

Sunday Programs**January 3**

- 9:30 Adult RE: Dignity of Difference (MH)
- 10:40 Program: David Smith, Columbus High School Senior
 Title: **"In Defense of My Generation"**
 Service Leader: Pat Hart
 Opener: Chris Nix
 Closer: Elaine Lupo and Volunteers
 Greeters: Ursula King and Kirstin Mix
- 12:00 First Sunday Potluck Lunch
 Bring donated food for Feed the Valley Food Bank
 Bring a Friend Day

January 10

- 9:30 Adult RE: Dignity of Difference (MH)
- 10:40 Program: Reverend Fred Howard, Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta
 Title: **"The Heart of Zen"**
 Service Leader: Ron Ussey
 Opener: Elaine Lupo
 Closer: Pat Hart
 Greeters: Bill Edwards and Anna Hensley

January 17

- 9:30 Adult RE: The God Delusion Debate; Richard Dawkins vs John Lennox, Part 1(MH)
- 10:40 Program: Bill Harlan and Hal Midgette
 Title: **"Vietnam: From Both Sides Now"**
 Service Leader: Nate Gross
 Opener: Pat Hart
 Closer: Nikki Rohrs
 Greeters: Ann Newland and Robert Burnham
 GATP: [The Literacy Alliance](#)

January 24

- 9:30 Adult RE: The God Delusion Debate, Part 2 (MH)
- 10:40 Program: Ben Pike
 Title: **"The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll"**
 Service Leader: John Land
 Opener: Nikki Rohrs
 Closer: Michelle Midgette
 Greeters: Justine Wade and Bill Edwards

January 31

- 9:30 Adult RE: The God Delusion Debate, Part 3 (MH)
- 10:40 Program: Kayla Perez and Wendi Jenkins, CSU Servant Leadership Program
 Title: **"Leading, Serving, Growing"**
 Service Leader: Tom Sturm
 Opener: Maureen Humphries
 Closer: Ursula King
 Greeters: Ursula King

Thanks to **Michelle Midgette** for coordinating programs for this month

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A Welcoming Congregation



Activities

Wednesday Night Discussion Group

This group meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm and is open to everyone. The topic to be discussed is announced on the website calendar a few days in advance of the next meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be on January 6th. (MH)

Women's Group

The Women's Group meets monthly on the second Thursday. The time of day and the specific plans vary from month to month. The details are usually announced a month in advance and are found in the newsletter and on the website. The January meeting will be held on January 14th. We will meet here at GFH at 6:30pm for a pot luck and wine to plan our meetings for the rest of the year. Let's see if we can come up with some creative ideas! Please contact Brenda Stevens and let her know if you plan to come.

Women's Book Club

A monthly meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month at 5 pm in the Meeting House. The current book is announced a month in advance, giving everyone a chance to read it before the meeting. We will resume on January 26, 2016 and review the book, *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution* by Brian Kilmeade. Pat Hart will lead the discussion. We will also choose books for 2016, so bring your recommendations. We welcome new members!

UU Singers

If you are interested in music or singing, please consider joining our UU Singers. Connie Ussery and Marj Harlan will lead the rehearsals every Wednesday night at 6 pm. (GFH)

Yoga

NEW!! Sonja Saxton, group fitness instructor and personal trainer, has offered to teach a FREE beginning yoga class at Grace Fellowship Hall. It will run from January 7—February 25 on Thursdays at 1:30 pm. Please bring a yoga mat.

Joys and Concerns

- * Our December GATP donation of \$137.75 went to House of T.I.M.E.
- * In January we will donate to the **Literacy Alliance**.
- * We are pleased to welcome new members Patricia Lassiter and Beth Cooper who joined in December.
- * Brenda Stevens' Dad is not doing well. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers.
- * Ernestine Mathis has returned home!
- * Thanks to all who helped to clean Grace Fellowship Hall on December 17th. We all appreciate your efforts.
- * Our Christmas party was a great success! Our appreciation goes out to the Newlands for offering their lovely home. We all enjoyed great food, drink and fellowship.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Brenda Stevens | January 1 |
| Nikki Rohrs | January 4 |
| Linda Bass | January 5 |
| Joyce Stokes | January 5 |
| Chris Newland | January 9 |
| Ann Newland | January 12 |



| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Mary Schley | January 13 |
| Pat Hart | January 16 |
| Kenny Gray | January 22 |
| Katie Dillard | January 24 |
| Ben Pike | January 30 |
| Alexandra Paich | January 31 |

