

# First Unitarian Church

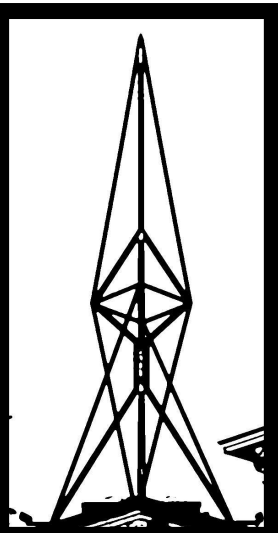
*A Member Congregation of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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**www.firstulou.org**  
809 S. 4th Street  
Louisville, KY 40203  
Phone: 502.585.5110  
Phone: 502.589.6028  
Fax: 502.587.8446  
Office Hours 9-3, M-F

Rev. Alma Crawford, Interim Minister - [minister@firstulou.org](mailto:minister@firstulou.org)  
Carol Uebelhoer, Interim Director of Religious Education -  
[dre@firstulou.org](mailto:dre@firstulou.org), [cuebel56@yahoo.com](mailto:cuebel56@yahoo.com)  
Brian Daly, President - Board of Trustees - [president@firstulou.org](mailto:president@firstulou.org)  
Betty Vernon, Office Manager - [office@firstulou.org](mailto:office@firstulou.org); [betty@firstulou.org](mailto:betty@firstulou.org)  
Rebecca Dimon, Membership Development Director -  
[Memberdevdir@firstulou.org](mailto:Memberdevdir@firstulou.org)  
William Plummer, Music Director - [music@firstulou.org](mailto:music@firstulou.org)  
Phillip Morgan, Instrumentalist ~ Earl Reynolds, Building Supervisor  
Rev. Robert Reed & Rev. Richard Beal, Ministers Emeriti  
Anne Miller, DRE Emerita



# STEEPLETALK

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

## YES, FIRST UU CAN!

All First Unitarian Church Members and Friends and their families are invited to our festive brunch in the sanctuary on **Sunday, March 8, 2009**, immediately following the Celebration of Life. The brunch is the kick-off event for our 2009-2010 Pledge Drive, and it will feature live entertainment as well as brazen appeals for your support.

This year we will be distributing pledge cards **AND** collecting them—**AT** your brunch tables (**YES, FIRST UU CAN!**—look for the **CAN** at your table—that's where your signed pledge card will go). So please be thinking about your pledge for 2009-2010 before March 8<sup>th</sup> and plan to fill out your card and sign it before you leave First Unitarian Church that afternoon. Only you know your financial situation and what you can afford. We ask that you consider thoughtfully our needs at First U. and what we offer to our members and friends as a liberal church community—a spiritual, thinking community where love and care are practiced, and we take action together to make this a better world. Then fill out your card with your best possible pledge and place it in the **CAN** at your table—your Table **Can**vasser will help guide you and answer questions you may have.

We know this process is a big change from our traditional canvass dinners with the follow-up canvassing done by individuals. We believe that this whole event will be more fun and festive for all, and it will be a more efficient way to collect pledge cards.

We look forward to seeing you in church on March 8, 2009 for the Celebration of Life and the Brunch (and the pledge card collection). Can we do this a new way? We say, **“YES, FIRST UU CAN!”** (And by now you have received an invitation so you know that's our theme this year—**YES, FIRST UU CAN!**)

### The Heartland District Annual Meeting and General Assembly are coming up.

The Heartland District Meeting will be from April 3rd through 5th in Muncie, Indiana. GA will be held between June 24th and 28th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Those who are interested in serving as delegates will have their names submitted to the board for consideration and possibly have their registration fees covered by the Church. Please contact Ben Luoma at [missionandoutreach@firstulou.org](mailto:missionandoutreach@firstulou.org) if you have any questions or if you are interested in serving as a delegate.

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



### 2009 March Action of the Month

## Sexuality Education Call-In Days March 23 and 24: Ask Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) views sexuality education as an issue of justice. It is our religious faiths and values that compel us to support justice and equity for people of all genders, races, backgrounds, income levels, abilities, and sexual orientations. We support age-appropriate, medically accurate, and fully inclusive sexuality education in schools and communities and congregations.

**Call Your Members of Congress and Ask Them to Get REAL!**

## Why Is Sexuality Education a Unitarian Universalist Issue?

Sexuality is an integral part of life. In its broadest sense, sexuality encompasses the full expression of an individual's gender, has intellectual and emotional as well as biological dimensions, and is conditioned by cultural and religious norms. In order for individuals to take responsibility for the consequences of their behavior, they must have access to comprehensive sexuality education.

