

Next Sunday, March 4 – The Rev. Benjamin Maucere – *The Challenge of a Liberal Faith* – What does our faith require of us?

Sunday Morning Volunteer Program (MVP) Team Four is handling the duties of greeting, ushering, providing coffee service and clean-up today. Team Three is led by Jenny Krueger. She is joined by Jan Connelly, Beth McGrew, Joe Busby, Mike Krueger, Morita Marmo, David Johnson, Mary Mark, Denys Steel, Carol Lloyd and Sherri Wellington.

The Flowers today are given by Mary Mark

Sound Technician: Doug Rohrer

Assistive Listening Devices for people needing hearing enhancement are available at the rear of the sanctuary.

All are invited to write their **Joys and Sorrows** in the book at the back of the sanctuary.



Alexander Shelton is a native Cincinnati who is a community organizer, yoga facilitator and social entrepreneur. As a teenager, Alexander recognized the importance of mental health and developing coping strategies. While in high school he was introduced to yoga, where he discovered how intentional movement and breath work can be an effective way to rid the body of stress, anxiety and trauma. He is co-director of Heal & Build, a social enterprise that uses yoga, mindfulness and urban planning workshops to partner with others for inclusive community development.

Tim Kraus joined First Unitarian Church in 2008. Tim is a former President of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers and is currently mentoring students at Hughes High School who are engaged in the Student Reporting Labs for the PBS NewsHour. He is a founding and still active member of Media Working Group, a media production and education non-profit that produces documentaries for public television and other venues.

All are invited to a reception and refreshments and to greet Carter family members in the Ellen Hall Room. We also invite you to note the history of the Carter Services on the Art Wall and enjoy a (silent) power point presentation of previous Carter services at the reception. Copies of “Carter Facts,” compiled by outgoing chair of the Carter Committee, Ann Retford, are available for members of the Carter Family.

ESPECIALLY FOR VISITORS

We're delighted you're here! Please join us after the service for coffee, tea, and conversation. Stop by the Welcome Counter (as you entered the building) to sign up for our newsletter so you can get a sense of the interesting events and efforts at First Church.

Have questions about Unitarian Universalism or First Church? Come to a casual information session to get your questions answered. The next Visitor Orientation is March 11 following the service. We will meet downstairs in The Ellen Hall Room (near where you entered. Childcare is provided; we'll be finished by noon. No need to RSVP.

Ready to join? If you've been visiting for a while and have participated in an orientation, it may be time to officially join First Church. **Our next opportunity to join First Church is Sunday, March 18** right after the service. Please contact Carol Lloyd at calloyd1102@gmail.com or 513.515.6891.

TODAY

Today all ages are invited to stay in the sanctuary for our annual Carter service. The Rev. W.H.G. Carter was a prominent African American Unitarian minister in the 1920s. Today, learn about Rev. Carter, First Church's poor treatment of him, our reconciliation with his family and his legacy. Of course, child care is available for children birth to three years of age in rooms 1 and 2 downstairs.

All are invited to a reception and refreshments and to greet Carter family members in the Ellen Hall Room. We also invite you to note the history of the Carter Services on the Art Wall in the Thornton Room and enjoy a (silent) Power Point presentation of previous Carter services at the reception. Copies of "Carter Facts," compiled by outgoing chair of the Carter Committee, Ann Retford, are available at the Art Wall for members of the Carter Family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today – 11:20 a.m. in the Fisher Room. The First Unitarian Peace Committee Open Forum meets. Learn what we might do as a church or as an individual to help stricken families caught in the local immigration crisis. David Johnson and Bobby Chambers will explain the Rapid Response network that has been established. All are encouraged to come. Ann Black, 513.563.8467.

Today's Family Programming Volunteer is Kara Uhl in the Infant/Toddler class.

Stewardship Sunday Next Week -- next Sunday, March 4, is the start of the annual campaign for financial pledges to First Church from members and friends. The Rev. Maucere will be in the pulpit with a message about stewardship and members of the Stewardship Team will be around after the service to answer questions. It's not too early to start talking about your potential pledge with your significant other!

Sun., March 4 - 11:30 a.m. in the Ellen Hall Room - The Social Justice Committee presents a movie showing and discussion with a lite lunch. In the center of the Pacific Ocean, researchers found more plastic than plankton. *A Plastic Ocean* documents the newest science, proving how these plastics break up into small particulates that enter the food chain where they attract toxins like a magnet. These toxins are stored in sea-food's fatty tissues, and eventually consumed by us. Hosted by: Bring Your Own Bag, Miami Group Sierra Club and First Church

Fri., March 16 - 6 p.m., in the sanctuary - we will be hosting Hal Walker and some of his talented friends for a concert. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Hal is an amazing performer with something for every audience member, young and old. You may remember him from our Dec. 3 worship service, when he introduced us to some rather unique musical instruments, some wonderful compositions, and his heartfelt message. It is sure to be a concert to remember! Jera Cox, 513.535.4373, jeraleecox@gmail.com

Rev. W.H.G. and Mrs. Beulah Carter: A Brief Biography

Rev. W.H.G. Carter (1877-1962) was an African American Unitarian minister who in 1918 organized the Church of the Unitarian Brotherhood and ran it with the aid of his wife Beulah Carter. This storefront church was located in Cincinnati's poor and increasingly African American West End. Neither the local Unitarian churches nor the American Unitarian Association (AUA) recognized him or his church despite an official AUA visit in 1939. At that time, Carter's congregation had existed, on its own, throughout the Depression, for more than twenty years. By 1940, the church had closed for lack of funds.

