

# First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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## First Unitarian Outreach through Sunday Collections

To bolster our collective outreach and support of the community, our Youth at First U will be facilitating a Sunday collection during the Celebration of Life. (more explanation below)

- **October 4th** - We'll be collecting diapers and pull-ups in all sizes and baby wipes. These items will be delivered to The Center for Women and Families by the Senior High Youth Group.
- **October 11th, 18th, and 25th** - We'll be collecting soup (canned, dried, broth). Your contributions will be combined with those collected by our neighbor, Calvary Episcopal Church, in support of the downtown HELP Ministry food pantry. Don't have a can of soup? Don't worry! Any gift of non-perishable food items will be greatly appreciated.
- Please write these items on your shopping lists for October! Thanks! *-First U Youth*

## HELP OFFICE UPDATE

The HELP office is our local Community Ministry. Supported by seven downtown churches (including First Unitarian), HELP provides emergency services to people in need living in our neighborhood. First Church will be increasing our efforts to support HELP and once again our youth have agreed to pitch in to get things rolling! In addition to money and toiletries HELP needs volunteers in various capacities (talk to Rev. Cooley for more information) and keep on the look out for ways that you can help this worthy cause.

## Fire Drill during the Celebration of Life Service

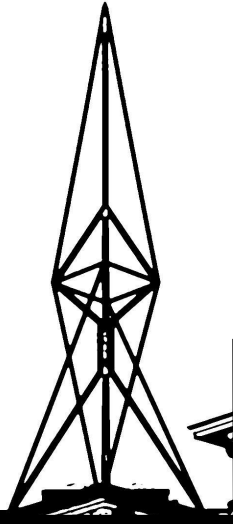
There will be a fire drill during the Celebration of Life Service on Sunday, October 4. Safety precautions in case of hazardous weather will be available after the service during coffee hour.

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*Love is the spirit of this church...*

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

STEEPLETALK



## Minister's Musings

"Ch-ch-ch-changes," David Bowie sings. But the next line in the song is "Turn and face the strange." First Unitarian Church is the place of many changes right now. Some of them, perhaps, feel strange to you. Between a new minister and new Director of Religious Education, all sorts of things that some of you have taken for granted are getting tossed up in the air as we try, together, to find a new "normal."

These are exciting changes aimed at helping the congregation grow into who you say you want to become: a force for good in the lives of members and the larger community.

But even the most exciting changes can be strange or scary. Particularly when they come in the quantities they are coming right now. Anxiety rises, even if we are looking forward to the process and the result. As anxiety rises, we sometimes fall into habits of self-protection or scapegoating others.

During this time of ch-ch-ch-changes, let us be aware of the anxiety, but not feed it. When we talk about the past, let us honor what we have come through rather than try to find a scapegoat.

There is a story about a mouse that died in a full pantry: it is hard to see the bounty when your vision is level with the ground. May we turn and face the changes with enthusiasm, lifting our vision off the ground and into the future. This church is full of *amazing*, dedicated, loving people. It is such an exciting thing to be a part of!!!

-Dawn



## BOARD BIZ

The board met September 6th, with church finances top on its mind. Our financial reporting is looking much better than in previous years and the board is pleased to have a functioning Finance Committee in place for this year. In addition, key volunteers have been identified for stewardship campaign roles. The membership roles are set to be reviewed soon as well in order to have a clean count to turn into the UUA. The board also heard from the Resource Ministry about their long term capital spending need for building maintenance and reflected on the initiatives that came out of the leadership retreat August 29th. Look for changes in our website and other communication tools, including a digital version of Steepletalk!

- Jill Sampson, Board Secretary

## Thank You!!!

On behalf of the House & Grounds Committee, a big THANK YOU to the forty plus (40+) church members and friends who helped with our annual Cleanup Sunday before or after service on August 30. They dusted, swept, mopped, and straightened, and kept up their strength with a tasty lunch provided by church members and coordinated by Tiffany Taylor.



## The Hymnal Project

The Worship Ministry thanks all those who donated a hymnal or set of hymnals in memory of, in celebration of, in honor of some one, some group, a family, a minister, or pet dear to them.

The last day to donate is Sunday, October 4th. The hymnals will be ordered on October 5th.

