on the previous year. And our income was much lower in some areas than we had expected: special gifts (non-existent this year), one big fundraiser (ditto), facility rentals, Kroger bucks. (Gary Drehmel is doing a fine job of pushing these last; why aren't they being used? If you spend \$100 at Kroger, and First Church doesn't get \$4.00 of it, you need to ask yourself, **WHY?**) Pledge payments have been coming in pretty well, but still not quite at the level we had hoped. It's not too late to correct this! Just remember, if you are paying your 2008-2009 pledge in July or August, please note that on your check!

Anyway, unless something good starts happening for the 2009-2010 church year, it is likely that we will have to dip deeper into our capital assets again, taking out more than the \$52,452 we budgeted for next year. That well is bound to run dry soon. Please remember two things: (1) This money is NOT coming from the endowment fund; we receive a set amount from that in quarterly installments (5% of the average income on it for the past two years) whether we are operating in the red or the black. (2) Before accepting the 2009-2010 austerity budget, the Congregation voted to increase our payroll expenses; now it is time to think of ways to increase income! I don't want to be an alarmist, but I think the congregation needs to realize that **our money is a problem right now, and it is not going to solve itself.**

One small step toward increasing our income will occur the first full week in July. The Treasurer of Calvary Episcopal Church and I will be meeting with the parking lot service that handles our shared parking lot. Our goal? To negotiate a new contract that would increase the daily parking fee and give each church a larger monthly payment. I will also be trying to get someone in the tax department to focus on the fact that the parking lot's tax bill more than doubled in the past year; that just has to be a mistake, and it would be great if we could get it corrected before the next bill is due.

Finally, Holly Hogue tells me that there are still some pledge cards that have not come in for 2009-2010. It is not too late to turn these in, even though it is already July. It is also not too late to increase your pledge, if you are feeling generous, optimistic, grateful, or just plain concerned about seeing First Church through what ought to be a landmark year!

Maureen Taylor, Treasurer

STEEPLETALK

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Recent Service at First Unitarian It was an honor that we hosted the Bike and Build young people as they stopped in Louisville as they travel across our big country biking and building homes for the poor. They gave a wonderful presentation at Chalice Night on Wednesday, June 24th. Check out their website - <http://bikeandbuild.org/rider/route.php?route=P2SF&year=2009>

Special thanks to Kathy Drehmel and a few others who pitched in to provide a little breakfast for the riders on Friday morning as they headed off to their next destination.

Love is the spirit of this church...

Religious Education News

CONsent: a special local Senior High Youth Conference:

Coming in August- High School Teens are invited to join in community to focus on exploring in depth some tricky teen issues. Have you ever felt like someone completely misunderstood what you wanted or didn't want in a relationship situation? Have you ever felt totally confused about what was going on in a relationship? Does it sometimes seem like "Just say NO" just isn't what you mean?

Did we mention this will be interesting and FUN? This CON goes beyond the Our Whole Lives program (OWL) to focus in depth on healthy relationships, gender respect, trust, and boundaries. This program is produced through the cooperative efforts of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, First Unitarian Church, Planned Parenthood and MensWork.

DRE Search:

We have several excellent resumes. The DRE Search Committee recently had a phone conference with Rev. Dawn Cooley, our new settled minister to discuss the candidates and make some decisions about checking references. We will schedule interviews mid-July so that Rev. Cooley will be able to participate in them. We are hoping a decision can be made by early August.

July Celebrations of Life:

Don't forget that the CoL will begin at 9:30 a.m. There will be childcare in the Preschool Room on the second floor for all children from infants to second grade. All children third grade and older will attend the service with their families. Families are asked to make sure that children not in childcare are supervised during the CoL and not allowed to roam the hallways or play on the computer in the volunteer area.

August Religious Education:

Mary Griffin will be organizing multi-age Religious Education programs during the month of August. These will be held during the CoL on the second floor. Childcare for infants and toddlers will resume in the nursery on the first floor during August. The fall semester of RE will begin again on the Sunday after Ingathering. Watch the next Steepletalk for those dates.

Youth Travel Fundraiser:

The Middle School and High School youth groups will have a carwash at church on **August 8**. The logistics are still to be worked out, but youth will wash your car for a donation to raise money for their travel fund that helps the youth take service trips in the summer and go to Boston after completing the Coming of Age program. Come to church on August 8th with a dirty car and money in your pocket.

Carol Uebelboer, Interim Director of Religious Education Contact me at **585-5110, press 2** and leave a message or e-mail me at cuebel56@yahoo.com.

RE dates to save-

- Parent Orientation (required) **Wednesday, August 26th** at First Unitarian. Dinner served at 5:30; program from 7-9 PM;
- CONsent event all day **Saturday, August 29-Sunday morning August 30th** at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church. More information will be coming in the mail to parents soon. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact the DRE at First Unitarian Church (502) 585-5110.

