

First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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August—Summer Children's Religious Education focuses on a UU Identity Curriculum

This program is for preschool through elementary aged children (3-10 years old) and will be held in the preschool room (next to the RE library upstairs).

Volunteer instructors are still needed. If one of these themes or UU person below resonates particularly with you and you want to help out please contact Mary Griffin at maryandsophia@juno.com or 375-1837.

UU Identity

- **Aug 2** Exploring the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person
Famous UU: Dorothea Dix
- **Aug 9** We Should Accept One Another and Keep on Learning Together
Famous UU: Joseph Priestly
- **Aug 16** Everyone Must Be Free to Search for what is True and Right in Life
Famous UU: Ralph Waldo Emerson
- **Aug 23** All Persons Should Have a Vote about the Things That Concern Them
Famous UU: Susan B. Anthony
- **Aug 30** We Must Care For Our Planet Earth the Home We Share With All Living Things
Famous UU: Malvina Reynolds



Car Wash for the Youth Travel Fund

The youth are sponsoring a carwash to raise funds for the Youth Travel Fund. Come to hear Rev. Dawn Cooley in her first Celebration of Life on **Sunday, August 9**, and leave with a clean car - youth will be in the church parking lot while the service is going on. We'll be conserving water and using biodegradable soap. Rain will postpone the carwash to a later date.



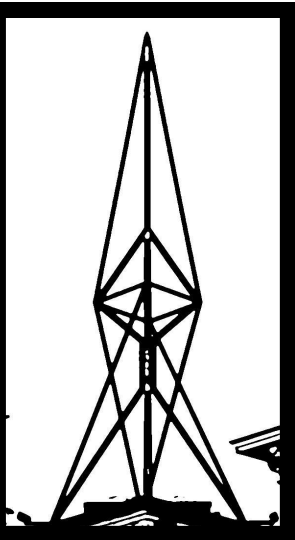
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Love is the spirit of this church...

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

STEEPLETALK





When to Call the Minister

A Note from the Minister

The boxes are unpacked, mostly. Those that remain probably will for a number of years. The trials and tribulations that come from moving into a 90 year home have, hopefully, been mostly uncovered. The neighbors have been met and the library cards gotten. And so, with anticipation, excitement, and a deep sense of being *ready*, I look forward to my first month as your new minister.

It has been a number of years since you have had a settled minister – someone who you hoped would be with you as your children, or grandchildren grew up. Someone who you knew you could count on if you ended up in the hospital. Someone who loved you and challenged you to be your best self as individuals and as a congregation – and who was going to be around to watch what works, and what doesn't.

The interim ministers you have had were top notch. They did good work to prepare you for a settled minister and I appreciate them so very much. You have grown as a congregation in the past few years. But after three years of interim ministry, many of you may be wondering about my role as your *settled* minister; about when to call me or what to expect of me. We will talk about a lot of this, I am certain, in the coming months. But for this first column, I wanted to share with you something that I know I have found helpful.

Many years ago UU minister Peter Lee Scott wrote a column called "When to Call the Minister." As you can probably imagine, it has been adapted over the years, with each minister adding their own twist. Here is the version I offer to you:

CALL THE MINISTER WHEN...

- When you don't know me, but would like to.
- When you have problems you would like to discuss with your job, children, marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.
- When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind.
- When you would like to talk about your own death – whether immanent or a ways away.
- When you are planning to be married or divorced.
- When you would like your child dedicated, or some other special rite of passage.
- When you are pregnant and glad you are, or wish you weren't, also if you want to be pregnant but aren't and want to talk about it.
- When you, or a friend or neighbor would like more information about the Unitarian Universalist faith.
- When you feel ready to join the congregation, or are seeking clarity as to what joining means.
- When you have suggestions to make about Sunday Celebrations of Life.
- When you have suggestions for a sermon.
- When you'd like help with committee work or with other congregational activities.
- When there are community issues you'd like to discuss or would like me to be involved with.
- When you have religious or spiritual questions, or are struggling with what those terms mean.
- When you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life.
- When you've had good news and want to share it.
- When you've had bad news.
- When you're feeling overwhelmed.
- When you want to tell me your history with the church.
- When you want to spend more time with the children and youth.
- When you are upset with me or would like to express appreciation.

