
Sunday Programs

February 5

9:30 Adult Religious Education: "History of the Bible" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Jim Scott, musician
 Title: **"Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything"**

Service Leader: Marj Harlan and Jim Scott
 Opener: Chris Nix
 Closer: Patricia Lassiter
 Greeters: Robert Burnham and Orm Burnham

12:00 First Sunday Potluck Lunch
 Bring a Friend Day

February 12

9:30 Adult Religious Education: "History of the Bible" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Joyce Hickson, Connie Ussery and other members of the Fellowship
 Title: **"Literature as Inspiration"**

Service Leader: Pat Hart
 Opener: Chris Nix
 Closer: Robbie Henson
 Greeters: Mark Berger and Bill Edwards

February 19

9:30 Adult Religious Education: "Kabbalah & the Inner Life of God" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Isiah Harper
 Title: **"Liturgical Dance"**

Service Leader: Bill Harlan
 Opener: Sidney Wilson
 Closer: Paul Lee
 Greeters: Patricia Lassiter and Ann Newland
 GATP: **Mission Columbus**

February 26

9:30 Adult Religious Education: "Kabbalah & the Inner Life of God" Leader: Rick Spradlin (MH)

10:40 Program: Patti Henry
 Title: **"Blues Brothers: We're on a Mission from God"**

Service Leader: Maureen Humphries
 Opener: Paul Lee
 Closer: Rick Spradlin
 Greeters: Ursula King and Justine Wade

Children's Religious Education Programs can be found on page 3

Thanks to **Connie Ussery and Joyce Hickson** for coordinating programs this month.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbus

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A Welcoming Congregation

A MONTH OF CELEBRATING THE ARTS

February 5: *"Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything"*

Jim Scott, UU Composer, Poet, Performer and Activist



Jim Scott has brought his contemporary and multicultural music to more than 700 UU Churches over three decades. His much loved "Gather the Spirit" and a number of others are included in the UU hymnbooks. Former Co-chair of the UU Ministry of the Earth, Jim was involved in creating the "Green Sanctuary" program. He was awarded a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to compile and arrange the Earth and Spirit Songbook, 110 songs of earth and peace, acclaimed as a great resource for worship and RE programs. Though often brought in as the "speaker," Jim's services are always very musical. Jim speaks with passion on ecology, justice and peace. His lyrical poetry and stories are calls to action, full of hope and gentle wit. With degrees from Eastman School of Music and Berklee College, Jim often works with choirs on his compositions and arrangements, inspiring singers to new levels of expression. As song-leader he lifts joyous participation from congregations.

February 12: *Literature as Inspiration*

Members of the Fellowship

Literature is important because it is one of the most significant expressions of humanity. It connects individuals with larger truths and ideas, and by reading great literary passages we experience a greater awareness of life and all its complexities. A recurring question is, "How shall we live?" To read great works is to expand our knowledge and understanding of the world and ourselves. As author Cyril Connolly observed, "While thoughts exist, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living." Toward this end UU members Joyce Hickson, Patricia Lassiter, Rick Spradlin, Dixie Turman and Connie Ussery will read inspiring literary passages as an invitation to reflect and meditate on life's meaning.

February 19: *Liturgical Dance*

Isiah Harper



County School District.

Isiah Harper is the Director of Theatre and Fine Arts Chairperson at Northside High School-Columbus, Director of Summer Theatre for Girls, Inc.-Columbus/Phenix City, as well as an educational consultant for the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. A former dancer, teacher and Board President for the Columbus Ballet, he strives to help each young person he encounters to achieve their fullest artistic potential across the curriculum in an honest and nurturing environment. He is a graduate of The Florida State University and Troy University. He was a 2015 Top Three Teacher of the Year for Muscogee

February 26: *"Blues Brothers: We're on a Mission from God"*

Patti Henry

Patti Henry is a psychotherapist who has been in private practice in Houston, Texas, for the last 29 years. She is the author of the landmark best seller book, "The Emotionally Unavailable Man: A Blueprint for Healing," which was listed on the Huffington Post two weeks ago as one of the "9 Most Power-Packed Books to Help You Live Your Best Life Ever." She has spoken extensively in UU churches across the country since then, currently as the half-time lay minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Houston.

Don't miss "The Blues Brothers: We're on a Mission from God." Are we? What if that's true? What is your spiritual mission on this planet? Come and hear Patti Henry talk about HER mission to help you find YOUR mission!

