



809 S. Fourth St.  
Louisville, KY 40203  
A Member Congregation of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
[www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org)

Fall Preview 2016  
August-September  
Vol. 22 No.4

## Steepletalk

### Choir Potluck

August 11 at 6 pm

The choir members will meet on Thursday night for a potluck dinner, followed by our first practice at 7:15 pm. If you are interested in singing with us this year, please feel free to join us for dinner and music. Please bring a dish to share.

### RE Children/Youth Registration

August 14 9:45

Each year, every child and Youth participating in our RE programming must be registered by a parent or guardian. See page 6



### Water Communion

August 14 at 1:00 am

It's that time of year again, when we all gather together. Some never left at all and others are returning from summer journeys and routines. We will and share in the Water Communion together. We will enjoy the return of our musical groups and will be commissioning the RE Leaders for the coming year. See page 5 for more information.

### Black Lives Matter Vigil

Come out before the luncheon on August 14 to be a part of this important work. See page 2 for more information.

### Luncheon August 14!

Join us for lunch after the service.

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### What's Inside?

- 1 August 14** Marking the transition from summer routines to Fall activities
- 2 FYI** News and Events from Church Ministries & Groups
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- 7 RE Classes** New Classes Begin August 21. Descriptions are inside.
- 9 FAQ** Answers from the Board as we prepare for Rev. Dawn's departure.

## First U Hikers

Our monthly hikes have been popular and fun! Come join us as we move toward cooler temperatures in the fall.

The August hike will be the moonlight hike at Charlestown State Park, Trail 2, on Friday night August 19, at 10 pm. A flashlight with a red lens (or a red cellophane cover) is helpful. Carpooling is available and encouraged since there is an entrance fee to the park.

The locations for the September 18 (6 pm) and October 16 (5 pm) hikes have not yet been decided - stay tuned! Contact Roger at [rohlman@twc.com](mailto:rohlman@twc.com).

## New Roots: Fresh Stop Market

For more information, call 502-509-6770 or [info@newroots.org](mailto:info@newroots.org).

<u>Pick-Up Dates</u>	<u>Order By:</u>
August 18	August 12
September 1	August 26
September 15	September 9
September 29	September 23

## Middle School Youth Retreat

Registration Deadline before Sept. 10. See page 6 for information about the retreat Sept. 24-25.

## Black Lives Matter Vigils

Our work as allies grows ever more urgent. Come join our 1/2 hour vigils each 2nd Sunday, after the Celebration of Life. The August vigil is Sunday August 14, followed by September 11 and October 9.

Please consider expanding your efforts by joining Louisville-Showing Up for Racial Justice (L-SURJ) and the Stand Up Sundays at 3 pm at the Braden Center.

## CUUPS

CUUPS, (The Covenant of UU Pagans), returned to Earth Centered Spirituality Discussions classes on August 3rd. Join them on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. They discussed The First Harvest/Lammas at this class. Classes are held in the Church Library from 7 - 8:30 PM. All are welcome.

## Book Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 6:00 pm  
in the Parlor

**August 8** *The Slaves of Solitude* by Patrick Hamilton Discussion leader Del Ramey

**September 12** *My Father the Pornographer: A Memoir* by Chris Offutt Discussion leader Rita Sasse

### **Bale Sale Cafe**

The Bake Sale Cafe will be open from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm on Sunday, August 28. Thank you to those that have helped work or purchased items from us. If you are interested in working in the Cafe, contact Bill Van Rooy at [bill.pji@gmail.com](mailto:bill.pji@gmail.com).

You can also add to our efforts by bringing in a baked item to sell on any of these dates if you like. Proceeds from the Café go towards fundraising efforts of our church.

### **CLCM 2nd Annual Walk in Central Park**

Support CLCM on Saturday September 17 at 9 am in beautiful Central Park! This non-competitive walk around the perimeter of the park will celebrate the good works of Central Louisville Community Ministries, raise much-needed funds, and create fellowship between the 7 downtown churches who support CLCM.

Family-friendly activities and refreshments follow the walk. Registration is \$15 at First U in advance, or at 8:30 am before the Walk, or through Kathy Gapsis [812-989-9152](tel:812-989-9152).

### **Brownbaggers Special Guest: David Ross Stevens**

The Brownbaggers Gang reemerge from their summer break on September 13. David Ross Stevens will talk about our local connection to the astronomer hero, Hubble. Come join us Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 11:40 or so in the church library.