A few weeks later you will have a chance to look at the hymnal you donated before it is put on the hymnal carts. We are planning a few Hymn Sings in November so we can become familiar with the supplemental hymnal Singing the Journey. We are looking at one Chalice Night and two Sundays before the service. We will let you know after October 4, 2009. Thank you all again.

-Kathy Thackeray, a member of the Worship Ministry.

### STEEPLETALK

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Editor: Doug Taylor

Next deadline: **October 23**

(Covers the month of November)

Contact us: [editor@firstulou.org](mailto:editor@firstulou.org)

*Love is the spirit of this church...*

## Religious Education News

My name is Rus Ervin Funk and I am honored to have been chosen by you all to serve in this capacity. I have known of, and in a number of cases, worked in coordination with 1st UU for many years and I am truly thrilled to be working with you all now. I have been in the Metro Louisville community for about 6 1/2 years. As some of you know, my partner, Amy, and I are expecting our first child -- by the time you read this s/he will be here for which we are both very excited.

I was born and raised in Texas, moved to Washington, DC for many years (where I was active in the Sojourner Truth Congregation, and then All Souls Church) before moving here. I am a Social Worker by training and have been focusing my energy on community organizing around a breadth of social justice issues. In addition to my position here, I am also a consultant focusing on violence prevention (primarily child abuse, domestic and sexual violence). That work takes me across the lower 48 states, into Canada and throughout Latin America.

This is a year of change for First UU. I am very aware (at least conceptually) of the changes and challenges you all have faced over the past several years, and strive to be sensitive to that. It feels to me like there is a great need for the church as a whole to exhale after many years of holding your collective breath. I want to honor that and respect what all of you have done to maintain the functioning of the Religious Education aspects for these years. I look forward to learning from you all and beginning the process of planning for a vibrant future.

Finally, I want to thank the Religious Education Ministry and Carol for their unbelievable support as I have entered this position. I am finding my way, making mistakes here and there, and slowly getting my feet under me. I could not have done this without their arms around me. So Thank-You very much. I look forward to meeting the rest of you soon. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

*-Rus Funk, Director of Religious Education*



### Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Please join the Sunday Morning Adult Round Table each Sunday for programs on a variety of topics. Youth are encouraged to participate. For more information or to suggest a program, contact Jasmine Walston at [jasminegld@aol.com](mailto:jasminegld@aol.com) or Rus Funk at 585-5110. For information about child care, contact Rebecca Dimon at 585-5110.

- **Oct 4 SPIRIT OF LIFE: EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS.** *Spirit of Life*, Session 1. This "Tapestry of Faith" curriculum "seeks to...bring meaning, beauty, inclusivity, and growth to UU adults as they deepen their spiritual awareness and connections" within "four strands of religious growth: faith development, spiritual development, ethical development, and UU identity." Multiple sessions.
- **Oct 11 COMING OUT.** Personally accepting one's own truth about oneself is an intensely spiritual experience, as is disclosing that truth to others in one's circle of awareness. National Coming Out Day encourages bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons and straight allies to take the next step in their own coming out process.
- **Oct 18 SING IN MY HEART: CELEBRATIONS AND RITUALS.** *Spirit of Life*, Session 2. Focus attention on spiritual moments experienced in celebrations and rituals. Name and explore experiences of wonder, awe, and connection experienced as individuals, as well as in family, group, and congregational life. Learn to create meaningful ritual.
- **Oct 25 LOST AND FOUND.** For participants coming to UUism from different faith traditions, what rituals, beloved or otherwise, did you leave behind? What new rituals have you found? For participants whose faith tradition has always been UUism, have you lost rituals, beloved or otherwise, because new rituals took their place? What new rituals have you found because a newcomer brought it with them?
- **Nov 1 UNICEF.** From Armenia to Zambia, UNICEF ([unicef.org](http://unicef.org)) is advancing children's rights – one vitamin A supplement, one new school, one HIV-free newborn at a time. 2009 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legally binding Convention on the Rights of the Child. Multi-generational Round Table. Children and youth grades K and older are encouraged to attend.

## Just Among Ourselves...

We hold the memory of First Unitarian member Jerry R. Smith in our hearts. He died September 6.

### KROGER BUCK CONCERN!

If you have a Kroger gift certificate please be sure to reload it regularly.