William Henry Grey (W.H.G.) Carter was born in Arkansas in 1877. His father, James E. Carter, was a minister and dean at Shorter College, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, a historic black college affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal church (AME). His mother, Nancy Grey Carter, was matron of the college dormitory.

W.H.G. Carter was the grandson of William Henry Grey (b. 1829) who was born free and who served in the Arkansas legislature during Reconstruction after the Civil War. Grey's daughter, Nancy R. Grey Carter named her son for her father.

Rev. W.H.G. Carter earned a Doctor of Divinity from Shorter College. However, he declined to accept ordination as a Christian because his own spiritual search had led him to embrace Unitarianism. He did not believe in the divinity of Jesus and sought a religion that honored doing good deeds.

In 1899, Rev. W.H.G. Carter married Beulah Griffin. She would bear them 14 children, according to grandson Leslie Edwards. Beulah held the family together for the next 60 years. While W.H.G. was a Unitarian in belief, Beulah was Universalist in spirit.

According to Rev. Dittmar, Beulah Carter holds a cherished place within the Carter family. Beulah was an extraordinary woman with a great heart. W. H. G. was stern and principled and Beulah was warm and loving.

Leslie Edwards, Rev. and Mrs. Carter's grandson, credits his grandfather's staunch Unitarian principles and Rev. Sharon Dittmar, among other UU ministers, with uncovering the important history of his family.

Rev. Dittmar discovered Rev. Carter during her interim ministry at Northern Hills Fellowship where Leslie Edwards is a member. She brought Rev. Carter's story with her to First Unitarian Church. First Unitarian members were embarrassed by this part of their history. They immediately determined to make amends. This led to a spiritual journey at First Unitarian that has strengthened the congregation's Unitarian Universalist principles over the years.

In January, 2001, Rev. Dittmar led a reconciliation weekend between our congregation and 105 Carter descendants, which profoundly affected both groups. Our congregation offered our apology to the Carter family at the service culminating the weekend. Their great-granddaughter, Starita Smith accepted it for the family, but charged us with making our apology a living commitment:

"I hope you will reflect on this weekend often and let it galvanize you. I hope that it will cause you to go beyond the comfortable friendships you have with your black Unitarian friends to attempt to bring honesty, light and compassion into the thorny arena of race relations beyond the boundaries of your church. We Carters encourage you to continue to look into your hearts, ask difficult and complex questions and take action. We accept your apology."

Carter Sunday became an annual tradition here. The Carter Memorial Fund collection has raised more than \$76,000 since its inception to support causes held dear by Rev. and Mrs. Carter, especially assistance to children living in poverty.

This is a summary of The Carter Memorial Fund Annual Report FY 2016-2017 April 30,2017

The Carter Memorial Fund of First Unitarian Church funded \$5,500 in grants to agencies that help underprivileged individuals.

We donated all of our funds in grants to these organizations this year.

\$1,000 to Peaslee Neighborhood Center

\$1,000 to Over-the -Rhine Community Housing

\$1,000 to Ohio Justice and Policy Center

\$1,000 to Project Connect

\$500 to Greater Cincinnati Center for Social-Emotional Learning

\$500 to Contact Center

\$500 to Don Sherman to help immigrant youth with their DACA approval.

Contributions for Carter Sunday totaled \$4,853. Since the Fund was established in 2000 it has provided more than \$76,000 to continue the work of Unitarian minister, WHG Carter and Mrs. Beulah Carter. They served poor people in their West End neighborhood in the 1930's, but Rev. Carter was not recognized by the Unitarian organization or local Unitarian churches at that time. Contributions may be made to the fund at any time. Make checks payable to First Unitarian Church and indicate Carter Memorial Fund on the memo line of the check.

Carter Fund Committee: Suzanne Carpenter, Chair; Ann Retford, Fritz Casey-Leininger, Tom Rohrer, Sandra Small, Dot Christenson, Rozy Park and Lois Gish



For more on First Unitarian Church and Rev. and Mrs. Carter see:

<http://www.firstuu.com/index.php/reconciliation-service-in-honor-of-the-reverend-w-h-g-carter> and

<http://www.firstuu.com/index.php/carter-history>.

February 25, 2018

Wonder Questions

- * What does it feel like to be left out?
- * Have you ever treated someone poorly?
What happened?
- * Have you ever reconciled or apologized to
someone? What happened?



Lift Every Voice and Sing
By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.