Volume 10, Issue 12

# Columbus UU News

### December 2016

## **Sunday Programs**

#### **December 4**

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

10:40 Program: Ryan Lynch, PhD., Asst. Prof. History of the Islamic World, CSU Title: "*The Islamization of the Middle East: Conquest, Conversion and the Caliphate"* 

> Service Leader: Rick Spradlin Opener: Paul Lee Closer: Rick Spradlin Greeters: Kirstin Mix and Mark Berger

12:00 First Sunday Potluck Lunch Bring a monetary donation for Feeding the Valley Food Bank Bring a Friend Day

#### December 11

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education: "Islam" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)
- 10:40 Program: Reverend Diana Allende, Minister Emerita, Auburn UU Fellowship Title "*Offerings"*

Service Leader: David Smith Opener: Rick Spradlin Closer: John Kamisky Greeters: Ann Newland and Bill Edwards

#### 12:00 Annual Business Meeting

#### December 18

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education: "Islam" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)
- 10:40 Program: Brooke Ayoub, Yoga and Meditation Instructor Title: " *The Benefits of Mindfulness"*

Service Leader: Marj Harlan Opener: John Kamisky Closer: Emily Jones Greeters: Ursula King and Robert Burnham GATP: Koinonia Farms

12:00 Social Action Committee meeting

#### December 25

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education: "Islam" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)
- 10:40 Program: The UU Singers Title: "*Christmas Day Is Here!*"

Service Leader: Maureen Humphries Opener: Joyce Hickson Closer: Marjorie and Bill Harlan Greeters: Patricia Lassiter and Justine Wade

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



#### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbus

#### Meeting Address: 8827 Heiferhorn Way Columbus, GA 31904

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Website: www.uucolumbusga.org

Newsletter editor: Linda Hagberg



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. (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. The group will not meet this month. Our next meeting on January 12th in Grace Fellowship Hall will be to brainstorm about our 2017 plans. Let's come prepared to put as many ideas on the table as possible.

#### 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. We will not meet in December. The book for January will be <u>The Underground Railroad</u> by Colson Whitehead.

#### **UU Singers**

If you are interested in music or singing, please consider joining our UU Singers. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday night at 6 pm and on Sundays at 9:30 am before the service. (GFH)

#### **Friday Lunch Group**

This group meets at a different restaurant each Friday at 12:00 to have fun and discuss current events. All members and friends of the Fellowship are invited to join the group for a lively discussion. Please call Bill Harlan at 605.390.0590 to see where they will be meeting this month.

#### **Exploring Spirituality**

This new group meets the first and the third Thursdays in the Meeting House at 7 pm. The purpose of this group is to explore and grow in our own spirituality and to learn how our own spirituality expresses itself in our daily lives.

#### **The Third Principle Book Club**

**New!!!!** This group will take a break in December and resume Monday, January 9th at 7pm. The book that will be discussed is <u>The Spirituality of Imperfection</u>; <u>Storytelling and the Search for Meaning</u> by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham.

## Joys and Concerns

- \* Our November donation to Feeding the Valley was 73 pounds of food.
- \* Our GATP plus Christmas in July contributions totaled \$419.00 which will be used to buy Christmas presents for children.
- \* Our December GATP donation will be to Koinonia Farms to go towards buying
- \* backpacks filled with clothing for detainees from the Stewart Detention Center who are faced with deportation.
- \* It's a joy to see Justine Wade and Fran Cox back with us. Glad you are both feeling better!
- \* Thank you to Elaine Chambless and Hank Banks for donating our beautiful Christmas tree.
- \* Condolences to Pat and John Hart on the death of John's daughter, Karen.
- Condolences to Robert and Vicki Burnham on the death of Vicki's mother, Carol Deal.

### December 11, 2016

## Annual Business Meeting

Please make it a point to be here in Grace Fellowship Hall on this date. We will convene our annual business meeting right after the service. Dave Walker will bring us up to date on all our finances and will conduct the election of our Board of Trustees for 2017.