If it has a zero balance for two months or so, Kroger's could think it is "inactive" and when you try to put money on your card the store will tell you that it "has expired". You don't have to have a lot on it, just so long as it is not zero. If you want more information about the Kroger gift certificate program see Gary Drehmel and he will be happy to talk to you about it and how it gives free money to the church.

### Baking and sewing and decorating, Oh My!!!!

It's that time of year again, Yuletide Fare is getting closer and the planning and prepping are beginning! You will start to notice testing events on Chalice Night soon (time and item to be announced)!

As I said in the August Steepletalk, we are asking for donations of items to be made to help defray costs. This month we are asking for donations of nice woven baskets and good solid mugs that are unchipped and tasteful. I will coordinate with Betty for where they will be gathered and stored.

If you have any questions please contact me at 502-291-9743.  
-Debbie Silverman, Chair

### Women's Alliance

We are all looking forward to the Women's Retreat on Friday evening November 6th, Saturday, November 7th and Sunday morning of November 8th at Hopscotch House. All women are invited to attend all or part of the Retreat. The Retreat Planning Committee will let us know when we sign up and the events of the weekend. The members of the Retreat Planning Committee are Jill Sampson, Lois Allen, Deanna Hopper, Claudia Runge and it is chaired by Kathy Rogers.

The Goal Gathering Brunch was great. Please check out our plans for the year at the first U web site, [www.firsulou.org](http://www.firsulou.org) or on the Women's Alliance Bulletin Board and now on Facebook. We are starting our Lunch Bunch on Thursday, October 1st. We will do this once a month at a different restaurant each month. All women are invited to meet at Cunningham's on 4th Street at 11:30 am October 1st. Holly Hogue will be leading this event this church year.

Our next general membership meeting will be at the Retreat on that Saturday afternoon. Any questions, please contact, Kathy Thackeray 454-7631 - [womensalliance@firsulou.org](mailto:womensalliance@firsulou.org)

**UU Christian Fellowship** will be holding it's monthly meeting on Saturday October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the church (room to be determined-probably the library-look for us). The discussion will focus on Psalm 147 (so please read ahead if you can) and future topics will also be decided.

The UU Christian Fellowship meetings are open to anyone who is interested: seekers, doubters, skeptics, critical thinkers, former Christians, current Christians, questioning Christians, Christian-curious, believers, agnostics, atheists, and followers of other faith traditions. For questions call Geneva Fry at (812) 948-1367.

### INTERWEAVE

"Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working toward ending oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past."

- NATIONAL EQUALITY MARCH. "On October 10-11, 2009, we will gather in Washington, D.C. from all across America to let our elected leaders know that now is the time for full equal rights for GLBT people....Our single demand: Equal protection in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states." [equalityacrossamerica.org](http://equalityacrossamerica.org)
- COMING OUT DAY, Sunday, Oct 11. Sunday Morning Adult Round Table at 9:30am and the Celebration of Life at 10:55am will celebrate the spiritual significance of openly living our deepest truths. Bisexual, gay, intersex, lesbian, questioning, and/or transgender persons and straight allies who are wrestling with issues around coming out are invited to talk with Rev. Dawn Cooley and/or any member of Interweave. First Unitarian and Interweave welcome your questions; we welcome your concerns; we welcome you.
- PERSONAL COMING OUT STORIES. Sunday, Oct 11, 12:30-2:00pm. Share a story, explore possibilities, or ask questions about Coming Out over lunch together at a nearby restaurant. Meet in the church volunteer area after the morning service.
- COURTYARD CAFÉ. Saturday, Oct 24, 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Courtyard Café is a social gathering and outreach event to the local GLBT community. A cover charge provides a donation to a GLBT organization and covers costs to the church. The October event includes a reception introducing Rev. Dawn Cooley to the community. To volunteer your time to the success of Courtyard Café, contact Rebecca Dimon at 585-5110.
- POLYAMORY AND RELIGION. Sunday, Oct 25, 12:30-2:00pm. Conversation and questions over lunch at a nearby restaurant. Meet in the church volunteer area after

