Dear Members & Friends,

What does it mean to be a people of curiosity?

May is a month packed with all sorts of celebrations. There is the death and ascension of the Buddha (May 19), and the birthday of Ralph Waldo Emerson (May 25.) May 17th is the anniversary of the verdict in Brown v. Board of Education.

As in any month, there are a myriad of things to commemorate, but it strikes me that each of these days in particular owe a debt to people living out their curiosity.

Siddhartha Gautama would never have become a bodhisattva, and certainly not the Buddha and teacher, had he not been curious to see what lie beyond the palace walls of his father. He would’ve never asked questions about the suffering of others, and how people could be free from that kind of angst.

Had the Brown family of Topeka, Kansas not been curious about a better life, about better options in education for their children, they would’ve never been involved in a case that reversed the 60 year old decision known as Plessey v. Ferguson which had, horribly, upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation laws for public facilities as long as the segregated facilities were equal in quality – a doctrine that came to be known as "separate but equal".

How does curiosity serve to make your life more interesting, to open more doors of your mind and spirit, to you? Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau wrote: “The man who does not betake himself at once and desperately to sawing is called a loafer, though he may be knocking at the doors of heaven all the while.”

Do you dare to spend an afternoon, or an hour, in the labor of the imagination? What bold thoughts might you have, what life altering actions might those thoughts lead into, if you but loaf as Thoreau certainly did?

As the buds grow, as the leaves open, as the weather warms, do yourself, and the world a favor. Spend a little time lost in thought, swimming in curiosity.

Rev. Joe
Getting Our Act Together

Since March your Board of Trustees has been concentrating on the tasks that we needed to accomplish to make our new congregational functional and meet the obligations that were laid out for us in the Code of Regulations and other legal documents that created the UUCC. A lot of this work has not been glamorous, but we feel that some elbow grease now will result in better experiences later. Here are a few highlights.

The reunification documents require that the Board form 2 important committees: the Strategic Planning Committee and the Facilities Planning Committee. The former is intended to lay out our path forward and provide us with guidance for being successful. The latter is intended to make recommendations about what we should do with the 2 buildings that we now own and what our future home should be. Both committees had to be formed by May 1 (within 90 days of the reunification).

In addition, the Finance Committee needed to launch a united, abbreviated Stewardship Campaign; the two nominating committees from Society and First had to be merged and transformed into the Leadership Development Committee; and our newly formed Board of Trustees had to figure out how to get itself organized.

I concluded pretty quickly in our first month as a new congregation that the Board needed to divide and conquer these tasks--they were just too massive to accomplish by working on all of the as a whole. So I decided to try an experiment with the new Board and I’m thrilled to say that it has been successful: I asked members to join four working groups dedicated to our initial goals. The members of the four groups were split between representatives of the historical congregations, giving us a way to work together to accomplish a common goal. The members of three of these four working groups were not asked to do the work of the final committee (although they could volunteer to be on the final committee), rather they were asked to launch the required committees.

The Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG):
Nancy King Smith, Wayne Jennings, Melissa Vandergriff
Their initial assignments were:

- Identify and recruit committee members
- Normally a strategic plan would be closely related to--and designed to advance--an institution’s Mission, Vision, and Values. We have Values (at least 7 principles), but not the other two and they are not front-burner items. How do we handle this whole issue? How will this plan dovetail with the Facilities Plan?
- Determine the official assignment: what do we want them to DO?

Status: The SPWG has recruited a team of 4 to move forward: John Bacon, David Kantor, Megan Lubbers, and Melissa Vandergriff.

The Facilities Planning Working Group (FPWG):
Shane Millette, Jennifer Pierce, Tadd Pinkston

Continued on next page
Their initial assignments were:

- Identify and recruit committee members.
- The facilities plan is supposed to dovetail with the strategic plan and normally a strategic plan would be closely related to—and designed to advance—an institution’s Mission, Vision, and Values. We have Values (at least 7 principles), but not the other two and they are not front-burner items. How do we handle this whole issue?
- Give the committee a charge: what do we want them to DO?

Status: The FPWG has recruited the following team: Pat Dillard, Ray Gonzalez, Ken Kuehm, Tom McKenna, Tadd Pinkston, Jennifer Pierce, and Laurene Smith.

The Leadership Development Working Group (LDWG):
Bob Horan, Susan Paterson, Cat White
Their initial assignments were:

- Identify the Nominating Committee members from Society (Patrick Laughlin, Mary Schatzman, Wendy Willis) and First (Mark Binnig, Kim Littell, Terry Robbins, Chuck Segall).
- In conjunction with the existing Nominating Committee members who wanted to stay involved, understand the assignment given to the new Leadership Development Committee in the reunification documents.
- Recruit members of the new Leadership Development Committee to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 19

Status: The LDWG is nominating the following members to the inaugural LEadership Development Committee: Michael Arrington, Carol Gibson, Kim Littell, Eileen McCully. Rev Joe Cherry will be working with the Leadership Development Committee.