Source: <http://uua.org/socialjustice/actioncenter/128860.shtml>

### Board Biz—

The February Board meeting first considered the report of our Treasurer, Maureen Taylor. Expenses exceed our revenue. Some of this is expected, but the painful necessity of transferring \$10,000 from savings was reluctantly approved. In other financial news, our bookkeeping continues to improve, with better controls and training coming. We still anticipate our financial audit, which was delayed to complete the final report.

Our Fair Trade sales effort was reviewed with questions raised on its funds and effectiveness. Childcare, which we all support, but because it is an institutional endeavor it has been and continues to be more difficult and expensive than we want.

All financial responsibility rests with your Board, so the importance of considering this aspect of church life, planning, and budgeting takes a goodly share of our time. The importance of time, talent, and resources is both exiting and challenging.

Our Interim Minister, Interim DRE, and Member Development Director report many successful and interesting programs in progress or upcoming.

On policies, we discussed establishing a task team whose job would be to coordinate information between church events and the public. Now every event is pretty much on its own. That has not been ideal. — *John Grossman*

**Wanted:** A few good people to serve on our Director of Religious Education search team. If you are interested, please let the Board know. The term of service will be from April first to September first.

Contact us through our mailbox in the Volunteer area or by emailing Brian Daly at [president@firsttulou.org](mailto:president@firsttulou.org).

**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.

\* Behavioral covenant. **Tuesday, Mar 3, 6:30pm.** Reflect on the behavioral covenant in terms of its appearance to, reception by, and effect on people who have experienced marginalization. All First Unitarian members, friends, and visitors are welcome. Attendees are welcome to bring your own dinner.

\* Polyamory community. **Monday, Mar 9 6:30-8:30pm.** Do poly folk need to meet with each other? Diverse viewpoints are welcome. All First Unitarian members, friends, and visitors are welcome. Attendees are welcome to bring your own dinner. Contact Jasmine Walston, [jasminegld@aol.com](mailto:jasminegld@aol.com) or 944-7517, to request a topic. Co-sponsored meeting.

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

### STEEPLETALK

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

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

## Religious Education News

I recently listened to my partner muse about Martin Buber in preparation for a service. While I don't claim to fully comprehend it, there was something in his "I-Thou" philosophy that continued to resonate with me. Attending a meeting a few days later with some fellow Heartland District Directors of Religious Education, that notion of "being available" to the I-Thou relationship came back to me when the topic turned to "volunteering as a spiritual practice."

I thought back to the first time I taught RE: On the first day of class, I was filled with self-doubt, thinking, "What do I have to teach these kids?" A few months earlier, it had been an extremely brave thing for me to even walk through the door of this church, and now this?

I recalled the process of qualifying to teach OWL (Our Whole Lives -- Sexuality and Our Faith). Once I was trained, I was very excited about all the information and ideas I had to share with young people about sexuality. But then the old self-doubt came up again, and I wondered, Why would these young people want to learn anything about sex from an adult who is old enough to be grandmother to most of them?

Children's Chapel, the worship that the young people do upstairs on many Sunday mornings, was to me the most daunting aspect of the job of Director of Lifespan Religious Education. I am a good manager, a pretty good teacher as it turns out, and I can organize functions pretty well, but worship with children??? I'm not a minister; how could I possibly impart anything spiritual to them?

What happened in each of these instances, of course, was that I pushed the doubt aside, took a deep breath and plunged in ... and I ended up learning from our young people more than I could ever have imagined about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Having a child look into my eyes, after affirming that a concern of hers is real, and sit next to me with her hand in mine for the rest of chapel -- that is a special time that completely defies description. Laughing with a group of young people who are excited about figuring out a solution to a problem is to be immersed in an amazing relationship.

Now that it is within my power to offer others the chance for such experiences, I can finally understand the smile on Lisa Willner's face when she suggested I put aside my doubts and take these leaps of faith: She knew what gifts the ventures would bring me. So when you are asked to embark on an adventure with the young people of this church, think carefully before you say the "No" that caution and self-doubt urge on you. That answer might close you off from one of the most important and transformative experiences of your life. Saying "Yes" is an affirmation, not only to our youth at First Unitarian Church, but to the UU movement and -- probably most importantly -- to yourself. As Martin Buber might say, why not make yourself available?

