Dear Members & Friends,

What does it mean to be a people of expectation?

Does that question imply an optimism? Does it make you think of good things like dessert and family reunions? Or does it make you think of things with which you have a complicated relationship, like ice cream and family reunions?

It seems to me that expectation exists only in the realm of looking into the future.

I have an old friend who taught me the phrase “Don’t borrow trouble,” and this is what we do when what we are expecting something we anticipate not liking. Will I fail this geography quiz? Will the scale say I’ve gained weight? When my special somebody says “We need to talk…” are you borrowing trouble that hasn’t come yet?

You don’t get a bonus in this life for borrowing trouble.

Conversely, if you only expect the best in every situation, you will find yourself from time to time disappointed, and that’s no fun either.

What is the balance with being a person of expectation?

You can reasonably expect to be treated fairly in the eyes of the law and in your interactions with fellow human beings, and yet often we are treated as less than. We get chosen last for dodge ball in school (raise your hand if that ever happened to you). We are followed, threatened and called after, because someone else has a need to bolster up their own shaky self-worth by tearing down others.

On one hand there is what we want to be able to expect, and on the other, there is our lived experience.

Perhaps in this talk of expectation, we should listen to our Buddhists friends, and do our best to have as little attachment to outcomes as we can manage. If we keep our beginners mind, our mind almost free of expectation, then we can live in the present moment, we can be surprised by joy and have our disappointment tempered.

I wish for you, in all things, balance. A balance that leans toward joy.

Rev. Joe
What we did on our summer vacation: Board Edition

For those of you who do not know how the UUCC Board of Trustees functions, here is a quick overview. The Board meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday at 7 PM. We try our best to keep the meeting to 2 hours. We hear from teams and committees, get reports from Staff, and provide each other with updates.

Since Reunification in February, the Board has assigned various tasks to a series of Working Groups to bring recommendations back to the full Board or take care of organizational issues that just need to be done. For example, we needed to launch the Strategic and Facilities Planning committees, so groups were assigned to organize those efforts.

This summer, our efforts turned to preparing for the 2019-20 congregation year and, in a larger sense, laying the groundwork for future Board operations.

When Reunification happened, all of the policies and procedures that guided the existence and functioning of either Board went out the window. People did (and do!) continue to operate according to many of the previous practices, but if someone in my hearing has said, “We have a policy that says we have to. . .”, I remind them that “We don’t have any policies.”

One of our first tasks, at our July Policy Party, which in a very nerdy way was very satisfying, was coming up with a working definition of what a policy is: “A Policy is a statement that outlines the Board’s intentions to live out our UU values; comply with mandates; set boundaries on actions, decisions, or activities; and delegate responsibilities.” Policies are not supposed to make our Board lives more difficult, they are supposed to make our lives easier by reducing the need to figure out how to handle every decision we need to make. A good policy provides guidance.

The first three areas we are working on are policies relating to Facilities, Communications, and Finances. After that the Board will tackle Governance, Safety and Security, Human Resources, and Programming.

As part of our work we have been discussing how to increase transparency and make it easier for the congregation to be informed. We are looking at creating a Google Site that will be connected to the UUCC website. This site will enable the Board to post documents including policies, minutes, agendas, and other important information.

We followed up our Policy Party with an August Planning Workshop. We laid out a Board calendar and spent time brainstorming topics that the Board would focus on this year. We landed on 5:

Prioritizing Membership: Our governance documents elevate the congregation’s Membership Committee to the status of a Board Committee. We need to work with the existing Membership Committee to figure out how that is going to work. We also have a lot of questions that require us to have better data about our congregation: what groups are active, what groups do people want or need, and what are people currently doing?

Continued on next page
### NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**CAT WHITE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we did on our summer vacation: Board Edition (cont’d)</th>
<th>Taking Creative Approaches: As we grow and develop as a new organization with deep historical roots, we should be bold about trying new things and seeking fresh approaches to activities and practices.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Elevating Faith Development:</strong> How can we increase awareness of our core UU values, practices, and sources?</td>
<td><strong>Treating Each Other Kindly:</strong> We find ourselves in the “Forming” and “Storming” stages of development. The Board finds itself in the same waters as the Congregation. Due to the requirements of the legal documents, we had to make decisions and get organized before we really spent time coming together. We’re trying to address interpersonal relationships as we start this year.</td>
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<td><strong>Providing Seats at the Table:</strong> I have been involved in efforts over the past few years to create organization charts to show who is in charge of what: people, groups, activities, etc. I’ve been troubled by some of these efforts because it sometimes seemed to be more about control than about collaboration. I’m working on changing our organizational focus to be about giving people and groups seats at relevant tables so that the voices of our congregants and groups can be heard and responded to more effectively.</td>
<td>The new congregation year is almost upon us. I look forward to seeing you at Services and at events.</td>
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### INCEPTION CELEBRATION SERVICE & RECEPTION