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE



January Children's RE Programs (pictured is December's Art Project)

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|------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| January 3 | No Program | |
| January 10 | Fair Group Decisions | Nate & Molly Gross |
| January 17 | Art Project | Paul Lee |
| January 24 | Witness for Justice | Ashley Walker |
| January 31 | Signs of Faithful Leadership | Emily Jones |

We are in need of volunteers to help with future Children's RE Programs and also people who would read the Children's Story at the Sunday service. You can sign up online, on the bulletin board, or just see Kayla. All materials are provided and you wouldn't have to sign up for a long time commitment. PLEASE.....

Children's Story Volunteers



| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| January 3 | No Children's Story |
| January 10 | Heather Saxton |
| January 17 | Maureen Humphries |
| January 24 | ? |
| January 31 | ? |

UUF Opinion Survey Results

Dec. 6, 2015

Number responding: 39

Results

1. Our Sunday program (10:40-12:00) is
 - a. satisfactory in length: 30 (76%)
 - b. too long: 9 (23%)
2. Which part of the program would you like to shorten?
 - a. announcements: 8 (21%)
 - b. children's story: 3 (7%)
 - b. c. joys and concerns: 8 (21%)
 - d. discussion: 8 (21%)

Comments

Time: No longer than noon; close at noon regardless of program elements; tighter time limits would make Service more enjoyable for guests, newcomers and most members; speaker intro should be short; discussion should be 10 min. limit; limit joys and concerns to one minute or less; go back to letting members make announcements of one minute or less; Service is too short, an extra evening Service or Vespers would allow more diversity of content and accommodation.

Programs: Additional social action and spiritual programs; would love more spiritual Services about 6 sources and led by spiritual leaders; some programs should maybe be more entertaining for younger demographic; children's story, joys and concerns, and discussion are most important

Announcements: Announcements could be after Service; turn in announcements to Brenda before Service; I like all elements of Service except Announcements

Music : Expand music program for pianist, occasional soloist, CSU Schwob School of Music students; great inconsistency in playback of recorded music; we should try harder to accommodate those who enjoy music, at least 2 songs with one being familiar; love to listen to singers.

Children: Children's stories should have a moral and be told, not read as audience can't see pictures; love to see the kids; parents need to collect children at noon so volunteers don't have to wait 10-15 min. extra.

(continued on next page)

UUF Opinion Survey Results, cont.

Discussion: Discussion should be questions only; discussion comments should be brief, not autobiographies; discussion is best part of program; would like more formal opportunity to continue discussion after Service

Audio-Visual System: Need a speaker system that does not fade in and out; too many slides, should be illustrative and not more than 3 lines

Social Action: Need an outreach project

Coffee Time Costs: Charge donation for a.m. munchies, too much for opener

Overall Positive Comments: All great; keep it up; great; everything is great; great as is.

Conclusion

The majority are satisfied with the overall length of our Sunday program though even those satisfied prefer to keep announcements, joys and concerns, and discussion brief. Announcements are the least favorite part of the program. We will consider ways to limit announcements. Comments will be referred to volunteers who work with various parts of the program and efforts will be made to keep elements of the Service from taking a disproportionate time, so the Service can end no later than noon.

Though we can't please everyone all the time, your opinions, comments, and suggestions are helpful in trying to create a Sunday Service that touches, teaches or inspires us along our Unitarian Universalist paths.

Thank you for your participation in our opinion survey!

There is a need for volunteers to help clean Grace Fellowship Hall on a regular basis. The next cleanup date will be in January and a sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board. It doesn't take long if we all help! Please consider helping.

For the latest news, visit our dynamic new website:
www.uucolumbusga.org for all the latest info about programs, schedules, announcements, etc. Our website is a blog, so click on "subscribe" on the home page and you will be notified by email whenever a new post is made.