*Carol Uebelhoer*, Interim Director of Religious Education Contact me at **585-5110, press 2** and leave a message or e-mail me at [cuebel56@yahoo.com](mailto:cuebel56@yahoo.com).



## 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.

- **Mar 1** Multigenerational Improv Group. Artist in Residence, David Smith, III. Open Classroom, second floor, at 9:45am. Dress comfortably and leave your need for control and predictability at home. Come prepared to laugh!!
- **Mar 8** Cult Awareness. Dangerous cult, or merely a different spiritual path? How can we tell the difference? Jason Klueber, leader.
- **Mar 15** Islam. A monotheistic religion characterized by the acceptance of the doctrine of submission to God and to Muhammad as the chief and last prophet of God. Rev. Alma Crawford, leader.
- **Mar 22** Islam. A major world religion, Islam has over a billion followers. Rev. Alma Crawford, leader.
- **Mar 29** Multigenerational Improv Group. Artist in Residence, David Smith, III. Open Classroom, second floor, at 9:45am. Dress comfortably and leave your need for control and predictability at home. Come prepared to laugh!!

Next Steepletalk Deadline: **Friday, March 27** (Covers the month of April)

## Just Among Ourselves...

**Our thoughts of strength and healing go out to:** Penny and John Nader, Rick Hogue, and other members and friends who suffer illness or sorrow.

**UU Christian Fellowship** will be holding its monthly March meeting on Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the library of the church. A discussion of the Book of Luke will continue to be led by our interim minister Alma Crawford. To prepare please read Luke beginning with Chapter 6. We will also be discussing topics for future sessions.

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 (or in case of inclement weather) call Geneva Fry at 948-1367.

**Women's Alliance** -The Women's Alliance will meet on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** for our Annual Spring Meeting.

We will meet in the Social Hall, at 10:00 am for a pot luck brunch. The agenda for this meeting is full and important. Please come and make your voice heard as to which of the recommendations of the DMT/Dispersal of Money Team you would like to see happen and also vote on the slate for the Steering Committee for our next program

**Money Talk\$** I was hoping to report here on the audit this month, but that was just one of the many things delayed by our late-January weather problems. Now the audit report is something to look forward to in April! Still, there are a few money-related news items to share with you:

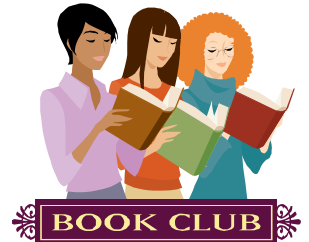
**PowerChurch Training.** On Saturday, February 21 (tomorrow, as I write this) a group of us got together at the church with a special PowerChurch trainer from Indianapolis. For five hours, we focused on the financial reporting aspects of the program, with two goals in mind:

(1) making sure the program was set up optimally, so that a correction in one part of the system would be reflected in all of the parts where it needed to register, and different reports of the same account would not show different balances; and  
(2) improving our understanding of exactly what the program can do and how to get the most from it.

**Calling all readers!** Join fellow UU's in reading and discussing books. All meetings will be held in the parlor and begin at 6:00 pm. Following is a list of the meeting dates and books to be discussed through July 2009.

- Mar 9 Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi.
- April 13 Virgin suicides by Jeffrey Eugenides
- May 11 Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell
- June 8 Middleman and Other Stories by Bharati Mukherjee
- July 13 Velvet Elvis by Rob Bell

The following are meeting dates for the rest of 2009...  
Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14.  
We would love for you to join us!



year which begins July 1, 2009. All women of first Unitarian are invited to attend the Annual Spring Meeting, but please note only members may vote. Lois Allen, our Treasurer, will be present to accept your membership if you wish to become a member of the Women's Alliance.

If you wish to be on the Chair Wizard Team (cleaning the folding chairs) please notify me. This event will take place on **March 14th**. More information will be posted on line as well as by phone.