The Records and Communications Working Group (RCWG):
Erika Brown, Steve Doell, Carol Gay
This is the one group whose work will be ongoing. Their essential questions were:

- Who should organize and maintain the Board’s records and communications?
- Where should the records live and how should they be organized? What records should be included (policies, board book, forms, other congregation-items, minutes, etc)?
- How do we address transparency? With whom should which records be shared? How?

Status: The members of the RCWG have been busy organizing the existing documents that our Board inherited from the historical congregations. They have been looking at policies, procedures, and organizational documents. The will have recommendations ready in the near future so that we can start making material available to the congregation.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on May 19. There will be updates on our work towards being together and votes on the Budget and Nominating Committee.

Cat White
Musical Happenings...

There's always something exciting happening with music at UUCC – some of our recent musical highlights included:

- **The YoUUth Choir** singing “Let Music Surround You” during our service on Sunday, March 31st.

- **Karin Tooley**’s beautiful renditions of music by Chopin, Dvorak and Glass in the services on April 7th and 14th.

- UUCC youth member **Sylvie Crowell** sharing her amazing oboe playing with us on Sunday, April 7th.

- Also on the 7th, **Mike** and the **Multigen pick-up choir** leading the congregation in “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?”

- Easter Sunday music from **The YoUUth Choir, The Chancel Choir, and Women’s Ensemble**, who performed the premiere of “When Mary Through the Garden Went”, a new composition by UUCC Music Director **Mike Carney**.

- The Coming of Age service on Sunday, April 28th with guest Youth Musicians **Jenna Bradbourne, Grant Torok** and others along with our **Chancel Choir**.

Coming attractions...

- Don’t forget about our **Pete Seeger** tribute concert on **Friday, May 3rd** with special guest **Jim Scott**. See the separate article about this event elsewhere this month’s **Hawk**.

- On **Sunday, May 5th**, we’ll have guest musicians from **Blue Water Chamber Orchestra** joining us for our morning service. **Linda White**, flute; **David Snyder**, clarinet, and **Phillip Austin**, bassoon will share special music with us that morning – don’t miss it!

- There will be special music in the service on **Sunday, May 19th** from both **The Chancel Choir** and **The Women’s Ensemble**.

- On **Sunday, May 26th**, we’ll have a special musical service. Join us at 11:00 that morning as UUCC Music Director Mike Carney leads us in a **Hymn Sing**! Mike will guide the congregation on a musical expedition through our **Singing the Living Tradition** and **Singing the Journey** hymnbooks, including on-the-spot requests from members of the congregation that morning. If you have a favorite hymn you haven’t gotten to sing for a while or if there’s a hymn you’ve always wondered about…or if you just love singing and hearing the music of our UU faith, be sure to join us on May 26th!
Pete Seeger Songfest - Jim Scott Remembers Pete In Song  
Friday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm

We’re hosting a very special concert at UUCC this month celebrating the life and music of **Pete Seeger**! **Friday, May 3rd** is the 100th anniversary of Pete Seeger's birth and we are celebrating the occasion with a concert remembering Pete, featuring many of his most beloved songs with UU songwriter and musician **Jim Scott**. Jim was a friend of Pete's and played with him numerous times. At the tribute concert, Jim will also share stories and special memories of Pete. All ages are welcome and the concert will feature many opportunities for the audience to sing and clap along with the music! Admission is $15 for adults, $10 for students and seniors and free for kids under 5. Our **Chancel Choir** will also be featured in the concert. If you’d like to sing with the choir in this event, come to the Worship Center for a rehearsal with Jim at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 2nd. Contact UUCC Mike Carney for more details.
Friends,

The Summertime is when the Earth speaks most clearly, and when it has the most to teach us. I like to think of this Springtime period we are in now as the weeks that lead up to the first day of school. Everything is preparation with the Earth: seedlings pop open with life, green buds appear here and there, insects emerge from eggs and burrows. All manner of life shows up youthful and fresh-faced in these weeks. The lessons are about to begin.

Here at UUCC, there has always been a careful attentiveness to the Earth’s lessons. Just look at what surrounds our buildings: community growing plots on 2 campuses, a permaculture garden, memorial garden, ancient trees, the occasional heaping pile of compost. And it is in the spirit of all of these parts of our landscape, along with the commitment to a life of discovery, exploration, and learning, that we will be embarking on an exciting program this Summer and Fall. We’re going to put ourselves and our landscape to work in an effort to learn about ourselves and the way that we engage with the natural world in our food.