**Saturday, September 7th at 4:00 pm**

Before we officially kick off the church year at Ingathering on September 8th, we warmly invite you to join us for a special worship service and reception celebrating the reunification of First U and UUSC, and the inception of UUCC! We’ve invited our UU siblings from across Northeast Ohio, as well as leaders from our nearby faith communities. We hope you can join us!

If you have not sent in your RSVP, please do so as soon as possible. Contact Erin Justice at [erin.justice@uucleveland.org](mailto:erin.justice@uucleveland.org) or 216-751-2320 x102

### ERIN & ALLAN HOUR CHANGES STARTING SEPTEMBER 1

- **Erin Justice:** Tuesday—Thursday 11 am—5 pm / Sunday 9 am—1 pm
- **Dr. Allan Georgia:** Monday 1—5 pm / Wednesday 10—5 pm / Thursday—Flex Day
  - Friday 1—5 pm / Sunday 10 –1 pm
Musical Happenings…

There’s always something great happening with music at UUCC – some of our recent musical highlights have included:

- Laura Silverman’s sensitive touch at the piano, enjoyed by everyone in our July 28th worship service.
- Karin Tooley’s fun and thoughtful show tunes arrangements that were a highlight of our services on both August 4th and August 25th.
- Anne, Steve, and Geoffrey Sanford’s woodwind trio on August 11th, treating the congregation to everything from Mendelssohn to swing.
- Mike Carney leading a pickup choir in “Circle ‘Round for Freedom” on August 11th and “Where Do We Come From” on August 18th.
- Pamela Schenk’s piano stylings on August 18th, especially her beautiful rendition of the theme from The Shape of Water.

Coming attractions…

- Don’t forget that our Chancel Choir has begun regular Wednesday evening practices and will kick off the new church year with performances in the special services on Saturday, September 7th and Sunday, September 8th. But even if you’ve missed a rehearsal or two, it’s not too late! Everyone is welcome to join in our song, regardless of age or experience level. Just make plans to be in the Worship Center (Shaker Heights building, room 208) any Wednesday evening at 7:00. If you have any questions, contact music director Mike Carney by email (mike.carney@uucleveland.org) or phone (216-751-2320, ext 107).
- Join us on Saturday, September 7th for our very special Inception Service at 4:00 p.m. in the Shaker Heights sanctuary. The Chancel Choir will be featured in that service and will be joined by our own Aaron Burkle on percussion. This service will be a celebration to kick off our first church year as a reunited congregation – don’t miss it!
- We’ll have special music for the Ingathering Service on Sunday, September 8th. Make sure to get to church early that day to catch the Nous Jazz Trio, featuring three of the most respected jazz musicians in Northeast Ohio; pianist Theron Brown, bassist Aidan Plank, and saxophonist Howie Smith. The trio will be playing on our front portico beginning at 10:30, and will also provide great music during the service, including a collaboration with Mike and the Chancel Choir.
- UUCC Pianist Karin Tooley will be featured in services this month on September 1st, 15th and 29th, UUCC Mike Carney will play in services on September 7th, 8th, and 22nd, and our Chancel Choir will sing in our services on September 7th, 8th, 22nd, and 29th.
When you spend your life studying religion and theology, like I have, people love talking to you about their feelings about religion. And they bring it up at the most inconvenient times! So, I get a really good sense about how people feel about God, mortality, the meaning of the universe, who Jesus is and was, what is in the Bible and what it means, what happens when we die, etc. etc. etc. Usually because they start this conversation at a party or when I run into someone in the grocery store.

It is ALWAYS insightful. But sometimes, you just want to smalltalk!

There is a lot to learn, though, from hearing how people talk about these topics, and something that I’ve always noticed is how, among many Americans, Christianity and Judaism are always talked about in very different ways than other religious traditions. It’s not surprising—when it comes to the religions of the world, the average person is honestly fascinated, engaged, open-minded and open-hearted, as long as you aren’t focusing on some very nefarious or primitive type practice or belief. We all get to get into the “national geographic” space of our minds when we are learning about traditions from cultures and places that are very far away from us. Everything is in vibrant colors and a person can feel simply fortunate to be able to understand something outside of their ordinary experience.