**The 2008 Tax Letters.** These went out in late January, and three weeks later, only **five** statements have had to be corrected so far. What an improvement from the last quarterly letters in October! A few recipients of the letter were confused about the fact that it reported amounts paid in the calendar year—which might or might not be the same as half of the amount pledged for 2007-2008 and half of the amount pledged for 2008-2009. I would love to see the Church switch to operating on a calendar year instead of a fiscal year to eliminate this confusion, but in the meantime, remember that Uncle Sam is interested only in the amounts contributed from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. If you paid your pledge early, I hope you took credit for that on your 2007 taxes. If you have not yet reviewed the figures on the tax letter you received from First U, please do so soon. Please don't wait until April 14<sup>th</sup>. Can't find your letter? Let me know your e-mail address, and I'll be happy to e-mail you a copy. *--Maureen Taylor, Treasurer*

## Calendar

**Sunday, March 1**

9:30am SMART  
9:45am YAC  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education

**Monday, March 2**

7:15pm RE Committee

**Tuesday, March 3**

6:00pm Owl

**Wednesday, March 4**

5:00pm Chalice Night

**Thursday, March 5**

5:30pm Stewardship  
7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, March 6****Saturday, March 7**

9:30am Women's Alliance

**Sunday, March 8**

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education  
12:15pm Young Adult Group

**Monday, March 9**

6:00pm Book Club

6:30pm Interweave

**Tuesday, March 10**

6:00pm Board of Trustees

**Wednesday, March 11**

5:00pm Chalice Night

**Thursday, March 12**

5:30pm Personnel Committee

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, March 14**

9:00am House & Grounds

**Sunday, March 15**

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education  
12:15pm Young Adult Group  
5:30pm CUUPS Sabbat Circle

**Monday, March 16**

11:00am Brownbaggers

6:00pm UU Christian Fellowship

6:15pm Ministry Council

**Tuesday, March 17****Wednesday, March 18**

5:00pm Chalice Night

**Thursday, March 19**

6:00pm Member Ministry

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, March 20****Sunday, March 22**

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

**Monday, March 23****Tuesday, March 24**

7:00pm Finance

**Wednesday, March 25**

5:00pm Chalice Night

7:00pm Finance

**Thursday, March 26**

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, March 27**

Steepletalk Deadline

**Saturday, March 28**

10:00pm Women's Alliance

**Sunday, March 29**

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

**The Sr. High Youth Group** is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive at church on Thursday, March 12, from 2 – 6 pm in the social hall. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110#, and be in good general health. Full eligibility details are available at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org). Blood donations in this area are down due to the recent ice and wind storms, and the need remains great. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to join in fellowship in giving the gift of life. For further information, or to indicate your interest in attending (not necessary, but helpful for planning), contact Kathy Gapsis, 923-7696, [kgapsis@mac.com](mailto:kgapsis@mac.com).

### First Unitarian Thanks Harry, Pete, and Joe for Building Sanctuary Ramp

The Rev. Alma Crawford will set aside some time during the Celebration of Life Service on Sunday, March 15, 2009 to thank Harry Tobe, Pete Webber, and Joe Kremer for building a ramp in the Sanctuary. The ramp makes the raised platform accessible for our members, friends, and visitors who have difficulty climbing steps. Please join us. Thank you.

**Heartland District News**—The Heartland District regional meeting is scheduled for **April 3-5 in Muncie, Indiana**. We are allocated five delegate slots. This is a unique and meaningful gathering. If you are interested in attending, contact the Board through our mailbox in the Volunteer area or by emailing Brian Daly at [president@firstulou.org](mailto:president@firstulou.org).

### KROGER GIFT CARD REPORT

From July 2008 through January 2009 Kroger's has contributed over \$1,700.00 to the General Fund at First Church. Keep using your Kroger Gift Card! If you would like one see Gary Drehmel in the Social Hall after church --- \$20.00 to start a new card.

**Wanted:** Are you searching for a way to use your talents to help people? We need volunteers with good office skills to help Betty with day-to-day activities. Please call (585-5110) or email ([office@firstulou.org](mailto:office@firstulou.org)).

### Brownbaggers

**When:** Meeting March 16 2009

Lunch at 12:00 Noon

**Where:** Church Library

**What:** YOUR stories about surviving snow - ice - wind - power outages.

- Did you find anything beautiful about it?
- Did you take pictures? (Bring some to show)
- Did you see examples of neighborliness?
- Did your roof stay put?
- How did you cope?

**Bring a brown bag and a smile.**



## Supporting our Youngest UU

**Ambassadors**—Many of you may not know that our RE youth program has recently made a commitment to a regular rotation of youth travel opportunities in addition to supporting their attendance at youth “Cons.” In years that we hold the Coming of Age program, the young people who participate in that program will make a UU heritage pilgrimage to Boston. A large group of youth and chaperones made this trip last May; Boston observers might have enjoyed watching them recite portions of an Emerson sermon or recite historical facts about other famous UU characters at churches and other significant sites around the present-day home of the UUA. In other years, the Senior High Youth Group will participate in a service trip. Two years ago, the Senior High journeyed to the Pine Mountain Settlement School in Eastern KY, where they did trail work adjacent to the school, interior painting, and participated in environmental education activities. This coming year, the Senior High will head to the Clearfork Community Institute at the Woodland Community Land Trust in Eagan, TN (see last month’s Steepletalk).

