

# First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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## Service Auction, Sunday, November 16



**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!***

- Light supper and child care provided •
- Arrive by 6:30 p.m. and be in the drawing to win \$100! •

**How can you be part of this fun fund-raising event?**

- Donate! • Attend! • Bid! •

The auction generates \$10,000+ annually to support our church's many programs and services, and it can be a success only if church members and friends like *you* make Donations, Attend the auction, and Bid on items.

**Make your donation today, and plan to attend!** Yard work ... professional services ... meals ... baked goods ... artwork ... tickets to events ... handcrafted items ... gift certificates from businesses ... almost *anything* you can *do* for someone, or *anything* new or gently used that you want to remove from your house, *we want* for the auction! Fill out a donation form at church, or email your donation info to us.

Not sure what to donate? Ask your favorite business or restaurant for a gift certificate or merchandise! Or, Doug or Tiffany Taylor will be glad to offer suggestions: email [redacted]. We'll also be happy to answer any and all auction-related questions.

Got things you need to deliver to church? Bring them to church any time, clearly marked with your name and indicating that they're for the auction.

***See you at the auction on November 16!***

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

## Loving Connections: A Message from Your Interim Minister

Many of us have already been hit hard by the financial crisis. Long-anticipated retirements are being delayed; budgets are being tightened and a broad range of possibilities is narrowing for many people in our church and around the world.

Tough times can tempt us to retreat on our core values and commitments. But as a congregation that has endured through wars, depressions, a flood and a fire, we know that the light of First Unitarian Church of Louisville shines brightest in the deepest nights.

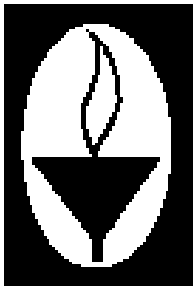
Only generosity will see us through. We can trust in the dividends paid by generous

engagement with fellow members and with ourselves. The truth is that we are more than the value of our houses and our mutual funds. Extravagance in encouraging each other, forgiving each other, and in extending compassion is always in order, now more than ever.

No matter what, we must keep the faith with your congregation through service to the world, through regular worship attendance, and by following through on pledges.

Together – and perhaps, only together – we are strong enough to weather any storm.

With admiration and love—Alma



### 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. For more information or questions about Interweave, please contact Michael Ben-Avraham at [kailoa@insightbb.com](mailto:kailoa@insightbb.com) or 587-1561.

- **Election Watch Potluck.** Tuesday, Nov 4, 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share and watch the election results and political analysis. Be sure to vote first! Interweave will especially be watching the referendums on marriage equality in Florida, Arizona, and California. Everyone is welcome.
- **Changing Families in the Bible.** Monday, Nov 10, 6:30-8:30 pm – Rev. Crawford will lead an exploration of family life at different times in ancient Israel as depicted in the Bible, including Biblical images of same-sex relationships, adoption, polygamy, and heterosexual families, and put them

in dialogue with contemporary struggles around homophobia, polyamory and other contentious issues. Diverse viewpoints are welcome. Contact Jasmine Walston, [jasminegld@aol.com](mailto:jasminegld@aol.com) or , to arrange childcare or request a topic. Co-sponsored meeting.

- **PFLAG - Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** will meet on November 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at **First Lutheran Church**, 417 E Broadway.
- Transgender Day of Remembrance at **Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**
  - Wednesday, Nov 19, "Soldier's Girl," Fellowship Hall, doors open 6:00 video at 6:30 pm.
  - Thursday, Nov 20, Panel discussion, Winn Center (McAtee A), 12:30 -1:30 pm.
  - Thursday, Nov 20, Service of Remembrance, Caldwell Chapel, 7:00 pm. Reception and presentation of Butterfly Award to follow in Fellowship Hall.

### Women's Alliance "Getting to Know You" Luncheon

Saturday, November 15, 2008, 11:30 am in the Social Hall at First Unitarian  
At our last General Gathering of the last Church Year, in June of 2008, it was suggested that we have a Gathering without any business!! Just a Sisters hip gathering. This will be just that. All Women of First Unitarian are invited to this time together, a chance to share a lunch and get to know each other. Please bring an item that will let us know you better. Since we need to make sure we have enough food, It would be great if you can let us know if you will be coming. You can call me at \_\_\_\_\_ or email [womensalliance@firstulou.org](mailto:womensalliance@firstulou.org) or see any of the Steering Committee at church. Looking forward to getting to know you!  
Kathy Thackeray, Kathy Drehmel, Lois Allen, Kathy Rogers and Kathy Kremer.