By contrast, when you touch on a religion that people have experience with, that people have baggage with, that has scarred and wounded people, it is usually very difficult to develop that same sense of objectivity and curiosity. Partially as a result, I would make the argument that many people are misinformed or simply unaware about this more nuanced, more factual understanding of Christianity, Jesus, the Bible—these subjects that seem to exist in the world now as ideological weapons and wedge topics.

As an educator and as a scholar who focuses on the Bible, and the history of Christianity and Judaism, I think we should fix that. So, this Fall, I will be offering a chance to do just that. This Adult Religious Ed offering will be part explanatory presentation and part Q&A session on Christianity for everyone and anyone who wants to have a better understanding of these subjects. Over four sessions, we’ll talk about the religious history of the Mediterranean that lead up to the emergence of the Christian movement, the Bible as a piece of historical evidence as well as its role in the Christian tradition, the person of Jesus as a historical figure as well as the centerpiece of Christian theology (even today), and finally on the development of Christian ideas from the Apostle Paul onward (including a crucial discussion about how the Christian tradition helped foster the Unitarian and Universalist movements in America).

The goal here is to find a way to come to terms with this faith tradition that is so important in world history and in the world today. It’s a chance for people who still treasure their Christian faith experience to learn more about it (in a way that is in line with UU values.) It’s a chance for people with baggage or wounds to hear a different version of a hurtful story, this time with context and subtlety. It’s a chance for the curious to learn and for bad assumptions to be put to bed.

I hope you’ll come learn with me!
Of particular interest this year at General Assembly was the Minns Lecture. This is an annual sermon of particular note, sponsored by First Church in Boston, and is usually interesting. But the presenter this year was Rev. Dr. Colin Bossen, who was the settled minister at the UU Society of Cleveland from 2007 to 2011. He spoke on “White Supremacy Today”, asking how Unitarian Universalists can respond to populism in the age of Trump.

He spoke on how sovereignty and violence are hallmarks of populism, and that white supremacists have never been contained by nonviolence. In referencing Jacksonianism, Rev. Bossen pointed out that it is dangerous to view totalitarianism as a foreign thing. It has been woven into the American fabric from the beginning. As we saw in Charlottesville, anarchists have been on the front lines in fighting fascism. And since he was the Colin we know, of course he referenced the Zapatistas as an example of resisting fascism.

The workshop included a response to his sermon by UUA president, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. She reinforced the concept of a home-grown totalitarianism by citing our continuing occupation of Native lands. Liberalism and Progressivism are insufficient, as they both are unwilling to subvert the system. She noted that UU’s need to support UU’s who are doing work to upend the status quo and suggested that funding these is a direct action.

I would suggest that as we dedicate our new congregation on September 7th, an appropriate inclusion might be to look at the UU Society’s statement of repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. If this term is unfamiliar, it might be worth a discussion format. Actually, the UUA itself repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery. But now that we are a new congregation, to affirm this repudiation might bring this into our sense of who we are.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TONY (ADEL) SAADA TO RECEIVE THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD FOR 2019

Honoree, Tony (Adel) Saada, is receiving the Meritorious Service Award for 2019. This award is bestowed upon the recipient for their exemplary service to the CAA, Case School of Engineering, or the mathematics and sciences of Case Western Reserve University. This service includes faithful and continuing efforts to support class or alumni organizations and assisting in expanding the usefulness, influence and prestige of the CAA. The award will be presented at the Dean’s ShowCASE Friday, October 11th. For more information contact Kelly Hendricks at kelly.hendricks@casealum.org. Tony is a longtime member of our church. He continues his teaching career at CWRU.
We offer updates on forms and projects and staffing:

**Room Usage Forms** – As a reminder, Room Usage Forms must be filled out regularly to avoid confusion in the church calendar. All requests *must* get permission to use space from Shirley or a B&G committee member and please fill out the form. The requested group or individual will receive a response within 24 hours. The room usage forms can be found by the mailbox on the Second Floor by elevator.

