

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
October 2, 2010

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First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2010 – 2011

Officers

President

Marilyn Mitchell

Vice President

Bill McKnight

Immediate Past

President

Dan Wiest

Board Secretary

Kathleen Jacobs

Johnson

Treasurer

David Lingholm

Staff

Minister

Rev. Bill Neely

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jenn Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Dessa Cosma

Robert Johnson

Julie Brock

Sally Borden

Newsletter Editor

Robert Johnson

Worship Services

held every Sunday at
11:00am.

Five Things to Think About, by Rev. Bill Neely

Interim Ministries are typically focused on five areas of congregational development in the hope that growth in each area will help the congregation transition successfully to a vibrant and healthy Settled Ministry. Over our year together, we will, in various ways, think about each area:

Coming to terms with the congregation's history (History always informs the present and helps shape the future. First Church has a long history, so we will likely narrow our focus to dive more deeply into just a part of it in the hopes that we can help shape the future in a positive way),

Discovering a new identity (Aware of the long history and treasured identity of First Church, we'll nonetheless reflect on who First Church is today),

Managing shifts in leadership (As professional leadership transitions, so does lay leadership. Developing and sustaining new leadership will be an important piece of our work together),

Rethinking denominational linkages (How connected is First Church to the wider denomination? How can we strengthen those connections?)

And finally, a commitment to new leadership and a new future (How can the entire church contribute to the successful Ministry to come?).

These are all big topics, and we'll make more progress on some of them than others. Yet throughout our year together, we will carefully and intentionally consider each area. What we learn in the process will build on the strengths of this wonderful church, as well as respond to some of our weaknesses; all in the interest of serving beyond our walls with the spirit of what's inside of them. I'd call that spirit joyful, resilient, and creative; three strengths that the city always needs more of. In the days we've been gifted, may we faithfully transform with, and gratefully be transformed by, the spirit of this beautiful church.

We'll work together on plenty more than this, as well. Opportunities and challenges that we can't even imagine are awaiting us, and we'll navigate them together. The path of our shared ministry will be familiar and unusual; of the past and the future. We will discuss things that you've discussed a million times, and new areas of growth and discernment will surprise us all. We will work for justice without knowing the results. We will worship and build upon the central strength of our community. We will agree, and disagree, sometimes over little things; sometimes over big ones. We will agree and disagree in love. And I look forward to all of this; of walking with you in the spirit of our ministry over the coming year. I'm expecting great things in 2010-2011. I hope you are, too.

A Breath of Fresh Air

We can all likely attest to witnessing at some point during our time at First UU Church being confronted with the idea of "This isn't the way we usually do it." This is and will be true. As our church is made up of several members - each with their own ideas on how something should be done - this idea comes back time and time again. When we encounter something that is different, we should instead take a breath and say to ourselves, "that's okay." We should encourage new people and ideas coming forth and support them so that they can be successful. It may not be true that these new ideas will be more successful than the old ideas, but that's okay too. The outcome may or may not be the same as what is desired, but there is more to the outcome than the success of the idea - more willing active volunteers to help and lead future events. Those who have past experience are encouraged to help support new volunteers leaders stepping forward. The depth of your knowledge and experience is priceless, and can be very helpful to help those without experience to focus and ensure success. To many times our wonderful volunteers feel as though they are dropped in the middle of an activity and not given much in the way of information or support on how to achieve the activity. However, you should still make room for new ideas - some may work well and some may not. But these experiences will help our church grow. Our church will become more welcoming to new and potential members. The success for each activity should not only focus on that of the activity, but on the success of the leadership as well. Did the leader and volunteers have a positive experience? Are they likely to act in a leadership/volunteer position again - for this activity or for others? We can always rerun any activity over again, and each time it can be really different. After all, there is no rule that states any activity/event can only be put on once? But the real success is growing today's volunteers into tomorrow's leaders, and this will come by welcoming and supporting new ideas and approaches to activities/events.

— Signed: A Loving First Church Member

Rummage Sale and Dally in the Alley

Thank you for all the support in both donations and volunteers. The outpour was amazing - both from the 20+ volunteers from our church as well as the rain! We had member staffing a booth for the Church in the Dally, charging parking in the Prentis Lot for Dally-goers, selling artisan originals, as putting on a rummage sale. Volunteers who helped advertised did an awesome job at it as we had a line in the parking lot waiting for us to open, which we ended up doing 20 minutes early! The flow of traffic of Dally-goers, 1st church members, and UUs from neighboring churches like Farmington and Northwest made it a magical day. Staffers at our booth were collecting



signatures on a petition for same-sex marriage, and ran out of petitions by early afternoon. Even with the downpour of rain which pretty much closed up all activities 1.5 hours earlier than we would have liked, members were still smiling through to the end. At the end of the day, our church has earned more than \$1,200.00 from these activities, as well as brought many new visitors to our church the next Sunday. We have since had more inquiries when our next Rummage Sale will be as well as more people who are looking to donate their items. Perhaps we should do a Spring Rummage Sale? Anyone interested, see Kathleen Jacobs Johnson.

