

# *Spiritual but Not Religious?*

May 21, 2017

**Prelude**

Jera Cox

**Welcome**

Susan Christy  
Rev. Benjamin Maucere

**Doxology**

*For the earth forever turning  
for the skies, for every sea  
for our lives, for all we cherish,  
sing we our joyful song of peace*

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Hymn** #209 *O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls*

**Chalice Lighting and Hymn**

*Chalice, chalice burning bright, help remind us with your light  
Of how we'd like to live each day, with love and truth helping lead the way*

**A Time for All Ages**

Meredith Plummer

**Children's Recessional**

*You bring us hope and help to see our future world that's yet to be.  
You teach us much as years go by. You are our strength, our joy, our pride.*

**Pastoral Hymn**

#168 *One More Step*

**Candles of Joys and Sorrows**

## ***Vision Song***

Shelley Jackson Denham

*We are a liberal religious haven, welcoming wonder, and spiritually free.  
We're sustained by a loving tradition, moved and inspired by the future we see.*

*Boldly seeking and working for justice,  
gently transforming lives through deeds great and small.*

*Young and old, sharing meaning and mission,  
we joyfully offer our vision to all!*

**Meditation**

**Prayer**

**Musical Interlude**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

**Sermon** *Spiritual but Not Religious?*

**Closing Hymn** #116 *I'm On My Way*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**



**Next Sunday, May 28 is Memorial Day Weekend. The topic will be *Vietnam's Legacy*.** Don Sherman will talk of his experience as a veteran returning to Vietnam after 50 years. He traveled with a Buddhist peace group on a mindfulness retreat.

**The flowers this morning** are given by Janet Schenk in memory of her husband, Irving Ilmer, who died 20 years ago this December 19, 1997 at age 78. May 27 would have been their 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Sunday Morning Volunteer Program (MVP) Team Three** is handling the duties of greeting, ushering, providing coffee service and clean-up today. Team Three is led by Linda Miltner today. She is joined by Sallie Barringer, Susan and Tim Christy, Laurie Frank, Barbara Homlar, Ann Retford, Janet Schneider and Martha Walker.

**Sound Technician:** David Johnson

**Assistive Listening Devices** for people needing hearing enhancement are available at the rear of the sanctuary.

All are invited to write their **Joys and Sorrows** in the book at the back of the sanctuary.

## ESPECIALLY FOR VISITORS

We're glad you are here! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and **stop by the Welcome Counter** to sign up for our newsletter.

### Questions about Unitarian Universalism or First Church?

Come to a casual orientation for visitors to get your questions answered on May 28 at 11:20 in the Fisher Room (just beyond the coffee). Childcare is provided; we'll be finished by noon. No need for reservations, but contact Carol Lloyd with questions.

### Ready to join?

If you've been visiting for a while and have participated in an orientation, it may be time to officially join us. To do so, please contact Carol at [calloyd1102@gmail.com](mailto:calloyd1102@gmail.com) or at 513-515-6891. Our next signing will be held after the service on **Sunday, June 11**.

## TODAY

**Today, after the service – Congregational Meeting** to elect Board of Trustees, Endowment Trustee, approve budget, and more!

**Today – the Hoxworth Blood Center Donor Bus** is here at First Church. If you haven't scheduled an appointment, but want to donate, see Rebecca Algenio or call 513.451.0910.

**Today in Sunday School**, your child in PreK / Kindergarten will join the 1st - 3rd grader as they celebrate the end of the year with a very merry unbirthday party. Down the hall, the 4th - 5th graders will learn about Henry Bergh and the origins of the SPCA, then they will hear from Nancy Crossen about her work at a No Kill Rescue. Upstairs, the Jr. High will continue preparing for the youth service.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., May 22, 11:30 a.m.** – Meditation

**Sun., May 28, 11:20 a.m.** – **the Peace Committee** meets in the Ellen Hall room. Sermon talk back and discussion with Don Sherman and invited guests relating to his recent return to Vietnam. Light lunch provided of Vietnamese food. Ann Black, [513.563.8467](tel:513.563.8467)

**Do you go home NORTH on I-71?** The ramp from McMillan is closed until June 30. Instead, take the brand new MLK ramp! Turn left onto Reading Road, then right on Martin Luther King Drive. The ramp will be on the left.

Save the dates: **June 4** – Flower Communion and member recognition and **June 18** – Church Picnic and youth service at Tower Park in Ft. Thomas

**Today** - We have an opportunity to contribute to a special plate collection for Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio. For 85 years Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio has been the leading health care provider, educator and advocate for Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky Communities.

