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## Sunday Programs

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**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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[www.uucolumbusga.org](http://www.uucolumbusga.org)

Newsletter editor:  
 Linda Hagberg



**A Welcoming Congregation**



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



December 6      Connie Ussery  
December 15     Lizette Ellis  
December 15     Ashley Walker  
December 21     Orm Burnham  
December 22     Patricia Lassiter  
December 24     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](mailto: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.



# THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

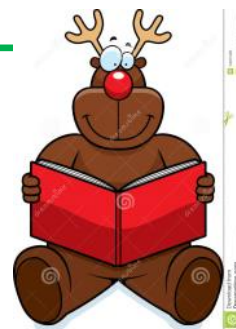


Children's RE will be on hiatus until Jan.  
Childcare will be available from 9:30– noon



## Children's Story

December 4	Maureen Humphries
December 11	Molly Gross
December 18	Emily Jones
December 25	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:

[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.