



Calendar Highlights

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati

October-December, 2008

Especially for Visitors

“Meet the Minister” on Sun., Nov. 16, from 9-10 am in the Fisher Room - Rev. Dittmar will give a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalist history and theology, explain expectations for membership, and answer questions you may have about our faith. No reservations are needed and you need not be considering membership to attend. Contact Linda Miltner at 513.661.6993 or lmiltner@nuvox.net for more information. This will be repeated on Dec. 7.

“New U Orientation” on Sat., Jan. 24, 2009, 9 am – 12:30 pm - Rev. Dittmar will discuss Unitarian Universalist history, beliefs, and principles. She will also lead participants in sharing their own spiritual journeys. There will be time for questions and answers, and a tour of our entire church facility. The orientation will conclude with a delicious family lunch. Childcare will be provided. Make reservations no later than Wed., Jan. 21, by contacting Carol Carlson at crcarlson@isoc.net or 513.681.3755. Our next orientation will be in late spring.

New Member Signing on Sun., Nov. 23 at 9:30 am - If you have decided to become a member of First Church, this is day! You need to have attended a “Meet the Minister” session, taken part in the “New U” Orientation Series, or met with an official of the Membership Committee first. Contact Linda Miltner 513.661.6993 or lmiltner@nuvox.net no later than Wed., Nov. 19 to make arrangements. We will also have a signing on Dec. 21.

Upcoming Church Events – All Are Welcome

First Church HUManists - Sun., Nov. 9, after church in the Senior High Room (2nd floor) – “Erasmus” is a name you know. But, what do you know about the man. He has been called a “Catholic Humanist” by some. Can there be such a thing? What was a humanist in Erasmus’ day? What is a humanist now? All are invited to join this group’s discussions on the second Sunday of every month. Contact Dick Bozian at 513.521.2391 or rcbozian@hotmail.com for information.

Social Justice Meeting, Mon., Nov. 10, from 6-9 pm in the Ellen Hall Room – Come see what the Social Justice Committee is all about. We will talk about our ministry to Avondale, the homeless, the environment, GLBTQ issues, and in the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee worldwide. All interested members and visitors are welcome to attend. Contact Carol Carlson with questions (513.288.8424 or crcarlson@isoc.net).

First Church Women’s Group – Sat., Nov. 15, from 10 am-noon. This month we will continue our presentations on lives of famous UU women. Lucille Blocksom will share her research on the life of

Unitarian Maria Mitchell. All women, both visitors and members, are invited to our meetings, held the third Saturday of the month. This month we will meet at the home of Lucille Blocksom in East Hyde Park. Call her for directions (513.321.4789).

Family Thanksgiving Dinner after the service on Sunday, Nov. 23. This is a First Church tradition. The family-style dinner costs \$7 for adults, \$4 for children under 12, and free for toddlers. Space is limited, so sign up early to make reservations, either after church or by calling Carol Scott at 513.561.6792.

Breakfast with Santa at 9:15 am on December 7 - As is our tradition, please bring one or more wrapped gifts to put in Santa's bag for Project Connect, which helps children in homeless shelters, including the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), in Grades K-8. Be sure to put a sticker on the gift stating BOY or GIRL, AGE RANGE and WHAT THE GIFT IS. Some suggestions are decks of cards, games, books, art/craft supplies, hair accessories, nail polish, cars/trucks, Nerf footballs, etc. The cost of the breakfast is \$4.00/person or \$10.00/family. If you have questions, or would like to sign up, contact Betsy Wones (betsywones@cinci.rr.com, or 513.351.7362) or look for the Breakfast with Santa sign-up table and elf after church.

Annual First Church Adult Holiday party Saturday, December 13, from 6:30-9:30 pm at the home of Heather and Jayson Zoller in Ft. Thomas, Kentucky. First Church members will provide appetizers and desserts, and Community Builders will provide the libations. As a note, the Zollers have requested that folks consider carpooling to avoid congestion for neighbors on their VERY short street. To RSVP, contact Betsy Wones at betsywones@cinci.rr.com or 351-7362.

