



Dear Friend,

Some complain that the newsletter is too long, while others want to know every detail that is going on. As the editor, this makes life a bit complicated. My goal is to share all of the wonderful activities, not only with members, but the many visitors that pick up a copy throughout the month.

This is the “*Highlights*” version, something I’m trying for the first time. The entire version is available online, complete with color photos.

http://www.firstulou.org/sites/default/files/spring%202016%20steepletalk_0.pdf

If you’ have suggestions, please let me know. Thanks.

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Steepletalk highlights

Church Calendar Highlights	
March	
6	First Sunday Lunch Worship Associate Training
20	CUUPs: Ostara Ritual
27	Easter Pancake Breakfast 9:30 Easter Egg Hunts
April	
3	First Sunday Lunch
10	Blessing Bag Filling & Lunch
25	Women’s Alliance Tea
May	
1	First Sunday Lunch
8	Beltane Ritual, CUUPs
15	Annual Congregational Meeting
19-21	Directory Photos
22	All Church Picnic

We are a church of reason and spirit that witnesses for progressive faith,
 nurtures our community, and transforms our world.

Leadership (Staff, Board of Trustees, Board Groups)

STAFF

See the newsletter for articles written by Rev. Dawn Cooley, DRE Linette Lowe, and Music Director, Christe Lunsford

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Jill Sherman, President

The next Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, May 15, 2016 following the Celebration of Life. We had to make this change to accommodate several key staff and members schedules.

Anti-politicking policy The church cannot make any endorsements of any candidate running for office.

Welcome Statement Discussion This year at the Annual Meeting 2016, the Congregation will vote on a Welcome Statement. This is the Statement on our Order of Service each week and on the First U website. The Board will facilitate two sessions for input from Congregants. March 20th and April 10th 9:45 am, during the RE Hour in the Parlor

BUILDING USE COMMITTEE

Reminder: Please turn off lights, close doors, and lock rooms if needed when leaving.

Want to schedule use of building space? Try to do it as soon as possible. The forms for reserving space by church groups and information on rental space for weddings is on our website. <http://firstulou.org/rental> Contact the office at office@firstulou.org if you have any questions!

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Your stewardship team is proud of this church and would like to see First U continue to transform our world. To do that, we need our members and friends to continue to contribute their time, their energy and their money. Our goal this year is to obtain \$220,000 in pledges. If YOU are proud of this church, please consider what contribution you are able to make. Pledge cards will be available at church, and mailed to those not online. You may also use the new electronic form to post a pledge: <http://goo.gl/forms/kKeaxy0ixr> The campaign will continue through April 30, 2016. Thank you for your support, Devi Pierce, Stewardship Committee

We have been blessed for many years with loving, supportive members, and we thank each and every one of you for your generosity past and present. As a small token of appreciation, we invite you to a FREE stewardship lunch on Sunday April 3 after the Celebration of Life. Come and celebrate the awesomeness of this church!

The Stewardship Team is partnering with Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church to provide volunteers to work a beverage stand at the 2016 Forecastle Festival July 15-17 in downtown Louisville. Volunteers work 4-5 hour shifts, serving beer, soda and water. First U will keep a percentage from all drinks sold at our booth! And...once your shift is over, you can remain free of charge for the rest of the day's music and fun. Contact Kathy Gapsis, kgapsis@gmail.com.

Ministry Notes

CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

Please check your Directory listing online. Contact the Church Office office@firstulou.org with corrections or you may call between 10:00-2:00 Monday-Friday.

Coming Soon: New Photo Directory.

Welcome new members: Caitlin Burns and Barbara Kelty

MISSION & OUTREACH

For more information, contact Del Ramey at del.ramey@ieee.org
Photos: First U members involved in many Mission and Outreach awareness, protest, and support activities. Planned Parenthood, Homelessness, Refugee Family.

There are many opportunities shared to stand up for your beliefs concerning homelessness, affordable housing, anti-discrimination politics, and reproductive justice.

