

Announcements and Events – February 18, 2017

FLOWER DONATIONS: Anita Ruby Jones donated today's flowers in honor of Black History Month!

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us today for coffee, cookies, and conversation in the Social Hall. We'd like to meet you.

SHARE THE PLATE SUNDAY: Our Share-the-Plate recipient this Sunday is Black Lives UU <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/about-bluu/>. Formed in the wake of several conversations among Black UUs at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, OH - the BLUU Organizing Collective is committed to:

- Expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within our faith,
- Providing support, information and resources for Black Unitarian Universalists, and
- Justice-making and liberation through our faith.

The rules for the Share the Plate Sunday are as follows: Any funds received during the offertory that have no designation will be split 50/50 between our guest recipient and the church. Please mark in the memo area of your check or on the envelope as to how you want your donation to be allocated. Share-the-Plate donations do not count toward your pledge.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: There will be a "Visitors' Table" and a "Sermon Discussion Table" every Sunday during Coffee Hour and Potlucks. The "Visitors' Table" welcomes anyone who would like to know more about our church and our congregation. Please stop by. We'd like to get to know you better!

DETROIT REP OUTING: I have 19 tickets to the Detroit Rep play, *Dolphin Island*, a comedy about two displaced souls intertwined. The tickets will be for the 3:00PM matinee, Saturday, March 3. You're also invited to join us for dinner afterward at Shangri La, across from UU church. Tickets are \$15, with the church receiving \$5 for every ticket sold. I will have tickets at coffee hour or call me, Margaret Beck at 313 882 7775 or email me at margretbeck@comcast.net.

LIVING WILL WORKSHOP 2: Today, Sunday, February 18, at 12:30PM in the parlor, a second workshop will be held in the parlor for those who missed last time. Go to this link, <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/publications/peaceofmind.pdf> and begin reading at page 31. Sherry will give you a booklet on Sunday and hold a Q and A about the form. Then we can witness each other's signatures. Sherry A. Wells, JD - [248-219-8477](tel:248-219-8477) - sherwells@tm.net.

Sunday Sermons and Events

TODAY, 2/18 11:00AM – Mass Incarceration for Profit

Abayomi Azikiwe

There has always been a monetary basis underlying the character of correctional institutions in the United States. From slavery, reconstruction, post-reconstruction to the privatization of prisons, the criminalization of African Americans and other oppressed peoples is clearly linked to the maintenance of the social status quo. Movements for social justice in 21st century America must embrace the struggle to reform law-enforcement, the courts, and prisons by uprooting the racial and class character of the criminal justice hierarchy.

Note on Today's Sermon: Other than the benediction by Langston Hughes, readings shared today by the Worship Coordinator are all written by prisoners.

Abayomi Azikiwe is the editor of the Pan-African News Wire and a co-founder of several Detroit-area organizations: The Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions, and Utility Shut-offs.

2/25 11: 00AM – The Womanist Movement

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

On this weekend that marks a transition from Black History Month to Women's History Month, I think it is important to mark the rise of the womanist movement, which differentiates the priorities of black women from those of the feminist movement, which tends to focus on the issues of white women.

Announcements and Events – Continued

SAVE THE DATE! Former UU Detroit Julie Brock will be ordained in our sanctuary on Sunday, April 22 @3:30 PM, followed by a catered reception.

VESPERS LOCATION CHANGE: On Wednesday, February 28th, at 6:00PM, vespers will be held at Henry Ford Village in Dearborn <http://www.henryfordvillage.com/>. Anita Ruby Jones will read from Dr. Gloria House's fourth poetry collection, *Medicine: New and Selected Poems*, accompanied by musical selections. Dr. House, also known by her African pen name Aneb Kgositsile, is a Detroit poet, human-rights activist, and educator. Please contact Dan Secrest at danielsecrest@gmail.com, or 313-580-7082, with any questions.

UU DETROIT SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION: for the Rranxburgaj (rons-bur-guy) family, now in sanctuary at Central United Methodist. We need your help to free this family. This Sunday, February 18, and next Sunday, February 25, Michigan United, through Glenn Maxwell, is asking UU Detroit members to write a letter to the Director of ICE Removal Operations asking for a stay of the deportation of Ded Rranxburgaj. Glenn will be providing information about the Rranxburgaj family at coffee hour, along with writing materials and suggestions for the letter. On February 25, at 12:30PM, we will have a short letter writing workshop including a video from the family.