Rev. Cooley's Office Hours:

Tues., Wed., & Fri., 10-2
or by appointment

Of course, this is not meant an exhaustive list, but as we start our time together, I thought it might be helpful to remind you of some of the ways that I am here to serve you. I look forward to getting to know you!

-Rev. Dawn Cooley, Minister

STEEPLETALK

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Contact us: editor@firsttulou.org

Worship Ministry Seeking Readers for Celebration of Life

The Worship Ministry Team, along with the Rev. Dawn Cooley, are looking for a few (or more) good readers - to assist periodically during Sunday Celebrations of Life. This would involve a small amount of training and the commitment to be there on the agreed upon date to do one or more readings chosen by Rev. Cooley or the Worship Team coordinator. This is open to all age groups and would require just a few minutes of your time a few times a year.

We can only take the first 100 names, so don't wait to sign up or you might miss out on this fantastic opportunity. You can email me at ronandkathie@gmail.com, call me at 454-5957, or tackle me at church.

-Kathie Johnson

Religious Education News

My family has had some fascinating conversations lately regarding “faith development,” “spirituality,” “ultimate meaning,” and the like. While it seems odd conversational fare for the lazy days of summer, we’ve found it invigorating and exciting, and I am delighted to share some with you.

For years, Unitarian Universalists accepted that “Director of Religious Education” adequately described the staff member who managed the “church school,” which, in turn, meant Sunday morning classes for children and youth. Little by little, our ideas about developing congregational understanding of UUism deepened and grew. It does not happen only in the Sunday morning church school, nor in the Celebration of Life; it involves far more than exchanging information; and it does not stop at the age of 18. We realized that opportunities for adult learning needed to go beyond the lecture or “forum” formats; we realized the importance of integrating worship and workshops; we realized that youth groups yearned for more than “hanging out,” that they sought ways to actually live and experience UU principles; along with the larger movement, we at First Church realized that a more appropriate staff title was “Director of *Lifespan* Religious Education.”

The times they are a-changin’ again. Just as social scientists have become aware that psychological development is a life-long process, with different stages characterized by different emotional needs, different cognitive styles, and different ways of engaging the world, so, too, is our understanding of “faith” and “spirituality” growing. Not limited to theistic considerations, these terms describe experiences that differ from one individual to another – and from one stage of life to another in each individual – but they refer to experiences that are truly universal. From the most ardent Humanist to the most Goddess-worshipping Pagan, no UU is immune to the human need to explore questions of ultimate meaning, ultimate reality. What motivates me? How am I to live? What is the nature of the human condition? No longer is it sufficient to transmit information about our religion or even to provide experience of our religious principles, symbols, and beliefs. These are necessary, but they are not enough. If we are truly to encourage spiritual growth in our congregations and to support each other’s free and responsible search for truth and meaning, we must provide the necessary tools, offer training in their use, and respect the ongoing work of using those tools.

This maturing understanding of the scope of our responsibilities to one another has led the UUA to favor “Director of Lifespan Faith Development” as more accurately capturing the task. Whereas “religion” concerns who we are as a *community*, “faith” concerns the how we live as *individuals* -- “orientation of the total

person, giving purpose and goal to one’s hopes and strivings, thoughts and actions” (Fowler, “Stages of Faith”). Likewise “education” suggests something that can be transmitted, accomplished, finished, while “development” implies a continual ongoing process, one in which each of us is an active participant.

We at First have not yet adopted the more descriptive title (although I very much hope we will do so in the near future), but we do embrace programs that recognize the lifespan faith development process. One example is the service element sometimes inaccurately referred to as “children’s story,” or “children’s focus”; in reality, this is a time for sharing the imagery, the stories, that are meaningful to *all* of us -- children, youth, and adults of all ages. Other examples are the “Articulating Our Faith” and “Building Your Own Theology” programs. One of the very best examples of the process of providing tools and assistance with their use is the “Coming of Age” program. Coming of Age pairs our young adolescents with adult mentors for a year-long exploration of questions such as What do I value? What do I believe? What gives my life meaning? What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist?