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

Children's RE

Tapestry of Faith—Love Connects Us

February 5	Love is the Spirit of this Church	Nate Gross
February 12	Love Your Neighbor as Yourself	Kayla Spradlin
February 19	Art Lesson	Paul Lee
February 26	Meeting People Where They Live	Emily Jones



Children's Story

February 5	Jim Scott
February 12	Maureen Humphries
February 19	John Kamisky
February 26	Emily Jones



Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,

We're writing with what we expect is the same urgent sense of concern you're feeling about the results of the presidential election and what will follow. Based on the many conversations we've had with each other, people of our communities, our partners, and those most likely to face looming threats, we've concluded that in these extraordinary times we must be united in purpose to protect the values of our democracy and those vulnerable populations among us.

To that end we have undertaken an unprecedented degree of coordination between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. There is a sense of urgency, and a need for vigilance. And there is clarity that we must act, not alone, but together. We need everyone—including you, your congregation, your friends, and your colleagues.

As a first step, we have prepared a [Declaration of Conscience](#) stating in the strongest possible terms our commitment in these troubling times. By signing the declaration, individuals and congregations will be affirming our core values and declaring our willingness to put them into action. Please read it and, with your signature, join us in standing on the side of love, protecting the most vulnerable among us, and defending core values that are under attack.

We will be vigilant of administration actions, policies and verbal assaults that undermine the principles of our declaration or disparage, threaten or attack innocent people. We will respond by speaking truth to power and mobilizing support for those who are under siege. To be successful, your support and that of your congregants will be critical.

This is not about partisan politics. It is a principled response to the potential targeting of people not for what they have done, but for who they are. It is a commitment to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. We will keep you informed of the progress of this effort and of further opportunities to advance our cause together in the coming weeks and months.

We cannot predict what the future will bring, and we do not pretend to have all the answers, but we can and will be ready for the struggle ahead of us. If you feel the same, please join us. Join us in transforming faith into action, sign the [Declaration of Conscience](#) today, share it with your own networks and please encourage others to sign as well.

Thank you for your concern, vigilance, and willingness to act.

In Faith and Solidarity,

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Hon. Thomas Andrews, president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Declaration of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change—actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet—we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.

CHALLENGING WORDS for UU's FROM DUSTY NIX

by Rev. Ed Wilson

Dusty Nix's talk at our fellowship on Sunday, January 22, was well received, to put it mildly. He got a standing ovation, which was very special because it is certainly not routine in our congregation. Afterward, in a brief email exchange, he made some observations about our fellowship and kindly gave permission to share his emailed thoughts.

Dusty, who is Editorial Page Editor of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, said of our congregation, "It's a wonderful and unusually thoughtful assemblage of people,"—the kind of thing we like to hear, of course, but he followed that with this comment: "I wish [the congregation] were more representative of the greater culture, and maybe if your message gets spread to enough people, it can be." Yes! That's not only a wish but a goal of the fellowship.

"I am especially encouraged by the numbers of young people with whom your world view resonates," Dusty added, and he commented, "That bodes well for our common future." Indeed, it does! And Dusty's words also bring us a great challenge, which I hope we are ready to adopt.

We simply must not be content to lounge quietly in our comfortable intellectual digs. We need to get going with some aggressive UU evangelism! Let's learn to talk up UU—in the language of contemporary culture. Our message, well summed up in our Seven Principles, is something that seems timed to this very moment in history. We especially need to target youth.

We have in our congregation a remarkable reservoir of energy and talent. Our president, Bill Harlan, with his years of experience in media, can lead us in an intergenerational outreach that will confront the challenge. But he needs the 'buy-in' of every member.

What do you say?

Notes from the Social Action Committee.....

GATP for December was House of T.I.M.E. We donated \$164.52.

GATP for this month is Mission Columbus which provides clothing, food, help with utilities, tutoring, parenting classes and much more for disadvantaged people.

Don't forget to bring in clothing for our clothing drive. There is a collection bin in the back of Grace Fellowship Hall. We are collecting clothing and shoes which would be appropriate for job interviews and work. Donations already have exceeded 117 pounds.

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

Ursula King	February 3
Larry Meisel	February 4
Harry Underwood	February 5
Fran Cox	February 10
Opal Godwin	February 10



Steve diFelicianantonio	February 14
Heather Saxton	February 20
Chris Nix	February 22
John Hart	February 28

Bits and Pieces

From the Treasurer, John Hart:

If you make a cash donation and want it recognized as part of your 2017 pledge, you must put it in an envelope, label it "Pledge 2017" and include your name. At the end of 2017 you will be mailed a statement of your donations for tax purposes.

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. Of course you may still make personal contributions by sending a check to Feeding the Valley. Please do not bring any food donations to the Fellowship.

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 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.