#### **Proposed Slate of Officers**

President– Bill Harlan V. Pres. Programs– Connie Ussery V. Pres. RE– Rick Spradlin Treasurer– John Hart Secretary–Bill Edwards Trustee—Joyce Hickson Trustee—Maureen Humphries Trustee—Ursula King Trustee—Patricia Lassiter



#### WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 7 PM

Come and join in UU's Winter Solstice celebration in the Meditation Garden. Cookies and cider will be provided or you may bring your own beverage. This celebration will be held in lieu of the normally held Wednesday Night Discussion. EVERYONE is invited. Dress for the weather. If inclement weather, the celebration will be held in the Meeting House.

December 1 December 2 December 2 December 5 December 5 December 5 Dave Walker Mark Berger Sonya Saxton Bill Edwards Sanjay Lal Ana Smith



- December 6ConDecember 15LizeDecember 15AshDecember 21OrrDecember 22PatDecember 24Sal
- Connie Ussery Lizette Ellis Ashley Walker Orm Burnham Patricia Lassiter Salman Elawad

# **UU** Christmas Party

Members and Friends of the UUFC Are cordially invited to our annual Christmas Party Friday evening, December 9 at 6:30 PM Grace Fellowship Hall

Please BYOB and finger foods to share: Appetizers, heavy Hors d'oeuvres or Desserts Non alcoholic punch will be provided

Entertainment provided by the Jingle Belles

Holiday Casual Attire

RSVP by December 6 Linda: 706.507.1165 Brenda: 706.663.0204 or uucolga@bellsouth.net

> If you would like to attend the party but need transportation, please let either Brenda or Linda know and we'll see if carpooling can be arranged.

December 2016, pg.. 5

# THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

Children's RE will be on hiatus until Jan. Childcare will be available from 9:30– noon













# **Children's Story**

- December 4 December 11 December 18 December 25
- Maureen Humphries Molly Gross Emily Jones John Kamisky





# Non-Creedal Religion

By Rev. Ed Wilson

Non-creedal Religion? What's that? Why is it important? Answering those questions is very important to us as UU's, because we *are* a non-creedal religion. Considering the vast array of religions in the world, we are probably not the only one, but you may be sure there aren't very many. So the next question is, why? Why are we non-creedal?

We UU's are non-creedal because we have agreed that each individual should be free to choose and practice her religious way. In fact, that's why we affirm and promote "the right of conscience" and "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Without that freedom, we could simply accept the creed or belief system of some chosen religion. But as UU's we do not give up that freedom. We are free in the UU religion to build our own personal theology or religion, which is exactly what many have done and/or are doing in Adult RE.

So there is no risk in UU of "church discipline" for not following a creed, because we have no creed. Even our seven principles are not requirements but consensus ideals. Whatever you believe and practice as a UU can and should come from the heart. Isn't that really how a person's religion ought to work anyway?

Because our religion is non-creedal, each member has a non-judgmental atmosphere in which to build and practice his own religious way. UU's are committed to "acceptance of one another." Our pulpit is open to expression of thought-stimulating viewpoints and ideas. Our discussions don't put any religious ideas 'off limits.' So we have an excellent foundation for good congregational health. And we have an ongoing demonstration of the wisdom and beauty in the non-creedal UU way.

# Bits and Pieces

**Note:** When you need to mail something to the Fellowship, please use our post office box address listed on the first page of this newsletter. We do not have a mailbox at the Heiferhorn address.

The Young Adult UU's are meeting again! Please contact Kayla Spradlin for more information. They usually meet in the evening at a local coffee shop. They welcome new members.

\*After the first of the year, we will be discontinuing our contributions to Feeding the Valley and focus more on the organizations that we support in our Give Away the Plate outreach.

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.

For the latest news, visit our dynamic new website: <u>www.uucolumbusga.org</u> 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