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#### STEEPLETALK

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**First Unitarian Church of Louisville**  
809 South 4th Street,  
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(Covers the month of November)  
Contact us: [editor@firstulou.org](mailto:editor@firstulou.org)

## Religious Education News

I spent today (10/25) with several of our Middle School and High School youth and the DRE and several youth group members from Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church painting a tent to become a classroom in Darfur. The youth raised more than \$200.00 to benefit the Save Darfur fund. Last weekend the youth participated in the Hunger Walk raising several hundred dollars for that cause as well. Many of them also fasted until the end of the walk in solidarity with the hungry of the world.

The Middle School OWL (Our Whole Lives) class is in high gear in the room outside my office as I write this. Last week, the LGB (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual) panel was with these young people. At the end of the session, one of the panel members commented on the maturity of the questions the young people asked. Another panelist talked about how our doing classes like this not only makes it easier for young people to come out, but that OWL helps to create allies and that makes the world safer for all of us.

Rebecca Dimon, Membership Development Director, has been doing a great job with Chalice Night. She has broadened and deepened the Adult Religious Education Programs being offered on Wednesday nights. Rev. Alma Crawford, Interim Minister, has begun a Chalice Night session called "Appreciative Inquiry -- A Spiritual Practice." She will also begin facilitation of "Building Your Own Theology" on Wednesday evenings.

I have begun teaching The Bisexuality Curriculum. This curriculum is funded by a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is

sponsored by Interweave Continental. At the first session, there were 13 participants who were willing to talk in depth about the need to move beyond society's enforced dualities and accept the spectrum of genders and sexual orientations that make us the unique creatures we are.

We are all extremely fortunate to have found Unitarian Universalism whether by birth, intention or accident. It is a life-saving religion. It is what the world needs right now. Whether it is the dualism of male/female, straight/gay or god/not god we are dealing with, Unitarian Universalism gives us a place to look at old ideas and attitudes and explore new ones. Here in this place where reason and religion meet we are all safe to explore and throw off the dualities that restrict us. This exploration can lead us to a place where we can really see the entire spectrum of colors that make the rainbow.

### Important dates coming up on the RE Calendar:

- November 9 after the Celebration of Life: RE Open House A time for parents to meet the teachers and the DRE. Light snacks provided.
- November 22 at 6:30 pm: Fall Family Potluck and Dance
- Choir for All Ages begins in November. Watch the listserv and FYI for start date.

*Carol Uebelhoer*, Interim Director of Religious Education  
Contact me at **585-5110, press 2** and leave a message or e-mail me at

## Sunday Morning Adult Round Table— Please Join Us!

**Church Library      Gather at 9:30am      Program until 10:45am**

Please join the Sunday Morning Adult Round Table at 9:30am each Sunday for programs on a variety of topics. Youth are invited to participate.

For more information or to suggest a program, contact Carol Uebelhoer at 585-5110 or Jasmine Walston at [jasminegld@aol.com](mailto:jasminegld@aol.com). For information about child care, contact Rebecca Dimon at 585-5110.

- Nov 2 **UU Among the Boy Scouts**. Guest speaker Chris Hicks will share his perspective on balancing his inclusive UU values with involvement in Boy Scouts.
- Nov 9 **This Present Paradise**. For almost 1,000 years, the Christian church emphasized paradise, not Crucifixion." *UU World* article, Summer 2008, [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org).
- Nov 16 **The Church and the Unicorn: One of them is a mythical creature worth believing in**. *UU World* article, Fall 2008, [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org). Rodney Walston, facilitator.
- Nov 23 **The Tyger and the Lamb, part 1. Examine Two faces of human nature** in this *UU World* article, Fall 2008. [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org).
- Nov 30 **The Tyger and the Lamb, part 2. Covenant: The faith of ethical relationship** grows from the different facets of our human nature.

## Thanks...

First Unitarian Youth Groups collected a total of **\$461** in

donations from the congregation for the Hunger Walk, and several bags of canned food. Many



youth group members and advisors participated in a fast today in solidarity with the purposes of the Hunger Walk. The weather was perfect, and the group walked with a banner for First Unitarian Church. It was an honor to represent our church in this community event - thanks to everyone for your support and generosity.