So, here’s the plan. Starting this May, we are going to clear and prepare a section of the community garden in order to plant some corn. The corn we are planting is a gorgeous, heirloom variety that comes in an array of colors, and it will (hopefully) flourish in our deer-resistant, fenced in garden. Corn is tricky, as many of you have noted. So, our goal will be to pay careful attention to these plants as they grow and mature. By the fall, we hope to have a solid crop that we will intentionally leave on the stalks so that they can dry out.

continued on next page
Corn is remarkable in our current food systems because it has been grown so much in the United States that food scientists and other industry producers have turned corn into all kinds of things OTHER than corn. But it is also a staple of the agricultural landscape of the Americas and has a history on this continent that goes back millenia. I’ve spent a lifetime eating corn, but I have not spent a lifetime engaging with corn in all of its states from seed to plate. And that’s exactly what we’re going to do.

In the Fall, probably over two nights, we’re going to gather and process the corn. We are not, mind you, going to process this in the style of industry. We are going to get our hands dirty and “process” our corn in the way that humans have always done it. We are going to know and see and feel our food. We’re going to strip the kernels from the cobbs, we’re going to nixtimalize it (a crucial process, definitely worth looking up), and then grind it into masa. Masa is the thing that will become the basis of all the food we hope to produce, and we’ll have a chance to turn it into tortillas and tamales and other traditional foods from corn-based cuisine from the Americas.

This is a chance to push through the experience that, for most of us, has become so second-nature that we never take the time to question it --- to eat food that comes from a package, or box or plastic container. This is a chance to remind ourselves about the close relationship we used to have with the natural world. I hope all of you will feel welcome to join us as we embark on this exciting project.
May 1, 2019—Feast of Beltane: There has been interest in an Earth-Centered Spirituality group here at the newly merged Congregation. Join us for an informal celebration of the Feast of Beltane on Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. We will be doing ritual on the fly. Bring a reading, a meditation, a song, an instrument, or whatever you would like to contribute. Or just bring yourself. Please bring a finger food or beverage to share for after the ritual. This is an eclectic group, and you are welcome whether you have experience in Earth-Centered/Pagan ritual or are simply open to something new. For more information please contact Peggy Lagodny wytchywmn@sbcglobal.net or Mary Schatzman maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LAINEY K. WARREN
Saturday, May 4th at 2:00 pm

A memorial service for Lainey K. Warren will be held on Saturday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the 2728 Lancashire location of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland. Lainey was a long-time member of the Society.

Those who so desire may make memorial donations in memory of Lainey to Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, ATTN: Development, 206 E State St, Columbus, OH 43215 or online at https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-ohio/our-donors/how-give.

May 4, 2019 — Huckleberry Finn Buck Discussion: Mark Twain wrote Huckleberry Finn as a piece of recent historical fiction that coincided with the time-frame covered in Frederick Douglass' Autobiography. Continuing the discussion began this past Fall in a reading of Douglass’ book. Bob Horan invites anyone interested to join in a discussion of one of America’s most important novels on Saturday, May 4th at 2:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. All are welcome!

May 5, 2019—First Sunday Potluck: Our next First Sunday Potluck is May 5th - this is our LAST potluck of the 2018-19 year! Join us in Fellowship Hall after the worship service - bring a dish to share or a goodwill offering of $5. If you’re a newcomer to our congregation, please attend as our guest! We’re always looking for friends to help with clean up and set up - contact Claire Brugnoletti if you’re available (clairebrugnoletti@comcast.net)
May 5, 2019—All Ages RE Town Hall Meeting: It has now been months since we first gathered as the UUCC, and we should all feel proud of ourselves for navigating so many changes and so many new aspects to church life as a merged congregation. All of you are invited to a religious education townhall on May 5th after the service, during our monthly potluck--and we mean absolutely all of you, from age "just-learned-to-talk" to age "always forget-where-you-put-the-car-keys." This townhall will be half-information sharing session and half open forum in which we hope to get feedback and draw on all of your ideas about how our religious education programs can serve learners of all ages. We hope to see all of you there!

May 12, 2019 — Sunday Book Group: Join us on May 12 when we will discuss Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think by Hans Rosling. The author says that when asked simple questions about global trends – poverty, population, girls in school – we systematically get things wrong. He contends this is due to ten instincts that distort our perspective, such as our tendency to divide the world into two camps (usually a version of us and them), how we consume media, or how we define progress. Rosling defines Factfulness as “the stress-reducing habit of only carrying opinions for which you have strong supporting facts.” He argues that the world, for all its imperfections, is in a much better state than we might think. That doesn’t mean there aren’t real concerns, but when we worry about everything all the time instead of embracing a worldview based on facts, we can lose our ability to focus on the things that threaten us most. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month except December and August. Our meetings are 7-8:45 PM in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Brian Larson at 216-371-8163 or BLarson44@hotmail.com.