**Text your donation to Planned Parenthood!** In less time than it takes to write a check, you can now make your contribution to First Church with a quick text message. Try it this week for our Share the Plate collection for Planned Parenthood.

1. Text the amount you would like to give to your church's designated number: [513.449.2188](tel:513.449.2188)
2. If you are a first time, text-giving donor you will be prompted to visit a secure URL.
3. Once you click the registration link, you will enter your credit or debit card information.
4. At this point your donation will process.
5. You will see a confirmation text showing your donation and registration were successful.

# *Wonder Questions*

May 21, 2017

- Why do you think God wanted to hide?
- Where do you see “God” in your life? What are the blessings in your life?
- The story asserts everyone is a blessing. Do you feel like a blessing? Why or why not?

**The Congregation will vote on the following nominees at today's Congregational meeting. Please stay to cast your vote!**

### **NOMINEES FOR CHURCH BOARD**

**Gary Gebhart** joined First Church in 2013 and has served on the Finance Committee ever since. He has also tutored at South Avondale Elementary and assisted with the Food Pantry at Shiloh and at Serve City in Hamilton. After 35 years in public education, Gary is retired from Great Oaks Career Campuses where he served as supervisor, assistant director (principal), adult education director, and business manager for 28 years. In the last role, he oversaw major construction projects at all four campuses and directed the business operations of the school system. Active in professional associations, he served as President of Ohio's Adult Education Division for Career and Technical Schools and President of the National Council of Local Administrators in Career and Technical Education. Gary also served on a ministerial search committee for his family's previous church, a Lutheran congregation. He and his wife Danine have three children: Kara, Katy, and Kyle.

**Patricia Rohrer**, her husband Doug, and son Adam joined First Church in 2009. She has served on the Family Programming committee for five years, including two years as committee chair. Patricia also served as junior high youth advisor in the fall of 2014, while the committee searched for a permanent youth advisor. Most recently, she was the Our Whole Lives (OWL) coordinator for the intermediate OWL and junior high OWL programs during the Director of Family Programming's maternity leave. Patricia has worked as marketing manager for the Home Ownership Center of Greater Cincinnati and as validation engineer for Medpace. Other past volunteer activities include serving as Pack Leader for her son's cub scout pack and as recording secretary and newsletter editor for the Columbia Tusculum Community Council. Patricia is excited about the opportunity to serve on the board of the church that has become a home for her family.

**Dan Schneider** and his wife Janet have attended First Unitarian since 2006, becoming members in 2012. Dan was a Sharing Circle facilitator for four years and is on the Transition Team. He has served as co-chair of the Social Justice Committee since 2013. He is also board co-chair of Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio and a board member of the Amos

Project and the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center. He further volunteers as a teacher of English as a second language. Dan has degrees from Wittenberg University, Drake University and Ohio State University. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and taught American history. He then worked fifteen years for Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates, a school-to-work program for high school seniors. At University of Cincinnati Clermont College, he served for sixteen years as the director of Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound, federally funded TRIO programs that empower low-income high school and middle school students to access and succeed in postsecondary education. Before his retirement, Dan served as resident and chaired committees for Ohio TRIO, a professional association.

**Beth Whelan** joined First Church in 2001, when her daughter Molly was three years old and her family sought a liberal religious community. Raised a Catholic, she grew up near Boston, MA. Beth earned her PhD in epidemiology in Chapel Hill, NC, before moving to Cincinnati in 1991. She currently works as an epidemiologist for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where for the past 12 years she has led a research group of 45 scientists and support staff. She was deployed to West Africa in 2014 for five weeks in response to the Ebola virus outbreak. Beth has previously served a term on the church board, as well as serving as co-chair of the Religious Education Committee, co-chair of the Membership Committee, and as member of both the Advisory and Nominating Committees. She has also served as a facilitator for the new member sharing circle and for the Cincinnati-wide UU junior high OWL Program in 2015 and 2017.

## **NOMINEE FOR ENDOWMENT BOARD**

Dave Wallace is this year's nominee to serve a five year term on the First Church Endowment Fund Board. Dave previously served as a member of the Church's Board of Trustees, including one year as its President, and, during that time, he also acted as liaison to the Endowment Fund Board. Additionally, Dave has served as one of the chairs of the church's annual stewardship campaign. He has been part of the First Church Futures Task Force and, most recently, has worked with its Design Thinking team. Lastly, Dave is a proud member of Sunday MVP Team One.