CLOUT Nehemiah Action Assembly Tuesday March 15. 6:30 pm at Memorial Auditorium, 970 S. 4th St. Issues: Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Payday Lending, School to Prison Pipeline, TARC access to Riverport.. Wear your yellow "Love" shirts.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Kathy Thackeray religiouseducationministry@firstulou.org
Regular RE Classes for all ages are described in the newsletter.

Photos: children's classes, Soup for the Soul, Baby Shower

The following special classes will meet at 9:45 in the Parlor on the dates listed:

March 20 "First U Welcoming Statement" (See page 2 for more information.)

April 3 "Black Women's Poetry: A Look at the Everyday Life of Women"
Speaker: Linda Berry

April 10 "First U Welcoming Statement" (See page 2 for more information.)

May 29 "Money in Politics" Speaker: George Schuhmann.

RESOURCE MINISTRY

They are having a Lost and Found Project throughout the month of May.-

WORSHIP MINISTRY

See the newsletter for a list of upcoming Celebration of Life services.

Church Groups

Archives received a grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission that provides equipment and training to conduct oral interviews of long term members and friends. Please contact John at [502-895-1973](tel:502-895-1973) or jfindlin@ius.edu or Kathy at [502-459-4109](tel:502-459-4109) or kathykremer11@gmail.com

Black Lives Matter Vigils will continue on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

CLCM has a wine-tasting and entertainment fundraiser on April 17. See the newsletter for details.

CUUPS ritual dates, class dates and topics are shared.

First U Book Club Upcoming book titles and discussion dates are listed. See Kathy Rogers for more information.

Navigators Chapter Photos of a recent Snow Tubing trip are shared, as well as plans for the next few months. They're looking for help with the age 5-8 group. Chapter86@navigatorsusa.org

Navigators meet on the first and third Sundays at 1pm.

Solar Array Project– The topic is Plastic Bags. See Kathy or Joe Kremer for information.

Women's Alliance Report on and pictures of the recent Spaghetti Luncheon to raise money for the Solar Array Project. Upcoming events include a Tea on April 16; Social Service Shower May 14.

From Our Friends (Groups that rent space)

Roman Catholic Women Priests – includes an invitation to a retreat May 14. “Rediscovering the Feminine Face of the Divine” See the newsletter for workshop details.

Forward Radio – Includes an insightful poem on the mission of Community Radio by Jared Zarantonello and pictures of the Community Meetings.

FYI

YOUNG ADULT GROUP March 20 Join us for pizza, conversation, and connection after the service. RSVP to Rev. Dawn at minister@firstulou.org. Come connect with other UU young adults ages 18-30.

PREPARING EASTER EGGS Donations of contents due March 20. Volunteers encouraged to help stuff eggs in the RE Lobby at 9:45 March 20.

EASTER EGG HUNTS March 27 We will have two Easter Egg Hunts, one for children toddlers through Kindergarten at 10:15 in the Courtyard, and a second for children First through Fifth grades at 10:30 on the lawn. Please bring your own basket or sack. (See the note above about donations needed!)

EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST March 27 Our breakfast will be prepared and cooked by our Navigators Chapter again this year. Join us 9:30-10:45 for this annual event!

BLESSING BAGS Please continue to bring in items for Blessing Bags for the Homeless. Bags will be filled after the Celebration of Life April 10. Please join us.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING May 15

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be in Columbus, Ohio June 22-26

OTHER FYI See the complete Steepletalk for detailed information about activities planned for Brownbaggers, First U Hikers etc.

See the calendar at firstulou.org/calendar for upcoming events and meeting times

We Are a Welcoming Congregation!

We embrace all persons equally, no matter their sexual or affectional orientation, gender identity or expression, age, race, ethnicity, neurodiversity, social or economic class, education level, family structure or abilities. If you need special accommodations, please let us know so that we can try to make appropriate arrangements. We welcome all to participate fully and openly in our congregational life.

First Unitarian Church of Louisville

~ A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations ~
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STEEPLETALK

First Unitarian Church of Louisville.

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Next Deadline: April 25 for the Summer newsletter
featuring June, July, and August events.