How have these trips been financed? The youth have engaged in various fundraising activities, but the bulk of the funding came from the families of the traveling youths. Some had hoped to be able to venture farther than our nearby mountains (Central America and Western US Indian reservations were discussed) for the upcoming service trip, but the cost was prohibitive.

**Young Adult Update** -On February 20th and 21st, the Young Adult Group had a retreat at First. We began our evening at Calvary Episcopal Church helping with a fundraiser chili cook-off. Three Young Adults attended the dinner and afterwards we moved across the parking lot where 4 more Young Adults joined us for movies and fellowship. When we couldn't stay awake any longer, we crashed on the floor of the Library (thanks to the Jr. and Sr. High classrooms, we borrowed some pillows and cushions to make the night more comfortable).

About 8 hours later, we woke up to breakfast - eggs and toast and coffee. After breakfast, Claudio Carvalhaes, Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching at Presbyterian Seminary, joined us and led a workshop about ritual. Our discussion ranged from formal, religious ritual to lifetime, rite of passage rituals. We split into two groups and each group presented a brief ritual around a topic presented by Claudio. After our closing discussions, we headed to lunch to debrief and relax after our informative and thought-provoking morning discussion. The end of lunch brought the end of the retreat. One young adult summed up the experience for all: "It was fun, let's do it again." And so we will.— *Rebecca Dimon*

We're now looking to the future, and with support from the Congregation, we envision exciting possibilities for our impressive and committed young Unitarian Universalists. How can you help? There are two opportunities for Congregational participation in supporting our young ambassadors. First, we will have a *special collection* during the Celebration of Life on **March 15** to support the cash fund that has helped to allay cost for our upcoming trip. Come prepared to give generously in support of our youths' social justice mission.

For those who would like to make a more lasting contribution to future possibilities for youth travel, the Religious Education Ministry would like to invite you to make a donation to the *Genevieve Sibley Youth Travel Fund*. The Sibley fund is a small endowment left to the church by long-time member Genevieve Sibley to support youth travel. The stipulation of the bequest was that only the interest be used for youth travel. Unfortunately, that endowment is currently not large enough to provide for a substantive contribution to annual travel. We hope to build that endowment to provide a small income for our youth travel program. Donors to the Sibley fund will be honored with a recognition brick on our future Wall of Honor in the open classroom upstairs. We are pleased to announce that Eugenia Willner is our first Wall of Honor donor – thank you Eugenia! We look forward to many productive youth pilgrimages and service trips in the future, and know that these trips will not only help our youth to grow into caring and generous citizens, but also spread the good will of our Congregation to communities across the United States and beyond. —*Suzanne Meeks*

**Our Middle School youth** did a great job last month organizing donations for Maryhurst, which was a pretty big job--especially sorting all the clothing. The storage areas looked pretty good by the time we left. Thanks to Fran Ellers for arranging the visit, providing transportation, and helping keep us focused. —*Patricia J. Kannapel*

**Our Senior High Youth Group** prepared and served at Wayside Christian Mission last month. They served lunch, washed dishes, and prepared for future meals. —*Chloe Taylor*

**UU's & Healthcare**- In the general assembly this past June, UU's endorsed a single-payer healthcare legislation. We are promoting it because it is the moral thing and the cost effective way to bring universal health care to all Americans regardless of color, sexual orientation, gender, etc. (House bill # HR 676) This is a very important bill and we should take action. Watch the announcements in the next few weeks for more information. Tell John Yarmuth “thank you” to for supporting what UU's find important. —*Jill Harmer*

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

**First U Covenant of UU Pagans** welcomes Spring with a class **March -11 at Chalice Night**. "Spring is busting out all over" will be the focus as we discuss Ostara and where this season fits on the Wheel of the Year. If you would like to attend the upcoming ritual, this class will help you understand what Pagans celebrate at this time of the year.

CUUPS will be hosting our Ostara Celebration Ritual which will be held **Sunday March 15th**. As usual, our celebration will begin with a pot luck dinner, here at the church, to begin at 5:30PM followed by Circle Celebration at 7:00PM. This celebration is open to the public and all are welcome. This is a family friendly event and child care will be provided, upon request, by contacting our childcare coordinator, Monica Turner.