Still, wonderful as the Coming of Age program is, there is a danger that we can begin to think of it as something that can be completed, settled, put behind us as we grow into adulthood. It provides marvelous tools for coping with James Fowler’s third stage of faith development, but it must be augmented with similar tools for moving to stage four and beyond. The reality is that Coming of Age is merely the *beginning* of serious, intentional exploration of personal spirituality and its expression in Unitarian Universalism. Perhaps we should call it Initial Coming of Age program and should follow it with a series of others to address different stages of growth or different concentric rings of faith development? At the very least, we have an obligation to recognize this process does not end for any of us, for as James Luther Adams observed, an unexamined faith is not worth having.

And you? When was the last time YOU actually took the time to examine your own thoughts about ultimate meaning, the beliefs that serve as your motivation in life, and your orientation as a total person? What tools (spiritual practices, justice work, study, and so on) do you regularly use? What tools would you like to learn to use? What questions should we be asking? What do you need to move from feeling yourself a passive “consumer” at First to the satisfaction of participation and growth? How can First Unitarian Church help YOU in the ongoing process of faith development?

As religious educators and as faith developers, we really do want to hear from you.

- Carol Uebelboer, Interim Director of Religious Education

BOARD BIZ The board met July 14th, welcoming new members, David Runge, Doug Taylor, and Secretary Jill Sampson, and ongoing members, Bernie Schweickart, Kathy Drehmel, Kathy Rogers, John Grossman, and Treasurer Maureen Taylor. President John Grossman took up the reins diving right into existing board business.

July begins a new church year for your Board. We look forward to all that comes before us, both the easy and the difficult. A new Minister and DRE should be here next month. Reverend Cooley already is meeting with some Ministries. August 29 the Board will hold a retreat with other church leaders to lay the groundwork for things to come. We have many hurdles we know, but at the same time such a talented and resourceful congregation. We are dedicated to supporting the Ministries while keeping a clear line between the Board and the work of each Ministry.

Kathy Drehmel is coordinating the board / ministry leadership retreat that will take place August 29th. This will be an excellent opportunity for the board and ministry leaders to review their roles and set goals for 2010.

Our Treasurer will continue to advise the congregation on pledging status, seek ways to avoid unnecessary expenses, and apprise all of us, not just the Board, on the ongoing financial struggles.

-John Grossman, Board President & Jill Sampson, Board Secretary

Just Among Ourselves...

Congratulations to Joyce and Bernie Schweickart! They will celebrate their **50th Anniversary** on **Friday, August 14**. A reception and dinner has been planned to honor them. Please no gifts.



We send our condolences to the family of Geneva Fry, whose stepmother has passed away.

Help the HELP office yard sale

HELP, the community ministry First U supports, is having a yard sale on **Saturday, August 29, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Fourth Ave. Methodist (Fourth and St. Catherine)**. They will also have a pancake breakfast, plant sale and bake sale. All proceeds will go towards a matching grant from Kosairs Children charities. Funds will be used to provide emergency help to families with children in need who live in our neighborhood. If you can provide volunteer help, plants, baked goods or "treasures" for the yard sale contact Betty Caudle or Gary Drehmel ASAP (and don't forget to attend on the 29th).

Women's Alliance Goal Gathering Brunch

All women of First Unitarian are invited to attend our Goal Gathering Brunch on **Saturday, August 22**, at 9:30 am in the Social Hall at First Unitarian. Please think about what events, programs and activities you would like to participate in during this church year, 2009-2010. Please share these ideas with Kathy Thackeray before the Goal Gathering Brunch by emailing your ideas or writing them and placing in the Women's Alliance mail box in the volunteer area or by telling Kathy T. in the Social Hall at the Women's Alliance Table after the Service on **August 16th**. Ideas will be taken at the Brunch also, but it would save your time if the Steering Committee had them before **August 22nd**. The events, programs and activities need to fit into our mission and our areas of interest; outreach, sistership, education, spirituality and service to First U. Looking forward to seeing you and your brunch food item on **Saturday, August 22nd**.