### **Kroger Re-Enrollment Has Begun!**

Everyone must re-enroll each year so that First U continues to get free money from Kroger.

How to RE-ENROLL (or Enroll)

- Go to [www.Kroger.com](http://www.Kroger.com)
- Click the blue **Sign In** tab at top of the page.
- Enter your **email address** and **password** and click the blue **Sign In** tab.
- From the department menu, click Community, then Community Rewards
- From **Community Rewards**, click on the **Edit or Re-enroll** button.

Then,

- a. **Find Organization** (Search by keyword )
- b. **Select Organization & Save**  
Call 1-800-KROGERS, Option #3, with questions.

## Chris Rothbauer Ordination Information

The following information is from the Chris Rothbauer Ordination Committee

**SAVE THE DATE** The ordination of Chris Rothbauer will be Sunday, Sept 25th 4pm at First Unitarian Church.

**FUNDING** Chris Rothbauer has set up a Faithify account to collect offerings for his ordination. The account will be active for a month. If you don't feel comfortable donating through Faithify, please feel free to place a check in the offering basket with "Ordination" on the memo line. If you would like to donate, please go to <http://www.faithify.org/projects/ordination-of-chris-rothbauer>.

**HOUSING** If you would be willing to open your home to out of town guests, please contact the Ordination Committee at [Ordination@firstulou.org](mailto:Ordination@firstulou.org). Please let us know the number of guests you can accommodate.

Ministry News: Mission & Outreach

Del Ramey

### LSURJ Canvass

#### Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice

LSURJ is participating in a national pilot program with a process called Deep Canvassing, We are going to hit the streets going door to door to engage other white folks in topics of justice and mutual interest. Meet at Fairness Campaign, 2263 Frankfort Ave. 9 am to 2 pm, Saturdays, Aug, 13 and 20. People will canvas in pairs. Details on this and other LSURJ news of interest can be seen here: <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=bfac6b30636cc57c76059c067&id=728d706778&e=7fc4c06812>

#### League of Women Voters: Democracy Issues Form Racism: Justice and Changing Hearts and Minds

Monday, August 15, 2016, 115 S. Ewing Ave., Louisville.

Dinner 5:30 pm, Program 6:00 pm.

[http://www.lwvlouisville.org/files/final\\_aug\\_15\\_meeting.pdf](http://www.lwvlouisville.org/files/final_aug_15_meeting.pdf)

Panel members - Dave Stengel, Christopher 2X, Rev. Alonzo Johnson, Chanelle Helm, and Cate Fosl For more information: 895-5218 or email: [info@lwvlouisville.org](mailto:info@lwvlouisville.org)

**New to First U Class**

**Q:** When will we have another New to First U class? I really want to attend!

**A:** Right after the service on Sunday, October 2. So glad you asked!

**Ministry News: Worship Ministry****Upcoming Celebration of Life Services 11:00 am**

**August 7** *Lift Evr'y Voice and Sing* with Daryl Harris. He took us on a musical tour of the hurt, healing, and happiness of African American musical expressions in Kentucky. Daryl Harris is an Assoc. Professor in the Dept. of Theatre and Dance at NKU. He was selected to be a part of the Fulbright Specialist program and acts as an expert consultant. He specializes in multicultural programming.

**August 14** *Water Communion* with the Rev. Dawn Cooley. Each year, at about the time that schools and our new RE classes are starting, we participate in the Water Communion. We bring with us a small sample of water that holds spiritual significance for us—perhaps it's water from our summer travels which represents renewal and rest, or perhaps it's from a visit with family, representing connection and love, or maybe it's from our garden hose, representing our connection to the earth through our garden. We bring our waters together and comingle them in our communal bowl, and then, throughout the year, a bit of that water is added to our Joys and Sorrows bowl before we share them with one another. We will also recognize the commitment our RE Leaders make to the church community during this service.

**August 21** *Practicing Sabbath* Jane Martin Buckley speaking briefly in a Multi-generational Service with activities for all ages. Activities may include a labyrinth, storytelling, coloring, drumming and chanting, journaling, and gardening.