## Calendar

<b>Sunday, October 4</b> 9:30am Round Table 9:45am YAC 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education 12:15pm Worship Ministry 4:00pm Peace Education Concert	9:30am Round Table 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education 12:15pm Young Adult Group <b>Monday, October 12</b> 6:00pm Book Club <b>Tuesday, October 13</b> 6:00pm Board of Trustees <b>Wednesday, October 14</b> 5:30pm Chalice Night <b>Thursday, October 15</b> 6:00pm Member Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal <b>Friday, October 16</b> <b>Saturday, October 17</b> 9:00am House & Grounds <b>Sunday, October 18</b> 9:30am Round Table	10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education 12:15pm Young Adult Group <b>Monday, October 19</b> 11:30am BrownBaggers 6:00pm UU Christian Fellowship <b>Tuesday, October 20</b> 6:15pm Ministry Council <b>Wednesday, October 21</b> 5:30pm Chalice Night <b>Thursday, October 22</b> 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal <b>Friday, October 23</b> <u>Steepletalk Deadline</u> <b>Saturday, October 24</b> 9:00am New Ministerial Start-up Workshop 6:00pm Courtyard Cafe	<b>Sunday, October 25</b> 9:30am Round Table 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education 12:00pm Visitor <b>Monday, October 26</b> 11:00am Brownbaggers <b>Tuesday, October 27</b> 7:00pm Finance <b>Wednesday, October 28</b> 5:30pm Chalice Night <b>Thursday, October 29</b> 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal <b>Friday, October 30</b> <b>Saturday, October 31</b>
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### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Steepletalk

The Member Ministry has taken a step to save trees and money. As of the January 2010 issue, Steepletalk will be arriving at your home via email. It will be out at the usual time and the new format will allow for more and/or more detailed articles. It is very important that we have your current e-mail address.

To this end there will be pumpkin colored "Info Update" sheets at the greeters tables each Sunday starting in October. You may leave these in the collection basket. These sheets will also be available at Chalice Night. You can make this much easier by e-mailing any contact information changes to Rebecca directly at [memberdevdir@firstulou.org](mailto:memberdevdir@firstulou.org). For those members and friends who do not use e-mail, your Steepletalk will arrive at its usual time as a paper newsletter. Please know that no one will be without this vital link to our community.

Thanks for being willing to boldly go.....

### Money Talk\$

**There is nothing startlingly new to report this month, but here are updates on a few financial items (again, like last month, presented as Questions & Answers):**

**Q—What is the Finance Committee doing these days?**

**A—Plenty!** The reactivated Finance Committee (Bernie Schweickart, Mary Ballard, Uwe Eickmann, with John Grossman and Maureen Taylor as *ex-officio* members) meets at 6 pm on the Tuesday before the Board meeting, so October 6 this month. Budget forecasts need some adjusting, and the Committee is involved in that, as well as in pinning down how much of which fund is restricted for a specific use. Ideally, the Finance Committee will deal with the nitty-gritty monthly details, while the Board will just oversee the big financial picture. If you have a finance question, a brainstorm about improving the Church's budget, or an urge to count the collection after the service (Hint! Hint!), talk to Bernie, Mary, Uwe, John or me.

**Q—Why isn't my pledge being paid on my credit card, as I requested?**

**A—We don't know, but we're surely trying to find out.** The program has run into some snags, which we are

investigating. Some members have not been charged at all, while others were charged at times and in amounts that surprised them. We will get this corrected next month. Is this worth doing in the future? Perhaps not, as it costs the Church in service fees that we really can't afford.

**Q—How is the Church like the federal government?**

**A—Well, we both continue to operate in the red.** Like the federal government, we are still paying off last year's bills—including the UUA dues, which we thought, erroneously, had been paid. Catching up on last year and paying everything we have budgeted for this year will require \$242.54 more PER DAY than we are currently bringing in. How have we managed so far? By transferring more than \$29,000 from our Capital Assets account at Morgan Stanley. The congregation approved transfers of another \$23,209 before June 30. At that point, Capital Assets will be nearly depleted. (It should contain the \$28,852 we have to maintain in Temporarily Restricted funds, plus, at most, \$14,000 in unrestricted funds.) Thinking about this tomorrow didn't even work for Scarlett O'Hara, and it surely won't work for us. Where can you take your brilliant ideas? To the Finance Committee (see above) or to the Board, of course!

—Maureen Taylor, Treasurer

Next Steepletalk Deadline: **Friday, October 23**

## October Opportunities from the Member Development Director

**\*\*New Member Classes** – Chalice Nights through October. These classes are not limited to those who wish to become members of First Unitarian. Please feel free to join in if you want to learn more about First U and Unitarian Universalism. The classes will run 5 weeks and in November we will have a special celebration for those who choose to “sign the book” and become members of this great congregation. Let me know if you are interested in attending so Dawn and I have an idea of how many to expect.