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

THANK YOU KROGER BUCKEROOS!!

Because you used your First U Kroger gift card to buy groceries, gas, prescriptions etc. Krogers has given First church almost \$3,000 over the past year (at no cost to you)! Keep up the good work! If you are not yet a Kroger Buckeroo, ask Gary Drehmel how you can sign up.

Believe it or Not! Yuletide Fare Planning Started!

Work has already begun on this year's Yuletide Fare. The Sew and Sews are Sewing, Recipes are being reviewed. We need your help gathering items that will assist us in making this year's Yuletide Fare better than ever! In order for us to accomplish some of the things we are doing, we are asking for donations of various items over the next few months.

Please donate:

- Melon Ballers
- Measuring Cups & Measuring Spoons

There will be a box in the kitchen on the counter to the left of the big sinks for donations.

We will be keeping you up to date as to our progress and yummy things to look forward to in the coming months! The Yuletide Fare Chairs

Be sure to reserve **Saturday, December 12, 2009**.

Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light's Director and Solar Energy Advocate Tim Darst to speak at CoL Service on Cleanup Sunday, August 30.

The **August 30** service is devoted to the Unitarian Universalist's Seventh Principle, which is to affirm and promote "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Our guest speaker Tim Darst is the executive director of Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light, a non-profit organization "whose mission is to care for God's creation by mobilizing a religious response to global warming through conservation, efficiency and alternative energy." Tim also co-hosts a blog site on Courier-Journal's Kentuckiana.com, where he "aims to help readers make the connection between ecology and faith." Last September, Tim rode 200 miles in one day on TARC buses to highlight the need for increased public transportation as part of World Car Free Day. His action raised over \$2000 in pledges for Family Scholar House.

In his remarks, Tim will share the story of how his parish, St. William Catholic Church, became the first church in Kentucky to install solar panels on its roof. Music director William Plummer and instrumentalist Phillip Morgan will provide the music.

Afterwards, please join us for the annual church "cleanup" day, complete with lunch and beverages. There are all kinds of chores to choose from, so this is a day when everyone can help! For more information, or if you cannot attend on **August 30** but would like to help, please check out the "Cleanup Sunday" poster/signup sheet in the Social Hall or contact Kathy Kremer at 459-4109 or kathy.kremer@louisville.edu.

Calendar

Sunday, August 2

9:30am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
12:00pm CUUPS-Lammas Luncheon
12:15pm Worship Ministry

Monday, August 3

7:15pm RE Committee

Tuesday, August 4

Wednesday, August 5

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 6

5:30pm Stewardship

Friday, August 7

Saturday, August 8

9:00am House & Grounds

Sunday, August 9

9:30 Car Wash
9:30am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
12:15pm Young Adult Group

Monday, August 10

6:00pm Book Club

Tuesday, August 11

6:00pm Board of Trustees

Wednesday, August 12

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 13

5:30pm Personnel Committee

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

Sunday, August 16

9:30am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
12:15pm Young Adult Group

Monday, August 17

6:00pm UU Christian Fellowship

Tuesday, August 18

6:15pm Ministry Council

Wednesday, August 19

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 20

6:00pm Member Ministry

Friday, August 21

Steepletalk Deadline

Saturday, August 22

9:30am Women's Alliance-Goal Gathering Brunch

Sunday, August 23

9:30am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

Monday, August 24

11:00am Brownbaggers

Tuesday, August 25

7:00pm Finance

Wednesday, August 26

5:00pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 27

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 28

Saturday, August 29

Leadership Retreat

Sunday, August 30

9:30am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

CUUPS Programs - In Earth Based Traditions, Lammas is the time of the first harvest.