August—Summer Religious Education This summer our Religious Education Ministry will present a UU Identity curriculum during the month of **August**. The program will be *for three year olds through fifth graders* in an Open Classroom setting. If you are an adult or youth member of the church please consider taking a Sunday or two to volunteer. Contact Mary Griffin for more details or to sign up as a volunteer at 375-1837 or maryandsophia@juno.com.



Sr. High Service Trip Update Most of you have heard that the planned Sr. High service trip to Appalachia in June was cancelled, due to the extension of the school year for weather-related missed days. Plan B, a local weekend of service, takes place **July 10 - 12**. The Sr. High Youth Group will be working at the Salvation Army's homeless shelter Friday, Saturday and Sunday by day, and sleeping at the church at night. The job includes painting and repair work, with lunch provided at their soup kitchen. Our young people continue to show us that "love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law". - Kathy Gapsis

Just Among Ourselves...

The Schweickart family invites members and friends of the church to celebrate the **50th Anniversary** of Joyce and Bernie on **Friday, August 14, 2009** at 6:00 PM in the social hall.

In consideration of planning, please RSVP by August 1st to Barbara at 502-439-7327. No gifts.



Angela Klueber's uncle passed away in June. We send our sympathy and thoughts to Angela and her family.

Many thanks to Kathy Eickmann and the many members and friends who helped make the Bonanza Book sale a success.

Interweave—"Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working toward ending oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past."

- Planning Meeting, Sunday, July 5, 10:45am, or 30 minutes after the service. Agenda items will cover follow-up on projects for the fall, including a marriage equality forum, the Oct 11 march in Washington, and welcoming the new minister.

Diverse viewpoints are encouraged. For more information or questions about Interweave, please contact Jasmine Walston, Chair, at jasminegld@aol.com or 944-7517.

Member Development Director

Chalice Night – The summer schedule is ready and in full swing. I have a couple of gaps to fill in but the CUUPs schedule is complete and I have discussion facilitators for the films that will be shown. The gaps I need to fill involve musicians/artists discussing their music/work with the group (I have a few people already in mind, just need to get firm dates). Tiffany will cook all summer as she is now back from vacation and as of right now has no plans to be gone on Wednesdays anymore this summer.

Courtyard Café – June 12 was the second Café. Chris Hartman with Fairness Campaign came with a table full of handouts and information. Fairness received \$42 from their portion of the cover charge. The next Café will be on **July 10** from 6-10pm and is already on the church calendar. There will be an open mic portion and a jam session portion of the evening. Kentucky Fairness Alliance will be the organization that will receive the cover charge donation.

Advertising for the Café continues to grow. I am asking the organizations to send the information to their contacts, I am informing The Letter of the event (it made front page in June), and have a small network of GLBT-friendly churches/organizations that I can send posters to. I hope to expand to Leo, Velocity and the Courier-Journal events listings. I already have several people who have offered to help with the next Café and after I have time to gather more of my thoughts, will put out a call for more help.

Opportunities to Serve brochure – Since this brochure was introduced to the congregation at the end of May, I have received 3 responses. The purpose of the brochure is to help me find volunteers to staff the 5 Ministries, their task teams, and to find daytime office volunteers. I know many of you have filled out former versions of this, but I would really appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to look over the brochure (which can be found on the brochure kiosk at the York Street entrance), check the boxes of things you are interested in, and return the tear-off portion to me. *Rebecca Dimon, Membership Development Director*

Summer Conversations - Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library

Gather at 10:45am

During the month of July, Summer Conversations will meet from 10:45am to 12:00 noon after the Celebration of Life and a few minutes conversation in the Social Hall. Start time will be flexible to accommodate fluctuations in length of the service.

This new time for adult religious education offers a great opportunity to try out the Sunday adult class. Bring your reflections about the mornings service, or share an idea from current events or UU circles.

Youth are encouraged to attend. Attendees are welcome to bring children in their care. Child care for preschoolers must be requested in advance, by contacting Rebecca Dimon at 585-5110. For more information about Summer Conversations, contact Jasmine Walston at jasminegld@aol.com or 944-7517.

Love is the spirit of this church...