This last Sunday, September 19, a small group of six 1stUUsers and friends gathered to celebrate this changing of the seasons, fall equinox, with Shakti. She has been following (witchcraft???) for ten years, and has been trained by XXXX, and is considered by XXXX to be a priest. She talked to us about our past at our church in celebrating these rituals. We shared with her how familiar we were with this kind of celebration. Some had never done anything like this. Some had been to several rituals. I shared I had been to a few, including the Yule-fest held here with some hundred participants. I have been to a class held here, and a weekend at Circle Pines. Shakti also told us how the name 'Pagan' means only land(???) and other names that have been used. The Reclaiming group that meets outside of Detroit is currently where she spends her spiritual group time. Reclaiming was founded by the witch Starhawk about 30 years ago. Shakti, who also lives in Detroit, would like to celebrate in Detroit.

We then actually practiced the songs and rituals we would perform. Importance in the ritual is placed on forming a ring(of protection???), so it is best to know what we would be doing, especially for people new to this service. I have heard and sung most of tunes before. They are very simple, in comparison to our church songs. The words change of course with season, ritual or need and the group.

(Help, what else did we do?) We danced (How??) the circle dance and closed the ritual. Shakti reminded us with large groups our circle dance might last for a long time.

We then discussed when we could meet again. We decided by consensus to meet for Solar holidays, like this fall equinox, and the next one being Samhein (October 31, Samhain -- (pronounced sow, to rhyme with cow, and win = sow'-win) -- also known as Halloween. Midway between fall equinox and winter solstice, this is a major holiday; we honor our ancestors, mourn those who have died in the past year, seek to contact the spirits of the dead, and celebrate the births of babies born in the past year. It is sometimes called the Witches' New Year. (<http://www.reclaiming.org/about/witchfaq/wheelofyear.html>)). We will be gathering on Samhein (October 31) at 2 p.m. We would also like to celebrate the Yule and if anyone is interested in helping plan, or attending it, Samhein, or anything else about this contact me. Arthur Gabhart 313-832-1052 or email agabhart36@cs.com.

Halloween Party Planning Meeting:

Calling all witches, ghosts, goblins, and everyone who loves a good scare. Come join us on Wednesday, October 6th at 7pm to help plan a Halloween Party for 1st Church. See Kathleen Jacobs Johnson for more information (313-343-8871; lilbunniest@gmail.com).

We Need You

Looking for a social outing once a month? Looking to become more involved with First Church and on goings and want to know how you can become a part of it? WE NEED YOU! There are many committees who would love to see you there! Come check them out:

- Membership - Meets Third Thursdays of every month at 7:00pm. Nora Holt chairing
- Worship Committee - Meets Third Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. Mary Lou Malone chairing
- Alliance - Meeting Sunday October 10th at 12:30pm - still testing the waters of a new meeting time. Carolyn Ludwig currently chairing.
- Choir
- Board
- AVIT

Come see what our church has to offer!

October Worship Calendar

Sunday, October 3, Membership Matters, Rev. Bill Neely

Our faith stresses individual autonomy and personal freedom so much that we sometimes lose sight of the importance of formal church membership. What does membership in a congregation mean? How does membership change and form us?

Sunday October 10, Money Matters, Rev. Bill Neely

As the First Church Board of Trustees begins a fall focus on congregational stewardship, we'll explore generosity and giving from a spiritual perspective. How do our gifts reflect our deepest held values? How does our relationship with money change and form us?

Sunday October 17, How to Save the World, Rev. Bill Neely

Our faith and our consciences call us to work for justice and equality, but how we best do that often isn't clear. Sometimes those on the same side of a movement spend more energy arguing strategy among each other than working toward the common goal. How do we work together to create the world of which we dream?

Sunday October 24, The Question Box, Rev. Bill Neely

This is your chance to have the topic of your choosing receive the attention of the preacher from the pulpit during the Sunday service. Write down a question on a note card, submit it during the service, and in place of a sermon, Rev. Bill will read and respond to as many questions as possible. What are you wondering about - theology? Social Justice? My favorite flavor of pie? Write it down and see what happens! Questions can also be emailed to Rev. Bill ahead of the service.



Sunday October 31, We Wear the Mask, Rev. Bill Neely

The title of a Paul Laurence Dunbar poem, "We wear the mask" speaks of the oppressed wearing masks of happiness and complacency to shield deep personal pain. More broadly, we all wear masks, every day, and they're all shielding something. As the ghouls and goblins take over Halloween, we'll explore some of the masks we most often wear and consider the common humanity underneath them.