This Sabbath celebrates the turning of the year from summer to autumn and is traditionally a feast of grains and breads. This is the time when the first grains are threshed, apples are plump in the trees, and gardens are overflowing with summer bounty. In nearly every ancient culture, this was a time of celebration of the agricultural significance of the season. At Lammas, we give thanks for all that we have and all that we will have. CUUPS celebrates the first harvest by hosting annual breads and spreads luncheon to thank our First U church family. This light lunch will be right after the celebration of life on August 2.

Money Talk\$ Just call me "Chicken Little."

Part of my job as Treasurer is to report to the Church—you—on our financial status. The Congregation adopted a deficit budget again this year, and it already appears likely that our expenses will exceed even what we envisioned. Why?

Well, one problem is that we have to develop the budget before we can possibly close out the current fiscal year. That means we start from ground zero, and we assume—erroneously—that all of the past fiscal year's expenses have been paid. Often, they haven't been. Due to severe cash flow problems, bills are put off from one year to the next. That happened last year with several expensive items, including taxes, retirement payments, and membership dues (both UUA and the Heartland District). When we pay last year's expenses with this year's income, you know what happens: we wind up paying this year's expenses with next year's income. The problem snowballs, and we can already see it happening now. Our 2009-2010 income is going to have to pay some late bills that we had no money for in 2008-2009. (Some of these come with late fees attached, unfortunately.)

Another problem is that we have members and friends whose hearts are bigger than their pocketbooks. For instance, in the year just ended, we had 152 pledging "units." Of these, 90 paid their pledges in full. (Thank you! You are the backbone of the Church.) Another 40 paid some or most of their pledges. (Thank you, too!) And 22 paid nothing. Our shortfall was close to \$20,000, altogether. There are many,

many reasons for this problem, I know. But we can't pay our bills with money we don't receive.

Fortunately, we still have the Capital Assets fund (Morgan Stanley), but it is now down to \$95,442 (as of July 23, 2009). We budgeted to transfer \$52,452 from it this year, and we will take the first hit from it (\$12,452) at the end of July. After that we are planning to withdraw \$8,000 every two months, whether we need it or not. But even if we get by on the planned \$52,452, the balance in this fund should be down below \$43,000 by the end of this fiscal year. At this rate, we will **deplete** the Capital Assets fund in March or April of 2011. Then where do we turn? The Endowment Fund currently has roughly \$512,000, but it won't last forever, either, and it is more restricted than Capital Assets. No one wants to mortgage the building, but it is a distinct possibility at the rate we are spending.

How did we deal with this problem at the most recent Congregational Meeting? We voted to increase expenses over the budget presented by the Board! Now we need to increase income. We are an intelligent group of people, and as Unitarians, we surely know better than to await manna from heaven. Please give some thought to what we can do now, while the problem is just over the horizon. Don't wait until it is at the door. Give your suggestions to any Board member, and we will be happy to consider them. We need all the wisdom we can get. Remember, in some of the versions of "Chicken Little," the sky really did fall!

--Maureen Taylor, Treasurer

Next Steepletalk Deadline: **Friday, August 21**

First Unitarian Church

809 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-2115

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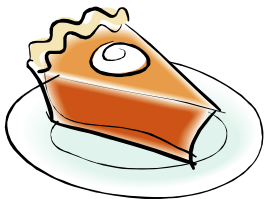
Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 a.m.



Red, White and Blue Pie Sale

Homemade pies from the
Women's Alliance



Sunday, September 6th,
after the service. YUM!

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.

August 9 *Companions on the Journey*
Poet Walt Whitman claims the universe is a road for traveling souls. As your new minister, I wonder, How shall we start our journey together? Rev. Dawn Cooley presents.

August 16 *Where We Belong*
We each have reasons for being here, at a Unitarian Universalist church. What does it mean to be a part of this vital, living tradition? Rev. Dawn Cooley presents.

August 23 *The Art of Refraining*
The month of Ramadan started on Friday. What can those of us who are not Muslim learn from this tradition? Rev. Dawn Cooley presents.

August 30 *Cleanup Sunday*
Join us for a conversation between Rev. Dawn Cooley and Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light's Director and Solar Energy Advocate Tim Darst.