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# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
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April Edition

## April Sermon Schedule

### April 1

Rev. Roger Mohr,

“Four Billion Years of Evolution: Now What?”

It is estimated that life has been evolving on Earth for about four billion years. That means that every living creature is the result of four billion years of success. How can we express and actualize that success in our behavior?

### April 15

Rev Roger Mohr

“Soul Food.”

We each have things that nourish and strengthen us. Where can we look for nourishment to fortify ourselves for the long journey of life? **Remember to bring your favorite comfort food for the Soul Food Potluck luncheon during fellowship hour.**

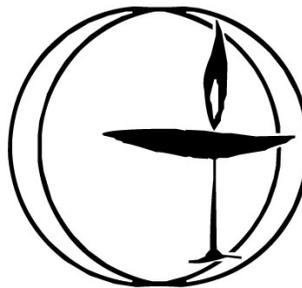
### April 29

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Celebrating May Day.”

May first is perhaps one of the most overlooked of all our holidays. It is no wonder.

It is a deeply pagan holiday, with its maypoles and fertility rituals. And it is also a huge labor holiday, celebrated throughout the world, but largely ignored in the US. It is our loss, there is much to celebrate.



*All those who are involved in the service on Sunday (Speakers, Worship Coordinator, Trustee of the Day, Cantor, and Music Director and/or Guest Musicians) will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:30am each Sunday to review the service.*

## Summer service "I Dare You!" Sermon Award

To the highest bidder, as a fundraiser. Rev. Mohr will do a sermon on the topic of your choices, going to whoever raises the most money for their topic. Go big or go home. What would you love to hear a sermon on but don't think a minister will do? Rev. Mohr reserves the option to change the title and to tweak content, but no topic is completely out of bounds. What's it worth to you?

## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2011-2012

### Officers

#### President

*Sally Borden*

#### Vice President

*Robert Johnson*

#### Immediate

#### Past President

*Marilyn Mitchell*

#### Board Secretary

*Kathe Stevens*

#### Treasurer

*Dan Wiest*

### Staff

#### Minister

*Rev. Roger Mohr*

#### Music Director

*Todd Ballou*

#### Cantor

*Gwen Foss*

#### Office Admin

*Tamara Halliburton*

**Worship Services  
held every Sunday at  
11:00 a.m.**

The deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of every month! Please send any articles to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org) or drop them off in the office.

## The President's Corner

Spring has obviously sprung and the weather has been great. With a mild winter and early spring, it seems lots of folks at the church have energy and motivation to get acquainted and do a lot of interesting and important things together and as a church.

Your Board of Trustees voted at our last board meeting on March 14, 2012 to accept Sherry Wells Proposal to have an activity coordinator with input and feedback from other members and from Rev. Mohr. Sherry will serve as our first "AC." So continue to give your ideas for activities and events to Sherry. These activities and events can take place at the church, often on Sunday afternoons, or away from the church at agreed-upon dates and times.

First UU is happy to welcome a new member, Fredrick McClellan, who signed the membership book and made a pledge at our recent orientation session. Others who attended are also considering membership. We encourage you to bring your friends and families to our services to increase the energy and ideas that are already percolating here at church.

The Heartland District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, of which we are a member, will be having its annual meeting at the Lansing UU Church, the last weekend in March. I encourage you to consider attending part or all of this conference, which gives you the opportunity to meet UU's from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. That Saturday evening, 3/31/12, Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, will be the featured speaker, who will focus on his experiences as an African-American in a predominantly white religious organization. Rev. Morrison-Reed has spoken at 1st UU in the past and is a thoughtful and honest speaker who is likely to have some interesting words for us.

On a final note, we are very close to signing the deed to EMEAC for transfer of our church buildings with an arbitration clause that allows both EMEAC and the church to ask for binding arbitration on any issues that we are not able to resolve on our own.

I wish you all a great spring and continue to let myself and the board know of your issues and concerns. "We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."