**\*\*Courtyard Café**, Saturday, October 24 – The Rev. Cooley will join the Cafe this month for a reception to welcome her to her new ministry in Louisville. Dawn is eager to meet members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in Louisville and learn about the equality and justice priorities in the local area as well as opportunities to support this crucial work. Rev. Cooley is available to members of the community for ceremonies of union. Rain or shine...if the weather is unfriendly to being out in

the Courtyard, we will move into the Social Hall. There is a cover charge of \$3 with \$2 going back into the Louisville community to help a GLBT-supporting organization. Local coffee and simple snacks are for sale.

**\*\*Volunteer Opportunities** are always available. Are you looking for ways, big and small, to become more of a part of this congregation? Please contact me with ideas you have or things you would be interested in. Check the kiosks in the Social Hall and find out what the 5 Ministries have to offer. Talk with a Board member to learn what is happening behind the scenes and around the church.

**\*\*Every third Sunday - Young Adult Lunch.** Come enjoy a simple meal with folks 18-35ish in the Library after social mingling in the Social Hall. Bring a discussion topic, a fun spirit, and something to add to the meal - bread and lunch meat will be provided.

-Rebecca Dimon

### Chalice Night

Dinner 5:30-6:30, Centering Service 6:35, Programs 7:00

- Oct. 7** – Liberal Sew and Sews, New Member Class #1, Documentary viewing/discussion
- Oct. 14** – New Member Class #2, Documentary viewing/discussion, CUUPs: Movie: The Goddess Remembered
- Oct. 21** – New Member Class #3, Documentary viewing/discussion
- Oct. 28** – New Member Class #4, Liberal Sew and Sews, CUUPs: Samhain: All Hallow's Eve

This schedule is flexible and subject to change...announcements will be sent weekly by listserve and other electronic messaging systems. If you have any ideas/suggestions, please contact Rebecca. Childcare is provided, please email Rebecca ([memberdevdir@firstulou.org](mailto:memberdevdir@firstulou.org)) or call the office if you plan to bring children so we have an idea of how many to expect.

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Are there other things you would like to see offered on Wednesdays? Please let me know...just because you suggest them doesn't mean I'll ask you to lead it but if you can lead it, I would really appreciate it! Send me an email at the above address or call the church office and leave me a message.

Dimon

-Rebecca

### Service Auction

Mark your calendar! **Sunday, November 8**

- Silent Auction 5:00 p.m.,
- Live Auction 6:00 p.m.

Our family- and work-friendly auction guarantee: You'll be checked out and headed home **no later than 9:00!**

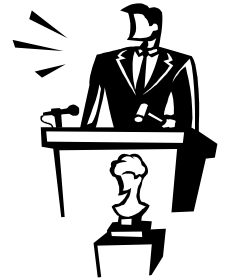
**Extra amenities:** Light supper and child care provided

**Be part of this fun fund-raiser!**

- Ask your employer and/or favorite businesses to donate gift certificates or items.
- Start thinking of what you'll donate -- just about any talent, skill, or object you have will be valued by someone at church.
- Be here on **Nov. 8!** Enjoy good food, good company, and a good time bidding on dinners, services, art, home items, gift certificates, and much more.



We'll provide lots more details as the date approaches. In the meantime, if you'd like to help with the auction, or you have questions or ideas, contact Tiffany or Doug Taylor ([tiffany.taylor@insightbb.com](mailto:tiffany.taylor@insightbb.com),



*Love is the spirit of this church...*

With the seasonal changing of the leaves, fall is an excellent time to start a compost pile.

### Compost Recipe

It's not necessary to use a bin, but you may buy one or use any sort of fencing you have on hand.

**Start with:**

- Some nitrogen-rich matter: grass, garden greenery, kitchen waste, **except for meat, fish, bones, fats which may attract animals**
- Some carbon-rich matter: typically dead leaves (saved in bags from fall)
- Some bacteria-rich matter: soil, compost

**Mix:**

The first two in roughly equal amounts  
Use less bacteria-rich matter; 15% or less

Layer or mix the different types of ingredients.  
The smaller the pieces, the faster the material will decay.  
Use of a power lawn mower or shredder is a possibility.  
The pile(s) should be at least three feet each way for quick composting.  
Sunshine is not recommended. A shady area is better.  
The pile should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge.  
Add water as needed; it is good to site pile(s) near a water source.  
Turning, mixing, or tossing a pile after a few days introduces new oxygen, which keeps the bacteria working.

