

## Sunday Programs

### July 3

9:30 Adult Religious Education. Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Reverend Ed Wilson  
Title: **"Celebrating UU and the U.S., Compatible Siblings"**

Service Leader: Bill Edwards  
Opener: Sidney Wilson  
Closer: Marj Harlan  
Greeters: Kirstin Mix and Robert Burnham

12:00 **First Sunday Potluck Lunch (in the pavilion)**  
Bring donated food or donation for Feeding the Valley Food Bank

### July 10

9:30 Adult Religious Education. Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Billy Winn, Columbus writer and historian  
Title: **"The Triumph of the Eccunau-Nuxulgee"**

Service Leader: John Nix  
Opener: Marj Harlan  
Closer: Connie Ussery  
Greeters: Patricia Lassiter and Ann Newland

### July 17

9:30 Adult Religious Education. Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Sanjay Lal, Professor of Philosophy, Clayton State University  
Title: **"Do Hindus and UUs Think Alike?"**

Service Leader: Marj Harlan  
Opener: Chris Nix  
Closer: Anna Hensley  
Greeters: Patricia Lassiter and Mark Berger  
**GATP: Alterna House**

### July 24

9:30 Adult Religious Education. Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Colonel Robert B. Simpson, USA, Retired  
author of *Through the Dark Waters: Searching for Hope and Courage*  
Title: **"Four Lives Worth Living"**

Service Leader: Dave Walker  
Opener: Anna Hensley  
Closer: Michelle Midgette  
Greeters: Ursula King and Robert Burnham

### July 31

9:30 Adult Religious Education, Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Reverend Ed Helton, Exec. Director, Leadership Institute and Client Relations, CSU  
Title: **"Civil Discourse. Romans 2:1-11"**

Service Leader: Ron Ussery  
Opener: Pat Hart  
Closer: Nikki Rohrs  
Greeters: Bill Edwards and Justine Wade



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**A Welcoming Congregation**

Thanks to **Ed and Sidney Wilson** for coordinating programs this month



## 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. (MH)

### UU Women

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. This month the group will meet on July 14 at 5:30 pm for dinner at **Deorio's Pizza Inn** restaurant in Cross Country Plaza. RSVP to Brenda by July 12.

### 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 meet on July 26 and review the book, The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman. We welcome new members!

### UU Singers

Practice is suspended until August.

### Yoga

Yoga is suspended for the summer. Classes will begin again on Thursday, September 8.

### Media Lunch Group

This group meets at a different restaurant each Friday at 12:30 to have fun and discuss current events. It was formed by Don Nahley, Bill Harlan, Dick McMichael and Ed Wilson to discuss their experiences as newsmen. It has evolved to inviting all members and friends of the Fellowship to join them for a lively discussion. Please call Bill Harlan at 605.390.0590 to see where they will be meeting this month.

## *Joys and Concerns*

- \* A joy...Orm Burnham joined the Fellowship in June.
- \* In June, we contributed \$50 and 105 pounds of food to Feeding the Valley.
- \* Our June GATP donation of \$201.00 went to Open Door to purchase fans.
- \* Our July GATP charity is **Altern House** in LaGrange.
- \* A joy to see Ernestine Mathis back with us.
- \* **Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers: All would probably appreciate a call or a card.**
- \* Grace Jordan is back at Spring Harbor after a stay in the hospital.
- \* Gerda Smith is having mobility problems.
- \* Fran Cox is experiencing some health concerns.
- \* Our sympathy goes to the family of Steve Ellis. He will be missed very much.
- \* Our condolences go to Linda Bass and her family on the death of her mother in law, Susan Batson Zachry Huguley of West Point, GA.
- \* Condolences also go to Brenda Stevens and Kenny Gray on the death of Kenny's uncle, Quillian Hall of Dothan, AL.
- \* Our sympathy is extended to Rick Spradlin's family on the death of his sister in law.

**THE UNIQUENESS OF UU RELIGION**

by Rev. Ed Wilson

Can we do it? Will it work? Unitarian Universalism has a religious way that is unique. It is unique in that most if not all other religions aim to put their members into a doctrinal structure—a structure that is enforced in various ways, including in some in some cases disfellowshipping any who persistently refuse to conform. Do this, believe that, or you're out!

That can't happen in the UU religion, because it's a *non-creedal* religion. We UU's don't have any doctrines or dogmas to enforce. Which opens up marvelous possibilities: people with a wide range of beliefs and ideas, sharing space and fellowship in church; no restraints on what speakers can preach or teach from our pulpit; freewheeling discussions among members with sharply differing points of view.

