



First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati

Calendar Highlights February - March 2012

Especially for Visitors

Are You Interested in Learning More About First Unitarian Church or Ready to Become a Member?

If you are interested in learning more about First Unitarian Church, we hope you will join us for one or both of the following opportunities:

Our next **Meet the Minister** program will be held on **Sunday, February 19th from 12:15–1:15 pm**. This program offers you the opportunity to meet with Reverend Sharon Dittmar in a small group setting to ask questions about First Unitarian Church and its members and Unitarians in general. RSVP to Shelly Wallace (513) 324.5628, swallace6275@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 15th.

Upcoming Events – All Are Welcome

Our 31st annual Heart and Hand Auction takes place on February 11, 6-9 p.m. Come and enjoy a night filled of fun, food and camaraderie of your church friends. The silent auction is 6 – 7:30 p.m. and the live auction is from 7:45 – 9 p.m. Contact M.C. Brennan at MCBrennan50@gmail.com or 513.631.1455 or Barb Rider at Barb1rider@aol.com or 513.324.8862 to donate or find out more information.

First Church HUManists meeting Sunday, February 12 at 12:20 p.m. in the Senior High room on 2nd floor. Psychologist John Heideman will be leading a discussion of two interesting and opposing books: Richard Dawkins *The God Delusion* and David Berlinski *The Devil's Delusion, Atheism and It's Scientific Pretensions*. You don't have to read the books to participate. For more information, contact Dick Bozian at rcbozian@hotmail.com or 513.521.2391.

February Book Discussion: King's *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*

Join us on February 21 at 7 – 8:30 p.m. for a discussion of “Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?” This is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final book, finished months before his assassination in 1968. To quote from the book: “Ever since the birth of our nation, white America has had a schizophrenic personality on the question of race. She has been torn between selves—a self in which she proudly professed the great principles of democracy and a self in which she sadly practiced the antithesis of democracy.”

King's vision of social justice goes far beyond matters of race. Are we more just or any closer to racial equality—and class “fairness”—than we were in 1968? February is Black History Month. King would have been 83 in January. Reading King now challenges us to answer whether we are closer to community or in greater chaos in the 44 years since his death. Ken Stern will be our discussion facilitator. Copies of the book will be available at the AREE table. They are also at the library.

Film and Speaker Series – Friday evenings in Ellen Hall Room 7-9 p.m.

Fixing the Future: Building a Just and Sustainable Economy

The Woman's City Club joins the Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church in co-sponsoring a program of films and speakers that address the current economic crisis and the growing urgency to restructure our world's energy economy.

- **March 2:** Urban Farming and Local Food Security. Includes Speakers from Gabriel's Place, Civic Garden Center and Enright Ridge CSA.

For information, contact Heather Zoller at zoller@fuse.net or 859.442.0011

“March Forth for Justice” Weekend

March Forth for Justice Weekend, scheduled for March 3 and 4, presents a full range of activities including a full day conference on immigration justice on Saturday, immigration worship themes at all local UU congregations, and a March for the Dream Act rally Sunday afternoon, 3:00 PM, at Friendship Park on the Ohio River. Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray of the Phoenix UU congregation will deliver the conference keynote address and our own Reverend Sharon Dittmar will deliver the closing benediction.

The event is presented by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati (First Church is a member) with cosponsorships from more than 20 other religious and social justice organizations. For more information, and to register on line, visit the website, www.immigrationjustice.org.

First Unitarian Church Social Concerns is co-sponsoring with Woman's City Club

Kerry Kennedy: "The Power of One: Stories of Inspiration from Women on the Cutting-Edge of Social Change" will be held on Friday, March 30, 7:30 pm at The Millennium Hotel, Downtown. You can purchase your tickets from Alice Schneider(alschneid3@aol.com/513-761-9331). Cost is \$25. Make checks payable to **First Unitarian Church Social Concerns**.

Ongoing Activities

Children's Choir (Chalice Choir) practices every Sunday from 10:20–10:35 a.m. in the Imagination Room. Contact our music director, Jera Cox at 513.281.0233

First Church Adult Choir (Chancel Choir): Join us every Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Ellen Hall Room. If you are looking for great camaraderie and an outlet for your love of singing, the choir welcomes your participation. On the first Thursday of the month, we enjoy a potluck dinner together at 5 p.m. For more information, call Jera Cox at 513.281.0233.

First Unitarian Church Women's Group – 3rd Saturday of month, 10 a.m.-noon

All women, both members and visitors are invited to this informal gathering to discuss topics and have fun meeting new friends. Watch newsletters for topics and locations. For information, contact Lois Gish at gishkraus@fuse.net or 513.542.5587.

Adult RE Linton Writers meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 9:30–11:30 a.m. in the Fisher Room. All are welcome to join this small group of First Church members and friends to share our memoirs, fiction, or poetry, and receive gentle feedback. Contact Joy Haupt at 513.221.7726 or joyhaupt@gmail.com for more information.

The FUUn Parenting Group is now on Facebook. Please join to connect with other First Church parents, find out about social activities, and share ideas. Events have included a Family Campout in Yellow Springs, Potlucks in the Park, Ladies Night Out and more. For more information contact Tamara Schweitzer at tnschweitz@gmail.com. —Tamara Schweitzer

Meditation – Mondays, 11:30 a.m.

Reverend Sharon Dittmar and member Fran Turner led the group in 20 minutes of meditation, followed by a brown bag lunch. Experience is not necessary. For information, contact Fran Turner at fturner@fuse.net or 513.271.0834.

SMART Recovery meets at First Church each Monday at noon. SMART is an acronym for Self Management and Recovery Training. This is a self-help program that is an alternative to traditional 12-step programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous. The SMART program avoids labels and considers addictive behavior as a learned behavior that can be unlearned. Contact Dick Bozian at 513.521.2391 for information.

Third Wednesday Games—Bring a board game and a light snack and join in the fun on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Ellen Hall Room. An spin-off of Third Wednesday Games involving the chess players meets every other Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Ellen Hall Room.

“Women Singing in Sacred Circle” - 7-9 p.m. every fourth Monday in the Ellen Hall Room

All women, regardless of singing experience, are invited to share their voices in a relaxed, safe space. Shelley Graff, nationally-known singer/songwriter is our facilitator. Bring your friends, a snack to share, and any percussion instruments you may have. If you are interested just come or contact Jane Kay at 513.662.9320 or janejinx1@aol.com.

A Sound Opportunity

The First Church Sound Committee is looking for new volunteers to be audio technicians. Our Crew runs the audio board at both Sunday services and at special events (Adult RE, weddings, memorials, etc.) in the sanctuary. Duties include setting up and putting away the audio cords and microphones.

If you like knobs, dials and buttons, it’s fun! We’ll train you and sit with you the first time. Assuring good sound for our attendees is a unique way to serve First Church. If you’re interested please contact Tom Sandman at 513.373.9150 or email him at tuxworth@gmail.com