Odyssey (Adult Enrichment) Events – All are Welcome

Movie Fridays - Bring your own lawn chair and join us in the Ellen Hall room. Doors open at 6:15 for brown baggers. The movie will begin at 7 pm and be followed by an optional discussion. Popcorn and soft drinks will be available for a small donation.

- **Nov. 7 - To Live**

Related to our members' Chinese exchange

This subtitled foreign film tells the tale of a Chinese family that rides the post-WWII waves of change to modern day China. It gives us an interesting look at China under Mao, and also gives background to its Communist and Cultural Revolutions.

- **Dec. 5 - A Christmas Story**

Related to Christmas nostalgia

Bring the whole family to watch this delightful modern-day classic about Ralphie's all-consuming dream of getting a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. The laughter will be good for you!

End-of-Life Issues -These discussions are presented in cooperation with First Church's Extended Ministry and St. John's Unitarian Church's Adult Enrichment program. Contact Jane Kay at 513.662.9320 or Joy Haupt at 513.221.7726, or sign up at the Odyssey table after church.

- **“Legal Matters” - Sat., Nov. 15, 2008, 10 am–noon in the Ellen Hall Room.** For thirty-one years, Elder Law Attorney Greg French has been helping families plan for disability and death through wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and health care directives. He will offer advice on these critical matters and address how to obtain and pay for health and long-term-care in ways that maximize family resources. Greg has chaired the Elder Law Committees of the Ohio State and Cincinnati Bar Associations and serves on the Board of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Come prepared with all your legal questions. This program should be beneficial for participants of many ages. Facilitator: Jan Connelly
- **Dealing with Death and Dying: Family and Emotional Aspects - Sat. Dec. 6, 10-11:30 am in the Ellen Hall Room.** This will be an open discussion of people's experiences, things that worked and things that were a problem. Facilitator: Nina Tolley, St. John's UU Church, retired oncology social worker

- **The Essence of Care at the End of Life – date and time to be announced.** When should hospice be a part of patient service? What is appropriate medical care at the end of life? What kind of advocacy is needed? What does the patient want and need? Presenter: Dr. Charles Bernstein, Medical Director of Hospice of Bluegrass.

Book Discussions – All are Welcome!

- ***Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum - Wed., Nov. 19, 7-8:30 pm in the Fisher Room.** Carol Carlson will facilitate a discussion of Blum's book about a professor of German history who investigates what really went on in her mother's life in Germany during WW II.
- ***Dancing in the Streets* by Barbara Ehrenreich - Wed., Dec. 10, 7–8:30 pm in the Fisher Room.** Jean Rohling will facilitate a discussion of Ehrenreich's book about how religious and cultural influences have suppressed our natural inclination to have fun and reclaim joy.

“Evensong,” an 8-session UUA course - Tuesday evenings, Oct. 7–Nov. 25 from 7:15–8:45 pm at St. John's UU Church (320 Resor Ave. in Clifton). This course will explore individual religious/spiritual/life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts and beliefs. The workshop series will be co-facilitated by Carol Fencl of St. John's and Joy Haupt of First Church. For information, contact Carol Fencl (272-1820 or caroldeer@fuse.net) or Joy Haupt (joyhaupt@fuse.net or 221-7726).

Ongoing Activities

Children's Choir rehearses at 10 a.m. on various Sundays. All children are invited to sing with our Music Director, Kenny Smith at 513.546.1354.

First Church Choir rehearses on Thursdays, 7:00 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. For more information, call Kenny Smith at 513.546.1354.

Odyssey's Linton Writers, from 10 am until noon in the Fisher Room. All are welcome to join small group of First Church members and friends to share our memoirs, fiction, poetry, etc. and receive gentle feedback on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Contact Joy Haupt (513.221.7726 or joyhaupt@fuse.net) for more information.

“Singing in Sacred Circle” from 7-9 pm 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.

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.

Women's Retreat at Grailville – April 24 through Sunday morning, April 26, 2009. Mark your calendars.