**Signage** - The new front lawn sign will be installed week of September 23, there was a delay in the permit phase and the manufacturing phase. The letters on the front of the church will be removed the same day and that space will be painted over. The letters will be stored in the vault until sold at $25 apiece. Nine letters have already been spoken for and Laurene will continue to send Shirley a message for the E-blast and Sunday’s Order of Service.

**Playground** - Ray reported that Matt Zitelli organized the day with plans drawn up, Ken lent his expertise, Ryan brought tools, and 40-50 people participated in the renovation without injury. A picnic table still needs to be built. There will be by an ice cream social sometime in September or October.

*Continued on next page*
Cont’d . . .

**New dishwasher** - The dishwasher will be installed on Thursday, August 29 with final hook up on Thursday, September 5th.

**Custodian** - Laurene and Tom went through 168 applications, did a few phone interviews, and narrowed it down to two candidates. The final candidate, Delshun Peterson, was interviewed by Laurene, Tom, Rev. Joe and Ken. After the background check, an offer letter was provided to Delshun and he accepted. His first day was Tuesday, September 3rd. Let’s welcome our new staff member. You will see him at the Inception Event and In-Gather Sunday.

**Parking lot patches** - The cistern must be moved, and that area patched in addition to all the holes in the driveways and parking lot that emerged right after they were last filled. The contractor will be coming out to fix those before September 6th.

**Carpet replacement** - The carpet in Fellowship Hall and Room 108 will be replaced with the same recyclable carpet made from recycled materials. This came in at budget and will be installed on September 12-13.

**Doors and locks** – Ray and Ken have researched fob systems vs keypunch systems with three companies. The fob system will be installed, everyone who is allowed to have an entry “key” will be assigned a fob or app on the iPhone. We will keep the architectural wooden doors and may replace the east entry hardware. We will fix the floor at the west entrance. There will be a “magnetic knockout lock” at the top of the doors. The doors will be lock-and -unlockable on a timed basis and all entries in off hours are stored in the Cloud basis system for review. The installation will take one week.

**Gender- Neutral Restrooms** - Per much discussion of bathroom habits and sensibilities, it was unanimously decided that we would like to provide gender neutral bathrooms at the lowest possible cost. Consequently, the restrooms on the First Floor across from Fellowship Hall (currently the HC, Men’s and Women’s) will have correct signage added and a small committee of the B&G members (Ryan leading the group) is looking into any other minor changes to these spaces to make them Gender-Neutral. The remaining restrooms located throughout the Shaker Facility will have the correct signage that now say “Restroom,” will be replaced with signage that says “Men” or “Women.” The upstairs and stage restrooms will stay as they are for those who prefer single sex restrooms.

At this time, B&G and LC and the Board of Trustees have agree this is the first step for the coming year, then it will be re-evaluated next Summer.

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live.” – George Bernard Shaw
### THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

**MARK WEBER, CLM**

One of the best ways to keep up with justice-related events happening in and around Cleveland is to visit the website of the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC) and sign up to be notified of upcoming events. Programs and actions on issues such as anti-lead initiatives, HB 6, supporting public education, anti-racism, women’s reproductive rights, LGBTQ issues are advertised on the CCPC website (www.cuycpc.org). If you sign up with CPC, you will receive notices of upcoming “justice events and actions” delivered to your email address.

Questions? Please contact Steve Holecko at steve@cuycpc.org

### PANEL DISCUSSION

**THE CHALLENGE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA**

**SEPTEMBER 19th**

“The Challenge of Islamophobia” is the title of a panel discussion program that is sponsored by Cleveland Peace Action. It will be held at the CH-UH Main Library at 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

This program will be held on September 19th with registration at 6:00 pm and the program at 6:30 pm. Panelists will include the following: Isam Zalem, activist on issues affecting Arab Americans; April Stoltz member of Westshore Unitarian Church and coordinator of Teatime for Peace; and a Board Member of CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations). The program is free and open to the public.

For further information, please contact Mark Weber at 440-519-0220.

### THE FORUMS ARE COMING!

Facebook. Palliative medical care. Ohio bail reform. Alzheimer’s and functional medicine. Look for these and other programs when UUCC’s Sunday morning community forums kick off this fall. Stay tuned and watch the weekly E-Blasts and Facebook page for details.

