

## Today's Music

**Prelude:** *Believe from The Polar Express*  
Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri

**Musical Meditation:** *Yuletide Reflections*  
Steven Curtin

This is an original soundscape using electric guitar and electronics that reflect and layer the guitar signal, in celebration of the Winter Solstice or Yule.

**Offertory:** *True Colors*  
Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly

**Recessional:** *Sleigh Ride*  
Leroy Anderson

### First Unitarian-Universalist Church

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Interim Minister  
Todd Ballou, Music Director  
Alexis Mitchell, Office Administrator  
Humphrey Blakemore, Social Hour Coordinator

**Today's Ushers:** Mark Schwing      Danny Rebb  
**Today's Greeters:** Aletha Oberdier      Bill Dickinson

**Hearing Assistance** devices are available from any of our **Greeters**.

**Large Print Hymnals** are available from the **Greeters**.

Please visit us at [www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org); email the church secretary, Alexis, at [info@1stuu.org](mailto:info@1stuu.org); or give us a call at (313) 833-9107.

## First Unitarian-Universalist Church

December 18, 2016

*"Acceptance and Encouragement"*

*Reverend Stephen Butler Murray*



**First Unitarian-Universalist Church is an urban center for  
spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit**

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### ENTERING

Lighting of Candles  
Singing Together\*

#245 *Joy to the World*  
#251 *Silent Night*  
#131 *Love Will Guide Us*

#### WELCOME

Sharon Mills, Worship Leader

#### CENTERING

Prelude  
Calling To Worship  
Kindling the Flame  
Opening Hymn\*

#1063 *Winter Solstice Chant*

#### DEEPENING

Silent Meditation  
Invocation  
Musical Meditation  
Reading  
Message

#### RETURNING

Offering  
Opening Hymn\*  
Benediction

#316 *Tradition Held Fast*

*Congregation may exit to the Social Hall for coffee, cookies, and conversation  
(\* indicates times to stand in body or spirit)*

## Announcements and Events – December 18, 2016

### CHANCEL FLOWER DONATIONS

Today's flowers are given in honor of twenty loving years of marriage: Roger Zeigler and Nancy Owen Nelson.

### CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY COPY

If you would like a printed copy of the results of our 2016 congregational survey, see Sharon Mills or Nate Strickland, Jr. of the Ministerial Search Committee.

### **IMPORTANT DATE:**

#### **December 18 Congregational Meeting**

A congregational meeting is scheduled for today at 12:30 PM in the social hall. The board is offering amendments to our current bylaws. Printed copies of materials will be available in coffee hour. Light refreshments will be served.

### Sunday Sermons and Events

**12/24 (SATURDAY) 7:00 p.m. Sermon, "Carol Service"**

**Speaker:** Reverend Stephen Butler Murray

In the midst of the religious calendar and seasonal changes, we celebrate Christmas Eve, marking one of the most important holidays that spans both religious and secular symbolism. Please join for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray will provide the Christmas message, and our music director, Todd Ballou, will play holiday music and organize the singing.

**12/25 NO SERVICE**

**1/1 11:00 AM Sermon, "Poetry As Visionary Resistance"**

**Speaker:** Tawana Petty

What does it mean to resist and what role should vision play in our resistance? Toni Cade Bambara said, "The role of the artist is to make revolution irresistible." Tawana Petty — mother, social justice organizer, youth advocate, poet, author and visionary educator — strives to embody that responsibility.

## Announcements and Events – December 18, 2016

### Share the Plate Sunday Guidelines:

Any funds received during the offertory that have no designation will be split 50/50 between our guest beneficiary 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.

Today's Share the Plate beneficiary is Freedom House. Freedom House Detroit is a temporary home for indigent survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the United States and Canada. Its mission is to uphold a fundamental American principle, one inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, providing safety for those "yearning to breathe free." In 2012 they became a formal partner in the Northern Tier Anti-Trafficking Consortium servicing victims of human trafficking.

Guided by their belief that all persons deserve to live free from oppression and to be treated with justice, compassion and dignity, they offer a continuum of care and services to their residents as well as to other refugees in need. They advocate for systemic change that more fully recognizes the rights of asylum seekers.

UU Detroit has had a relationship with Freedom House since the early 1990's. A director even lived on the third floor of our church house. Their history of residents follows the era's trouble spots for their time: political prisoners from the Eastern Block countries before the wall came down, genocide survivors from Rwanda, Central American refugees from the Reagan Bush era, LGBT victims from Uganda and Burkina Fasso, the list and needs somehow seem to not find an end. But Freedom House continues to provide aid and solace to desperate people who show up at all hours with only the clothes on their backs. Help them to continue their programs with your generous support during the offering.