October Events

1st Church is an active place - Save these dates on your calendar!

Sunday, October 3

Wednesday, October 6: Catered dinner 5:30-6:30pm, Vespers 6:30-7:00pm; Wednesday night activities at 7:00pm: Homiletics class lead by Rev. Neely, Singing Circle, Halloween planning meeting

Fri. - Sun. October 8-10: Heartland District High School UUs Conference held at 1st UU. Contact the 1st UU office for more information.

Sunday, October 3: Alliance meeting at 12:30pm.

Wednesday, October 14: Catered dinner 5:30-6:30pm, Vespers 6:30-7:00pm, Wednesday night activities at 7:00pm: Board meeting at 7pm, Singing Circle

Sunday, October 17: Orientation session - lead by Rev. Neely at 12:30pm
Wednesday, October 20: Catered dinner 5:30-6:30pm, Vespers 6:30-7:00pm, Wednesday night activities at 7:00pm: Worship Committee meeting at 7pm, Singing Circle
Thursday, October 21: Membership meeting 7:00pm.
Saturday, October 23: 1st UU trip to the Cider Mill/Apple Orchard 12:00pm.
Sunday, October 24: Orientation session - lead by Rev. Neely at 12:30pm.
Wednesday, October 27: Catered dinner 5:30-6:30pm, Vespers 6:30-7:00pm, Wednesday night activities at 7:00pm: Decorating for 1st UU Halloween Party 7pm, Singing Circle
Friday, October 29: Halloween Party! 7:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 30: Michigan UU Young Adults Halloween Party 4:00-9:00pm. Contact the 1st UU office for more information.
Sunday, October 31: Halloween, Samhain.

Heartland District High School UU Conference:

The Heartland District's Fourth Annual YRUU Kickoff Conference, titled "CONtagious" October 8-10th at First UU of Detroit. Registration is open for all UU high schoolers (9-12th grade) and their advisors. This conference will feature CON bands (assigned small groups for attendees to get to know each other), Workshops (games, movies, learn about social justice, and more), and a Caughy Haus where attendees can present their wacky and amazing talents. Register by mail or online; pay by check or credit card at: http://www.heartlanduu.org/reg_services.html. Registration is due by October 4th and the fee is \$30.00. For questions and concerns, contact Scott Jackoway at sjackoway@gmail.com or Karalyn Grimes at karalyngrms@gmail.com.

Young Adult Halloween Party

UU Young Adults are having a Halloween Party/ Costumed Theological round table discussion on October 30th 4pm - 9pm. Who are you coming dressed as? Barack Obama? Superman? Alice in Wonderland? Is Bugs Bunny Mormon? Is the Pope really Catholic? Is Harry Potter Wiccan? Join us as we discuss the possible religious afflictions of these characters. Light beverages and snacks will be served. Bring \$5.00 for pizza. Movie at 7pm: The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra or Choking Hazard (a Chech Existential Zombie film) or both.



Apple Orchard/Cider Mill Trip

Come join us for a fun-filled afternoon October 23rd at Westview Orchard in Wshington Township, MI. Open to all who wants to come, we will meet at the church parking lot (near the ramp door) at 12:00pm to coordinate carpooling, then drive out to Westview Orchard. \$8.50 entry fee gets you into enjoy lots of activities including a huge Corn Maze, Wagonrides, Petting Barns, Farm Market, Obstacle Course, Straw Mountain, 2 acre play ground, live family shows, and more. Bring extra money for U-Pick Apples and Pumpkins, donuts and cider, cafe, bakery, etc. Please RSVP by October 17th with Kathleen Jacobs Johnson (phone 313-343-8871; email lilbunniest@gmail.com). RSVPing not necessary to go, but if over 20 people going, we can receive a group discount (with reservation).

FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED:

Next Sunday, October 3rd at 12:30pm (following Social Hour), there will be a short discussion/collaboration about:

What is the Alliance?

What shall it be called?

What will it do?

How can it help 1st UU?

Who will do what?

What does the future hold? (sorry, we can't answer that one)



Winter Prep Party

Buildings and Grounds is currently planning a Church Wide Building Cleanup and Winter Prep Party. So we need bodies and ideas of what to work on and fix around the church. Please contact Robert Johnson (313 799-2667) or Bill McKnight (734 420-2174).

Entertainment Book 2011

Margaret Beck has 2011 Entertainment books for sale for \$25.00. Alliance of 1st UU Church could make \$5.00 from each book plus we get 2 free books to sell for Alliance (\$25.00). So far, Margaret has earned \$75.00 for the church. The Alliance bought a \$500.00 refrigerator for the church last year. Margaret raised over \$400.00 for the Alliance last year. Please contact Margaret Beck if you are interested in purchasing an Entertainment Book (313)882-7775; margaretbeck@comcast.net.