### ATTENTION ALL WOMEN!

**IT’S A WOMAN’S RETREAT ...**

Mark your calendars for the first weekend of May 2020. “What for?” you ask? For the Women’s Retreat, of course, to be held at the Stanford House in Peninsula, in the heart of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We’ve reserved the spot. Now, you reserve your time! Details to come.
GCC UPDATE

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

Hello UUCC. Here are some things your GCC core team has been up to:

New Core Team Member:
Welcome to Bev Austin who joins the core team this month. Bev previously served as a delegate from UUSC. Our powerful unified team is Laurie Albright, Mark Weber, Vern Sackman, Pam Gibbon, Eileen McCully, and now, Bev Austin.

Gun Violence Reduction:
GCC is building a state-wide consortium to purchase smart-gun technology (i.e. gun locks) for police departments. This serves two purposes:

1. Provides capital for manufacturers to bring new technology to market, in the face of strong resistance from gun-makers;
2. Consumers tend to look to law enforcement for guidance when buying weapons and accessories. Endorsements from officers will help popularize the technology. GCC members are visiting local mayors to build the consortium.

FDR Partners
Core team members have met with teachers and administrators to prepare for the new school year. At the opening day clap-in, core team members met with representatives of two other local congregations, and we’re working on coordinating our efforts. Faith in action!! We expect to continue a few traditions, including collection plate for school uniforms, providing support for the Disney musical in the spring, and fund-raising to send students on an educational trip to D.C. Members of our congregation worked tirelessly and joyfully to bring the musical to the stage last year, and the FDR community was grateful for all our help.

FDR Tutoring
We have many returning tutors, and there’s room for plenty more! Consider joining us at FDR once a week for an hour or more, beginning in October, with orientation in September.

Bag Sale
Backpack and travel Bag Sale to benefit FDR.

Look for the tables during coffee hour after the service on Sunday September 29.

Mental Health Crisis Centers
GCC is working quietly to bring mental health crisis centers to Cleveland. It’s hard work bringing together the stakeholders, the funders, the providers. But progress is happening. Stay tuned.

“When people shake their heads because we are living in a restless age, ask them how they would like to live in a stationary one, and do without change.”

-George Bernard Shaw
**URBAN HOPE SOUP KITCHEN**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AT URBAN HOPE SOUP KITCHEN**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>UUCC has made a connection with Urban Hope, an Ohio City facility that supplies meals to area people. Each Thursday through Sunday, various area religious organizations take a day to cook and serve the meal. The UU day is Sunday. So far, our congregation has had a couple of test runs, serving approximately 100 people each time.</th>
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<tr>
<td>With that experience, we formed a task force to broaden the project to the entire congregation. We are committed to continuing the 5th Sundays of 2019 – September 29 and December 29 and hope to increase after the first of the year.</td>
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<td>There are many opportunities for involvement: shopping/collecting food and supplies, cooking and of course serving. That takes place approximately 3-5 pm on the Sunday. We need volunteers to assist behind the scenes and to serve on site.</td>
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<td>Our menus have included store-bought fried chicken, homemade mac &amp; cheese, bean casserole, grilled vegetables, rolls and butter, lettuce salad and dressing, fresh fruit and homemade cookies. We welcome suggestions for recipes that are inexpensive, expandable and easy to prepare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please let us know if you are interested and how you’d like to help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Sycle Martin      <a href="mailto:jeansycle@gmail.com">jeansycle@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Ellsworth-Wolk    <a href="mailto:jeanewolk@yahoo.com">jeanewolk@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Lau            <a href="mailto:mmlau@outlook.com">mmlau@outlook.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Holmes          <a href="mailto:kilch53@gmail.com">kilch53@gmail.com</a></td>
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**LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE HISTORY**

**Limited Opportunity to Purchase History**

"First Unitarian Church" is For Sale!

The words “First Unitarian Church” have been prominently displayed on the front of our Shaker Heights location for more than 60 years.

As part of our reunification, we are removing them, and we will not be replacing the letters. This is a limited time opportunity to purchase one of the 20 symbolic souvenirs of our history.

The letters are selling quickly! Your choice may not be available -- there are a few I, R, T, C and N letters remaining.

The cost is $25.00 per letter, cash only. Contact Ken Kuehm at kkuehm61@gmail.com or Laurene smith at laurene@earthliink.net to reserve your choice or with questions.

An in-person sale of any remaining letters will be held in late August.

*Please note: the 2 uu letters are reserved.*
Thank You!

Thank you on behalf of our entire Cleveland Buddhist Temple sangha for creating a beautiful and perfect space for our Obon celebration last July.

— Anita Kazarian