Calendar

Wednesday, July 1

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, July 2

7:15pm Stewardship

Friday, July 3**Office Closed****Sunday, July 5**

9:30am Celebration of Life

10:45am Summer Conversations

10:45am Interweave

Monday, July 6

7:15pm RE Committee

Tuesday, July 7**Wednesday, July 8**

5:00pm Chalice Night

7:00pm Special Service— Uganda Minister

Thursday, July 9

5:30pm Personnel Committee

Friday, July 10

6:00pm Courtyard Cafe

Senior High Weekend of Service

Saturday, July 11**Sunday, July 12**

9:30am Celebration of Life

10:45am Summer Conversations

10:30am Worship Ministry

12:15pm Young Adult Group

Monday, July 13

6:00pm Book Club

Tuesday, July 14

6:00pm Board of Trustees

Wednesday, July 15

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, July 16

Women in Transition 7/16-7/18

6:00pm Member Ministry

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, July 17**Saturday, July 18****Sunday, July 19**

9:30am Celebration of Life

10:45am Summer Conversations

Monday, July 20

6:30pm UU Christian Fellowship

Tuesday, July 21

6:15pm Ministry Council

Wednesday, July 22

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, July 23

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, July 24**Steepletalk Deadline****Saturday, July 25**

9:00am House & Grounds

Sunday, July 26

9:30am Celebration of Life

10:45am Summer Conversations

Monday, July 27

6:00pm Resources Ministry

Tuesday, July 28

6:00pm Ministry Council

7:00pm Finance

Wednesday, July 29

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, July 30**Friday, July 30****Saturday, August 1**

Where of where have all the hymnals gone?!?!?

After an annual inventory of the Singing the Living Tradition Hymnals (dark gray) at church which included an extensive search of all the nooks and crannies of the church (except for the office area) we have come up short. There are many missing! We know it is easy to carry these books out of church (although they are reasonably heavy!). We know when getting ready for a meeting there is sometimes a mad scramble for opening words and closing words. We know how UU's just like to read the words of hymns. **Please return the church's hymnals to the church.** Just leave them in the Hymnal cart which is in the Storage Room or put it on the table as you enter the sanctuary! Thank you very much!

The **UU Christian Fellowship** will hold its July meeting at the Outdoor Labyrinth at the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary at 1044 Alta Vista Road - Louisville, Kentucky 40205 - on **July 21** meeting at 6 p.m. just inside the main gates. We will walk the labyrinth and if there is an interest go out for discussion afterward. If you have any questions please call Geneva at 948-1367.

First Unitarian is providing daycare space for a Women In Transition conference being held at Spaulding University, July 16-19. The event is titled: **BUILDING THE UNSETTLING FORCE: A National Conference to End Poverty.** For more information contact Women In Transition at 636-0160 or email witadmin@witky.com.

To: all members and friends of First Unitarian

From: **The Liberal Sew and Sews** (a group under the umbrella of the Women's Alliance)

We have a few projects for all women and men that we will have on going this summer at **Chalice Night**.

1. The Linus Project: making blankets for children and youth who have experienced trauma. Blankets can be fleece (easy) or knit or crochet. We have patterns for all. We have some fleece and will be getting some more. We do have some yarn. These blankets need to be completed by August 31st.

2. We will be making some table runners. So we are looking for some people to embroider some snowmen. We have the floss, needles but no hoops to hold the material tight. If you have a hoop please bring it. (these snowmen need to be completed by August 5th)

3. We will be making a child's quilt (either for the service auction or the Yuletide Fare). So we are looking for some people to embroider monkeys and various items. The quilt will be a "Five Little Monkeys Quilt". These squares need to be completed by August 5th)

4. We have some extra fleece that is too small for a blanket and so we are going to make scarves. This is a very easy project.

5. Holly is going to share with us, how to make a purse or a bag from plastic bags. I do know they are knit or crochet but we also need people to help cut the plastic bags into strips, an easy task!

So come, do something with your hands and enjoy the fellow/sistership. If you have any questions you can give me a call at 454-7631 or email me at margituu@yahoo.com. See you then, Kathy Thackeray

First Unitarian Church

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Return Service Requested

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can access it from the church
website at www.firstulou.org.
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Wanted:

Are you searching for a way
to use your talents to help
people? We need volunteers
with good office skills to help
Betty Vernon with day-to-day
activities at First Unitarian.

Please call (585-5110) or email
office@firstulou.org.

Celebrations of Life

Summer Sunday Services begin at **9:30 a.m.**

- July 5** Kathie Johnson is leading service, special music by Terry White. Topic is freedom.
- July 12** Homer Wilkins, guest minister from Knoxville, TN, leads; special music by Lisa Willner. Topic to be announced.
- July 19** Faith for a Modern Age adapted from works of Rev. Galen Guengerich. Part One -- "A Cabinet of Spiritual Curiosities". Imagine a cabinet that contains specimens from your religious life. Jill Sampson leads, starting a three-part series.
- July 26** Faith for a Modern Age adapted from works of Rev. Galen Guengerich. Part Two -- "A religion for Children of the Enlightenment." Explore what a modern religion might look like in this age of secularism. Jill Sampson leads part two of a three-part series.
- August 2** Faith for a Modern Age adapted from works of Rev. Galen Guengerich. Part Three -- "The Next Ten Commandments". Consider what a new set of moral guidelines might look like for a modern religion. Jill Sampson completes the three-part series.