**August 28** *Human Doing or Human Being?* The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**September 4** *Reverence* The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**September 11** Guest Speaker, Doug Slagle

## REMinders for August and September 2016

- August 7** 1:00 RE Ministry meeting (in person or Zoom in remotely!)
- 14** 9:45 RE Fall Registration is available  
11:00 Water Communion and RE Leader Commissioning  
(remember your spiritually significant water!)
- 21** 9:45 New Fall RE classes begin (see this document or the church website for details)
- Sept. 11** 12:15-2:45 K-2 OWL Mandatory Parent and Child Orientation  
(bring a sack lunch)  
12:15-? RE Painting Party! Bring a lunch and your painting clothes!
- 18** 11:00-12:00 K-2 OWL begins
- 24-25** 2:00 Sat.-2:00 Sun. Middle School Youth Retreat at YMCA Camp  
Piomingo Registrations online in early August, due *before*  
9/10/16.
- 25** 11:00-12:00 K-2 OWL

### The Details:

**Fall RE Registration:** Each year, every child/youth participating in our programming must be registered by a parent or guardian. This ensures that we have accurate contact information and can serve every participant fully. We also ask for a photo release, a small donation so that we can provide fresh fruit or veggies for snack each week, and for caregivers to sign up for at least four hours of RE volunteer time to help our co-op run smoothly. You may also register online by going to this link to sign up: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe65D7qLBqsI3wRnRmSeEf9u\\_swuZX-FfQkIwoY31d2vl6Mw/viewform?embedded=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe65D7qLBqsI3wRnRmSeEf9u_swuZX-FfQkIwoY31d2vl6Mw/viewform?embedded=true)

**Spreading the News** Do you know a family who would enjoy our programming? Let them know about us, or ask Linette to contact them. And spread the word on social media; check in when you arrive, share a photo, Tweet, or otherwise let the world know what great religious exploration is going on here!

## Nursery (Sprouts)

Infants & toddlers in the nursery will be engaged with an age-appropriate chalice-lighting, story, activity and snack each week, as well as ample time for play.



## Second - Fourth Grade (Seekers)

*Love Will Guide Us*



In this program, participants learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask questions such as, "Where did we come from?" "What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?" "How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?" "What happens when you die?" Sessions apply wisdom from our Sources to help participants answer these questions. Participants will learn that asking questions is valued in Unitarian Universalism, even as they begin to shape their own answers.

## Preschool- First Grade (Explorers)

*Picture Book  
World Religions  
and Picture Book  
Bible Tales*



The Picture Book series of curricula for young UUs uses timeless picture books and engaging hands-on activities to introduce participants to Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism as well as fourteen classic Bible tales our UU children should know.

## Fifth – Eighth Grade (Padewans):

*Jedi Academy*



The world of the Jedi has inspired real-life practices of spirituality. The philosophies of *Star Wars* have been explored, examined, and adopted by many. The Jedi believe in the 'Living Force', a spiritual presence that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds all the matter in the universe together. If the program were summed up in one word, it would be "Mindfulness." The Jedi students learn to pay close attention to their experience of themselves and the world around them. This curriculum has been described as a Coming of Age program for Middle Schoolers.



**High School**  
Apprentices):  
*Individual*  
*apprenticeships*



HS Students will meet with the DRE to discuss what area of church life or spirituality they would like to apprentice in, and a suitable apprenticeship will be arranged individually.



**Spirit in Practice**

This curriculum was created to help adults develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. The series will focus on personal spiritual practices, communal worship practices, spiritual partnerships, mind practices, body practices, soul practices, life practices, and justice practices.

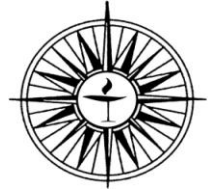
**The Garden:**

Bill Van Rooy and friends will facilitate this weekly discussion group using the metaphor of a garden to jump-start conversation on our collective and individual journeys of growth.



*Michael Moore's*

**Where to Invade Next?**



Jill Harmer will lead several sessions to view parts of the film and discuss them in light of our UU Principles. He touches on current issues of education, healthy food, imprisonment, job benefits including vacation and maternity leave. Except for the dream of no war, very little of this film mentions the military.

**Coffee and Social Justice:**



This participant-led group discussion of social justice topics focuses on how our UU values lead us to respond to the world.

New RE Classes:  
Complete descriptions with room numbers and RE Leader names will be published online and made available at



Since Dawn's announcement, the Board has been working with the UUA to begin the transition process towards finding a new minister. Usually an interim minister is hired by the Board as soon as possible but other options to our church are also available, and will be seriously considered. An initial plan of action will be decided by the Board at its regular meeting on August 16, 2016.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process of hiring a minister, there are several steps. An interim minister is usually hired and in place for 12-18 months as search for the new minister begins. During this time the congregation reflects, sets goals, and "cleans house". Eventually a search committee is formed to find a new minister. The process is designed to find a "right fit" between the minister and the congregation.