Our "Pagan 101" series of classes will continue **March 25th**, at Chalice Night, as we explore the God and Goddess aspects of our religion. This series is open and ongoing and we welcome anyone that would like to join in our discussion or would just like to learn more about Paganism. Should you have any questions about this or any of our CUUPS events, feel free to contact Ron Zorn by email at [zorn.ron@gmail.com](mailto:zorn.ron@gmail.com). -*Ron Zorn*

### "Ingersoll, the Great Agnostic"

**What:** Humanist lecture on Robert Green Ingersoll

**Who:** Rev. Roger Greenley, Minister at Peoples' Church in Kalamazoo

**Where:** Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Universalist

**When:** 7:30pm, Monday, April 6th

**Cost:** \$10.00

**More about What:** Robert Green Ingersoll (1833-1899) was one of the most famous orators and agnostics of the latter nineteenth century in America, and his writings and speeches still are quoted today. To Ingersoll, any religion based on the Bible was fear. Real religion and real worship, he maintained, were manifested by doing useful things, increasing knowledge, and developing the brain. Science was the real redeemer and savior of the world, and the trinity he worshiped was reason, observation, and experience. When asked about the kind of God he espoused, he responded that the idea of an infinite Being outside nature was inconceivable. To Ingersoll, pantheism was the closest explanation for his doctrine (Farrell, 8:56-57). Matter, intelligence, and force were eternal, he said, and he knew of nothing outside nature.

Source: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/423>

**All those who call themselves humanists should enjoy it.**

-*Bob Schultz, TJ member*

## Chalice Night Program:

### Great Decisions

"In a democracy, agreement isn't essential, but participation is."

(Walter Cronkite introducing the GREAT DECISIONS television series on PBS)

**Beginning Wednesday, March 18**, the Religious Education Ministry brings the Great Decisions process to First. Jeff Matthias, formerly part of the Adult RE Team at First, has facilitated the program elsewhere and has agreed to will lead the 8 week course. The course will take place on **Chalice Night** and is open to the public -- tell your friends and family. This course features written and video background material, and expert analysis on the eight Great Decisions Topics. Participants engage in meaningful conversation and have the opportunity to share their ideas with decisionmakers.

The topics for the 2009 series are:

1. The U.S. and rising powers
2. Afghanistan and Pakistan
3. Energy and the global economy
4. The Arctic age
5. Egypt: key ally in the Middle East
6. Global Good Crisis
7. Cuba on the verge
8. Human rights in a new era: wars for peace?

The Foreign Policy Association, which developed this program, strives to help Americans gain a better understanding and interest in significant world issues in the belief that in a democracy a concerned and informed public is the foundation for an effective foreign policy. Through the Opinion Balloting process, the Great Decisions program not only facilitates greater citizen understanding of important global issues, but offers Americans an opportunity to make their views known to policymakers.

The Great Decisions Global Affairs Education Program celebrated 50 years in 2004. It has been offered successfully in a number of UU congregations.

For more information about this program go to: [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)



## First Unitarian Church

809 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203-2115

### Return Service Requested

Phone: 502.585.5110  
Phone: 502.589.6028  
Fax: 502.587.8446

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## Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.



- March 1 **The Interconnected Web of Music**—Our own Middle School Youth Group presents this service about the way music speaks to all of us.
- March 8 **Realizing Our Possibilities? Yes We Can!!** -On our Stewardship Sunday, Rev. Crawford will celebrate our present identity, past accomplishments and the marvels we can accomplish in the future. The key is our commitment and our generosity.
- March 15 **Prophetic Sisterhood: UU Women In Ministry**—This Women's History Month Sermon explores some of the heroic history of the liberal religious leaders who established the foundations of Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the Western United States. Rev. Crawford will connect that with the necessity in our time for bringing liberal religion to a hurting world.
- March 22 **Dorothea Dix: Reimagining Mental Illness**- Our liberal religious forbear Dorothea Dix agitated boldly to transform the cruel treatment of the mentally ill in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. How, with our present advances in understanding both brain chemistry and our responses to life's challenges, can we continue the work of removing stigmas connected to seeking mental wellness?
- March 29 **Clara Barton: Agents of Healing in the Midst of War** -Our ancestor, Clara Barton, established what is now the American Red Cross during the unfathomable carnage of the Civil War. What does it mean to participate in a war effort, even from the perspective of healing? We will explore together the actual words and reflections of Barton as guides to our living with integrity while our nation conducts two wars.