## Just Among Ourselves...

**In Memoriam** Christine M. Walker, 97, of Louisville, died Sunday, August 17, 2008. She taught with the Louisville Public School System, in Crescent Hill. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, the University of Louisville Women's Club, the Crescent Hill Women's Club and the First Unitarian Church.

**Church members David Smith III, Stefan Gearhart, Kyle Ellison, Rick Hogue, and Holly Hogue** are connected to this event. The Nannie Tharp Experience proudly presents "An Evening for Gilda." Join NTX and local improvisational and sketch comedy groups as we put on great comedy for an even greater cause.

All proceeds from ticket sales and donations benefit the local chapter of **Gilda's Club**. Cash or Check only.

Where: "The Old Male High School," 911 South Brook Street, Louisville KY, 40203

When: November 8th at 7pm

Cost: Only \$10.00

For more information contact: David Smith, 502-409-4360 [ntexperience@yahoo.com](mailto:ntexperience@yahoo.com)

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - As of the Steepletalk deadline, Interweave has been unable to arrange the support needed to plan a Thanksgiving dinner this year, as it has done in recent years.

If you are interested in assisting with the set-up, clean-up, cooking, and other tasks to make a Thanksgiving Dinner potluck happen at church on Thanksgiving Day, please contact Debbie Silverman

**Jewelry Sale** Thanks to everyone who participated in the Jewelry Sale - both donors and buyers. It was a fun and profitable event. Kay Woodworth & Carol Findling

**Lost & Found** table will be set up in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 2. Among the lost items looking for their homes are a green coffee urn, assorted cooking dishes, an exercise video, an air pump, and a few coats from last winter.

**Church Member Kathy Eickmann** reports that Saturday, November 8 at 6 p.m. the Friends of the New Albany Library will sponsor a book and gift basket auction in the library's auditorium. For more details, contact Kathy at \_\_\_\_\_ or e-mail [katuwe@aol.com](mailto:katuwe@aol.com).

## UU Christian Fellowship

UUCF (Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship) will be meeting on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 6:30pm in the library of the church. There will be a discussion of the stories in Luke. Please read ahead and come prepared to learn about the scriptures from differing perspectives. Alma Crawford will lend her expertise in this discussion. Any interested parties are invited to attend this meeting. If you have any questions, call Geneva Fry

## Wreath-making workshop



Sunday, December 7, 2008

First Unitarian Church Social Hall

12:30-2:30 pm

Cost is \$17

Bring clippers and gloves

Questions? Contact Carol Findling, 502-895-1973

## Money Talk\$

November is the time for updates, and there are only two of them:

**Quarterly Statements** were mailed out on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. They were supposed to go out to everyone who has pledged for 2008-2009, regardless of the payment status. If you made a pledge and have not yet received your statement, please call the Church Office to have another sent to you. If you did get a statement, please check it for accuracy; I suspect there will be many errors this time. (I speak from experience: my own statement was way off!) We want to get these records right, but the only way we have to confirm our figures is by checking with you. It is especially important that we make corrections right away because of the next item . . .

**The Audit.** By the time you read this, it should be underway. We wrote to 10 local auditing firms to describe what we needed, and six of them responded. Five were interested in performing our audit. At the time of this writing, I am checking the references for the firm that gave us the best price. So far, it looks good, and I'm hoping to get the process started by November 1. Somehow, we need to shoehorn the \$5,000 to \$6,000 cost of this into the budget, but the whole Board agreed an audit was essential and long overdue. Why do we need an audit? (1) It is a requirement before we can even apply for grant funding, in almost all cases; and (2) It has been about *ten years* since the Church had an audit, and there has been much turnover in the office, the accountants, and the treasurer's position during that time, making the books not as comprehensible and reliable as they need to be.—Maureen Taylor, Treasurer

*Love is the spirit of this church..*

## Calendar

### Sunday, November 2

9:30am SMART  
9:45am YAC  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education  
12:15pm Worship Ministry Team  
5:30pm CUUPS Sabbat Circle Service