If you leave a mixed heap alone for a year, it will be ready for garden use.  
If the original matter is varied and turned, it will take much less time.  
Decomposition works faster in warmer weather.

Autumn is a good time to start collecting material for a pile. Gather leaves (shred if possible) into bags or use as a mulch around bushes for winter. In spring, start adding grass clippings/garden greenery, kitchen waste and mix at least weekly. Remove as it starts to look more like dirt; sprinkle over food crops, around garden plants, over the lawn. Toss bigger pieces back into the pile.

**The Rev. Cooley's Office Hours:**

Tues., Wed., & Fri., 10-2  
or by appointment

### Brownbaggers

When: **Monday, October 19**  
Meet 11:45 a.m.  
Program at 12:15 p.m.  
Where: Church Library  
Who & What: **Greg Gapsis -- Family Discovery in Acadia**



Nova Scotia, Canada's northeastern maritime province, has a rich history of settlement and skirmishes between European powers during the 17th century. French traders established Port Royale in 1604, the first settlement north of the Gulf of Mexico, whose people by nearly a century later developed a distinct identity as Acadians.

During a summer trip, we discovered evidence of Kathy's ancestors who lived here in the late 1600's and whose children were part of the wholesale deportation by Britain in 1755. They later migrated to West Louisiana and became the Cajuns, as memorialized by Longfellow in the poem "Evangeline".

I'll share our discoveries in forts, churches and museums along the Bay of Fundy and on Cape Breton Island, as well as adventures whale watching, visiting sites were Alexander Graham Bell and Guglielmo Marconi made history, with memories of lobster feasts and good beer thrown in for good measure.

**TIPS: Where to park to/ride to First U**

Parking space Location	Days and Times		
	Sundays	Mon. to Sat. before 5:00pm	Mon. to Sat. after 5:00pm and on Chalice Night
Parking lot	Free	Pay *	Pay *
Street meters	Free	Pay	Free after 6:00pm
Public Library Parking lot	Free	Pay	Free after 6:00 pm
Parking spaces off the alley behind the church	Reserved for those who can't walk far	Reserved for staff and those who can't walk far	Reserved for Chalice Night cook and those who can't walk far
Systems Parking lot behind the church-owned parking lot on the other side of the alley	Pay	Pay	Pay
Bus lines: Fourth Street: 4,1; Broadway: 23, 37, 38, 49, 53, 54, 59, 61, 64, 66, 68, 69, 72, 73, 78, 93; Breckinridge Street: 45 (check bus schedules for days and times)			
* First Unitarian and Calvary Churches own the parking lot between them. When you pay to park, you support first U!			

Next Steepletalk Deadline: **Friday, October 23**

**First Unitarian Church**

809 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203-2115

**Return Service Requested**

Phone: 502.585.5110  
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Did you know you can read  
*Steepletalk on-line*? You  
can access it from the church  
website at [www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org).  
Check it out!

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**Permit No. 146**

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## **Celebrations of Life**

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 a.m.



### **October 4 Association Sunday**

What sort of land are we building anyway? The Unitarian Universalist Association can be a place where people come together to work for a better world. Come join several past General Assembly delegates as we reflect on the UUA, what it is, what it has been, and what it could be with our help. A special collection will

### **October 11 “The Perils in the Closet” the Rev. Dawn Cooley**

For most people, coming out of the closet is still a dangerous endeavor. On this National Coming Out Day, we remember that being surrounded by a loving, accepting community can be the difference between life and death.

### **October 18 “The Plight of the Refugee” the Rev. Dawn Cooley**

The movie *District 9* deals with the plight of extraterrestrial alien refugees. One is left wondering how we could possibly be more humane to these aliens when we have such a difficult time dealing with *human* refugees...

### **October 25 “Scooping Worth Together” the Rev. Dawn Cooley**

Here at First Unitarian Church, we call what we do on Sunday mornings our “Celebration of Life.” Other Unitarian Universalist congregations call it a “service” or “worship”. Are we doing the same thing? And does what we call it matter?