May 12, 2019 — All Church Breakfast Canceled: Please note, there will not be an All Church Breakfast on Sunday, May 12th.

May 14, 2019 — Tuesday Readers: The Tuesday Readers group meets every other month, and reads relevant books. It is an open group, no sign-up is needed, and actually reading the book enhances your ability to participate in the discussion. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 pm in the "library" at the Lancashire building. The book is Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom. At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, Justice on Earth explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. Those people and communities on the margins are invariably most affected by climate disaster, environmentally unsound policies and business decisions, and environmental toxins. The book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth, and for all life.
May 17–19, 2019—Discover Our Universalist Roots: The next annual Universalist Convocation will be held May 17–19 at the Murray Grove Center in Lanika Harbor, NJ. It will kick-off the 250th anniversary of Rev. John Murray preaching his first Universalist sermon there. During the weekend featured Speakers, including Rev. John Bucherns, former president of the UUA and a performance of John Murray’s life as well as several workshops will be on the agenda. Registration at Universalist Convocation.org is taking place until April 30. Questions can be addressed using the website’s contact page. There is a flyer on the bulletin board near the building entrance with more information.

May 19, 2019 — Movie Night: Movie Night is Sunday, May 19th at 5:00 pm upstairs in the Lancashire building. The movie is *If Beale Street Could Talk*. From Academy Award® Winner Barry Jenkins, adapted from James Baldwin’s acclaimed novel, comes this timeless love story set in early 1970s Harlem. Newly engaged 19-year-old Tish (KiKi Layne) and her fiance Fonny (Stephan James) have a beautiful future ahead. But their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit. Now the pair and their families must fight for justice in the name of love and the promise of the American dream in this lush, moving, dramatic film, also starring Regina King. If you saw this at the movies, come see it again. We will watch the movie, then have discussion. Pizza will be provided.

June 9, 2019 — Sunday Book Group: Join the Sunday Book Group on June 9th, 7-8:45 PM, in Fellowship Hall when we discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande. The author, a practicing surgeon, addresses medicine’s ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. He tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending. He argues that in dealing with the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extends suffering. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, exploring the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person’s last weeks or months may be rich and dignified. Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end. For further information, contact Brian Larson at BLarson44@hotmail.com or 216-371-8163.
SUGGEST AN OFFERING RECIPIENT

UUCC is committed to a culture of generosity toward the community beyond our walls. We are pleased to support a diverse array of causes that are in alignment with our values. If you know of a cause or organization that you would like us to support with our offertory collection, please let us know! Fill out the Share-The-Plate Nomination form and place it in the box, currently located in Fellowship Hall.

We need some basic information to research the nominees, as well as their address so we know where to send the donation. The Worship Team is responsible for making selections that honor our values and further our mission. Rev. Joe makes the final determination.

You can submit as many recipient nominations as you wish. Please limit nominations to a specific recipient to twice annually.

Questions? Contact Rev. Joe Cherry (revjoe.cherry@uucleveland.org) or a member of the Worship Team.

REV. DR. COLIN BOSSEN NAMED MINNS LECTURER FOR 2019

Rev. Dr. Colin Bossen, minister at the Unitarian Society from 2008 to 2011, has been named the Minns Lecturer for 2019. The Minns Lectureship is a prestigious series on religious topics. Rev. Bossen will address "American Populism and Unitarian Universalism". He currently serves as the Interim Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS ARE PEOPLE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF BackgroundS WITH DIFFERENT BELIEFS, BUT SHARED VALUES.

We have no creed or code, but instead abide by seven principles that call us to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion; spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for meaning; the democratic process; peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the web of all life.

Everyone is Welcome. Everyone Belongs.

Child Friendly Space we love having our youngest members present for services! We also understand that sometimes parents prefer to worship alone. Childcare is available during service for toddlers up to age five. We also have a quiet room (Room 109) that parents are welcome to use where you can hear the service.

Requesting Pastoral Care Please let us know if you or someone you know would benefit from a Pastoral visit or call. The Lay Pastoral Care Team can be contacted at: 1stuulaypastoralcare@gmail.com
Save the Date!

Our First Annual Meeting as UUCC is May 19th!

Our First Annual meeting at Unitarian Universalist Congregation is Sunday, May 19th after the worship service. The Board of Trustees will post the meeting’s agenda at least 15 days in advance, as required by our Code of Regulations. Please note, this is a shorter time frame than was required by our previous code. The agenda will include the 2019-20 budget, reports from various individuals and groups, and votes on a number of items.

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, we are having a Congregational Conversation on Sunday, May 5th to discuss the proposed budget.

This conversation is BEFORE the worship service, starting at 9:30 am

This will be the only conversation we have about the budget before our the Annual meeting. the conversation will start about 20 minutes after the start of our First Sunday Potluck.