### Monday, November 3

### Tuesday, November 4

6:30pm Election Watch Potluck

### Wednesday, November 5

5:45pm Chalice Night

### Thursday, November 6

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, November 8

3:00pm OWL Class & Overnight @ 1st U

### Sunday, November 9

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

### Monday, November 10

6:30pm Interweave—Changing Families in the Bible

### Tuesday, November 11

### Wednesday, November 12

5:45pm Chalice Night

### Thursday, November 13

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, November 15

11:30 am Women's Alliance Luncheon

3:00pm OWL Final Class & Potluck 6-8:30pm @ TJ

### Sunday, November 16

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

### 5:00pm Service Auction

### Monday, November 17

6:00pm UU Christian Fellowship

### Tuesday, November 18

6:15pm Ministry Council

### Wednesday, November 19

5:45pm Chalice Night

### Thursday, November 20

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, November 21

12:00pm Steepletalk Deadline

6:30pm Interweave

### Saturday, November 22

9:00am Women's Alliance  
6:30pm Fall Family Potluck & Dance

### Sunday, November 23

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

### Monday, November 24

11:40 am Brown Baggers

### Tuesday, November 25

### Wednesday, November 26

5:45pm Chalice Night

### Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving

### Saturday, November 29

### Sunday, November 30

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

## Brownbaggers

Monday, November 24

Arrival time: 11:40 (lunch munching)

Program time: 12:00

Tiffany Taylor will be sharing pictures and stories about their 2008 Family Summer Western trip. **Bring a brown bag and a smile.**



## KROGER BUCKS - Buying a Turkey and all the trimmings for your Thanksgiving meal from Kroger?

Use a First UU Kroger Gift Card! Put money in the General Fund and a meal on your table. See Gary Drehmel after church or call him for more details.

## Solar Panel Project

For Sale—1994 Toyota Previa van; seven passengers or use for cargo; only 161,000 miles; needs the differential repaired or replaced (a mechanic said this could be done for \$500-600). The Blue Book price is \$3000. Asking \$1600. Proceeds will go to the Solar Array Project.

Call Joe Kremer,

**Endowment News** Afraid to look at your financial statements to see how much the value has dropped? Don't look, get them out of sight and mind by giving them to the First U Endowment Trust. We've been around for over 175 years and we'll be around when the value goes up again.

Talk to Eugenia Wilner, Greg Gapsis or Joe Kremer (445-3607).

## Search Committee News

The 2007 survey results were used to develop this profile of the minister we are seeking during our search.

First Unitarian, Louisville, is seeking an inspiring and articulate minister to sustain and build our faith community. We seek a minister that will help guide and lead us into a future that is outwardly focused and financially sound. Many would like to see us attract more members, particularly younger UU's that will fill our pews in the years to come.

We seek a minister that can fulfill the following roles:

- Spiritual Leader - delivers thoughtful and inspiring worship services that touch hearts and minds
  - Catalyst for Social Action and Outreach - Catalyzes congregation to adopt social action initiatives in line with our values
  - Community Builder - maintains warm, welcoming supportive faith community, welcomes new members
  - Administrator - manages, collaborates, and works well with paid staff and volunteers
  - Pastoral Care Leader - ensures professional care and trains lay leaders to assist congregants in times of need
- Doug Taylor (Future columns will elaborate.)

## First Unitarian Church

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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!

## Come to Chalice Night—Wednesday

Come each Wednesday to Chalice Night to

- Connect with other First U members and friends
- Enjoy a good meal for a reasonable suggested donation (\$4)
- Participate in Awesome Adult Religious Education Programs

When: 5:30-6:30pm dinner, 6:40 service, 7:00 pm classes begin.



## Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.

November 2 **A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached about the necessity for intellectual rigor combined with compassion. Rev. Crawford will lead us in exploring how we can achieve that balance as a congregation, a world community and in our personal

November 9 **Honoring Those Who Serve Our National Community** - People who have served with the military, VISTA, Peace Corps or any other service that is national in scope.

November 16 **Problems, Promises and Possibilities: Living in Democracy** - Regardless of the election's outcomes, each of us will struggle to accede to the wills of others. We will look at Unitarian theologian James Luther Adam's prescriptions for finding the grace in democratic polity even when we don't get our way.

November 23 **All the Way Home: Surviving the Holidays** - The holiday season brings encounters with family members, memories and deep emotions. Together we will explore how this time of year can yield rich insights and fresh opportunities for re-interpreting the past and re-envisioning our futures.

November 30 **Great Expectations: Preparing for Possibilities** - Pregnancy is this week's metaphor as we prepare for the Re-birth of the Light, a coming year, a coming political administration, and the welcoming of a new minister. What is the spiritual work we must do as individuals and as a community to make room for new possibilities?