We know this is a lot to absorb (trust me, I have spent hours doing so) but we will keep you posted of events through email and the pulpit. We also know that there will be lots of questions. Please ask away, or share your opinions with us.

In case you do not who is on the Board, we are the following: Devi Pierce President, Nancy MacPherson, Kathy Drehmel, Kristie Drehmel, Claire Vanlandingham, Bill Van Rooy, John Grossman.

## FAQ

## The Rev. Dawn Cooley

*Recently, Rev. Dawn announced that she has accepted a position with the UUA. A letter was sent out to the congregation. If you did not receive a copy but want one, contact the office. Her last day will be Sunday, October 23.*

**Why are you leaving?**

For the past few months, I have been trying to reconnect with the passion I had for parish ministry, and slowly coming to a realization that my passion, and my vocation, has moved elsewhere. Rather than serving as a parish minister, I have realized that I am called to help congregations (plural) learn to adapt to the changes churches are experiencing in this 21st century.

I did not *want* to experience this shift in vocation. I tried to deny it. I love First Unitarian and have been honored and privileged to serve as your minister. However, I have realized that it is imperative for me to step down in order to both pursue my vocation and to allow the church to thrive.

### **What happens to us now?**

While an individual minister may be transient, the office of the ministry in a congregation is enduring. I will leave, as ministers before me have left, and you will, in good time, find another minister.

Most likely, there will be a period of transition, during which volunteer and professional staff provide ministerial support to the congregation. At the end of that period, the Board will hire an Interim Minister who will help the congregation through the search for a new settled minister.

All will be well. First Unitarian's reputation in the larger UUA community is very positive right now – that should give you choices when it comes to both an interim and a settled minister.

### **What about your family?**

Though my work for the UUA will have me traveling frequently, my family will remain in Louisville. John, Evvie and Josie will continue to participate at First U, as will my mother, Laurie Clark.

This is an uncommon arrangement nationally that is surprisingly common at First Unitarian – the Rev. Bob Reed's wife, Jeanne, stayed several years after her husband left for ministry elsewhere, as did Joan Beale, the Rev. Richard Beale's wife. What allowed these situations to work is that the congregation was respectful about maintaining appropriate boundaries with the remaining family members. I ask that you observe the same for my family. Here are a few helpful pointers:

Do not expect them to serve in leadership roles as that can be a conflict of interest for the new minister;

Do not critique the new minister in front of them, or tell my family how much you miss me;

Don't invite John and I (as a couple) or our family to participate as a unit in an social engagement as I will not be able to attend;

Do not ask them to pass messages to to me;

Do love them and invite them to continue to participate fully into the life

### **Can we be friends?**

The UU Minister's Association's Code of Ethics dictates that I will no longer have contact with First Unitarian Church and its members. This is complicated by the fact that we are staying in town. If we encounter each other in the grocery store, please feel free to say hello, but do not tell me anything about how the church is doing. If I am dropping off a child at your house for a playdate, we can make small-talk but, again, must avoid the topic of church.

Social media also complicates this departure. I have a policy of saying “yes” to anyone who “friends” me on facebook. However, most of these people end up in a “Restricted” category so that they see only public posts, nothing personal. I will be placing all First U congregants into this “Restricted” category. In addition, I will no longer be following your posts.

These boundaries are not about my affection for you – it is about giving you and the new minister a space to forge a new, healthy relationship.

### **When is your last day with us?**

My last day will be Sunday, October 23, 2016.

### **What will you be doing between now and then?**

I will spend the vast majority of my time in these coming months trying to say goodbye in a healthy, loving way. This means closing any loopholes that might exist, making sure any special knowledge that I have is shared with appropriate people, and, of course, talking to you, visiting with you, crying with you, and, hopefully, envisioning with you what wonderful things might be coming up for you.

I am available to meet with any of you who would like to do so – at church, at your home, at a coffee shop – whatever suits you. Just send me an email or give me a call to set something up.

Dawn

### **OUR MINISTRY STAFF**

The Reverend Dawn Cooley, *Senior Minister*

Linette Lowe, *Dir. Religious Exploration* Christe Lunsford, *Choir Director*