It's a beautiful idea that's really tough to practice. The practice of UU religion calls for a big, wide-open doorway of tolerance. The differences in our discussions are often about dichotomies such as Christian-versus-atheist, humanist-versus-believer, agnostic-versus-deist, conservative-versus-liberal, spiritual-versus-secular, science-versus-mysticism. Whatever one's personal position, the challenge is for each of us to listen attentively and speak civilly. Those are often not easy things to do. But the rewards are tremendous! In fact, if we develop effective techniques for getting along with one another, we can offer valuable insights and methods to the larger society in which we live.

In a sense, we are like the United States of America, which—in a great experiment—is a home for people of many cultures—a place where it is intended that people of diverse religions and cultures and philosophies and politics can live as neighbors in mutual respect. In UU we too have a great experiment going. We have chosen to avoid doctrinaire, dogmatic religion and have covenanted to "affirm and promote . . . acceptance of one another" within the diversity of our congregations. So, like the United States, UU's have opened their arms to all kinds of people. It is indeed a very different kind of religion—different and better.

Can we get along with one another? Can we refine the art of civil discourse? Can we be friends and fellow-members, even though we may sharply disagree with one another? Can we offer the world something better than war and discord? Can love triumph over wrangling and alienation? Can we have unity within our diversity? I believe the answer to all of those questions is a resounding YES! It won't be easy, but I think it's very much worth doing. Do you?

**Steve Ellis**

The Fellowship mourns the loss of our friend, Steve Ellis. Although he had only been attending the Fellowship for about 9 months, he quickly became one of our own. He was an active participant of the Wednesday night discussion group and was one of our UU Singers. We will miss his amazing knowledge of all subjects, especially poetry, and his wonderful outlook on life.

**Last Wishes Project**

Our Office Administrator, Brenda Stevens, would like to remind us that there is a form available in the office which can be filled out detailing wishes for favorite songs, readings or other information you would like to have mentioned at a memorial service/funeral. This is purely voluntary and is meant to help relatives with the planning of a service. See Brenda for details.

## Second Annual Picnic in the Pavilion

July 3, 2016



**Our First Sunday pot luck lunch in July will be held in our pavilion by Heiferhorn Creek. Please bring a dish for all to share. We will have plenty of tables and chairs. There will not be any grills available. After lunch, plan to check out our Meditation Garden which is under construction, and take a stroll on the path along the creek!**

### Bits and Pieces:

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Children's RE Programs for July: TBA

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The recycling project for the Ronald McDonald House has been completed and replaced by a collection for items for Hope Harbour, a shelter for abused women and their children. Needed items are listed in the back of this newsletter.

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Board meetings are held the third Tuesday evening of every month at 7 pm at GFH. Meetings are open to everyone.

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Donations for Feeding the Valley Food Bank should be non-perishable food in unbreakable containers (no glass). Checks made out to Feeding the Valley and cash are also welcome.

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On the third Sunday of each month our Social Justice Committee designates a local charity to be the recipient of our Give Away the Plate (GATP) offering. The money collected in the offering which is not pledged for the operations of the Fellowship is donated to the charity.



Marj Harlan	July 2
Bill Harlan	July 19
Ernestine Mathis	July 25
Tom Sturm	July 25
Demari Jones	July 28



## Children's Story

July 3	Kirstin Mix
July 10	Emily Jones
July 17	John Kamisky
July 24	Maureen Humphries
July 31	TBA

### *Notes from the Social Justice Committee*

There will be a Social Justice Committee meeting after services on July 17.

We have received thank you notes from Trees Columbus, the Ferst Foundation and Feeding the Valley for the contributions we have made to their organizations in the last few months.

There is a new UUFC banner which we will use at UU events.

Information about UUFC and bottled water were distributed at the Columbus Pride event on June 4. Thanks to all who donated water.

We have a bin in the back of the room for contributions to Hope Harbour. On their wish list are: gas cards, towels and washcloths, personal hygiene products, diapers of all sizes, wipes, pacifiers and sippy cups. Also needed are paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies and laundry detergent. If you knit or crochet, they are also in need of baby blankets.

### *Standing on the Side of Love T-shirts*

Maureen Humphries is still accepting orders for T-shirts. Please see her for details.

## GATP: ALTERNA

Alterna, located in LaGrange, Ga, is a bi-lingual Christian community devoted to acts of hospitality, mercy, and justice. They advocate for local, state and federal laws that reflect Christian values in the treatment of immigrants, especially those detained at the Lumpkin, Ga Immigrant Detention Center. They also assist immigrant children and families in the resolution of consumer, employment, housing, legal, or medical crises. Alterna's motto is "Love crosses borders."

For the latest news, visit our dynamic new website:  
[www.uucolumbusga.org](http://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.