Sally Borden  
President



Carolyn Ludwig and Sherry A Wells staffing our table at the Religion, Conflict and Peace seminar in March

## The Rev's Room

Well, there is good news and bad news this month: Which do you want to read first? My wife always hated that question. It meant I was teasing her by withholding important news. But it also is a kind of personality test – people who focus on the positive usually prefer to hear the good news first. People who are more pessimistic focus more on the negative news, and want to hear that first. But that is just personality; there is no right or wrong way to approach it.

But this month, the news will be good or bad, depending on individual perception. For some it may be good news. For others, perhaps it is good news. For others it may be a mixed bag of positives and negatives. We are all old enough to know that there are no unmixed blessings in this life, everything has its costs and benefits. There is an old Taoist

story of a farmer who goes through a series of calamities and windfalls, each time answering the sympathy of his neighbors with an ambivalent, “Maybe so.” It is a wise response, perhaps, all news comes with its positives and negatives.

My wife would be furious with me at this point, as I have just rattled on without actually revealing the news. Here it is. The search for a new minister did not produce a viable candidate for your next settled minister, so I will be staying to minister to you here at First UU for another year. Whether that is good news or bad news depends on your point of view. But I can say this: I am very pleased to have another year here with you. Thank you!

Rev. Roger Mohr

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We want to thank Toni Tront for her special donation that enabled the church to purchase the pamphlet, “We Are Unitarian Universalists”. Toni saw the need for pamphlets in the narthex and volunteered her gift for that purpose.

The Membership Committee hosted two sessions in February to educate prospective members on Unitarian-Universalism generally and our congregation and its history in particular. Seven people attended each session. At the first session, Rev. Mohr presented a very interesting history of the origins of Unitarianism and then Universalism and the merger. During the second session, Sally Borden and Marilyn Mitchell related the history of First Unitarian-Universalist Church, shared their religious journeys and invited the other participants to share. What a wonderfully diverse group of people we are.

I have been making nametags again and have created 15! Roger is requesting everyone who has a nametag to wear it so he can associate a face with a name. If you need a nametag, see me in social hour or email me at [mitchell140@comcast.net](mailto:mitchell140@comcast.net).

Finally, the annual Canvass will be off and running in April. I'm thinking it might be fun to host canvass sessions in people's homes again. Let me know if you like this idea and/or if you are willing to offer your home. Last time, we had some hors d'oeuvres (nothing elaborate) and drinks. The sessions were scheduled for two hours on Saturday or Sunday afternoons 3-5 or 4-6. It is critical for our budget process to complete the Canvass by the end of April. This Canvass is for the pledge year starting July 1, 2012 and running through June 30, 2013. Stay tuned for more information.

Marilyn Mitchell  
Membership Chair

## Church Announcements

### Vespers Wednesday

Vespers every Wednesday: service at 6:30, meetings and activities at 7:00.

### Music Circle at 1<sup>st</sup> UU - Wednesdays

A music circle will be held in Pullman Hall every Wednesday from 8-11:00pm. Enter through the Red Door from the back lot.

### Book Club – April 4th

Come join us for another book club discussion with Kathleen Jacobs Johnson and Linda Darga in Memorial Hall April 4th at 7pm. The new book will be David Korten's *Agenda for a New Economy*, which takes a look at our current economic situation, what caused the failures and why the proposed solutions taken won't work. Instead Korten proposes a changed economy that is locally based and community oriented instead of only increasing profits.

### Learning to Love

The Learning to Love group will meet for the first time on April 29th at 12:30 (after coffee hour). This group will talk about how we are practicing love as a discipline, so that in our daily lives, we can become more loving in the way we treat ourselves, our neighbors, and the Earth.

### Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012 right after church. We will be voting on the election of officers for the coming fiscal year, our budget and a proposal to lease and eventually sell the Prentis Lot to EMEAC.

More information will be available soon, but to vote, you have to have been a member in good standing for 60 days prior to the vote (which means you have signed the membership book and made a pledge of record in the last year.)

### New Year...New Signup Sheet for Chancel Flower Donations

As you leave the sanctuary, you'll notice there's a new signup sheet for donating flowers each Sunday. Please take a moment to add your name and the person/event you wish to honor. Suggested donation is \$20 but is negotiable depending on your situation. If you have questions, see Lencha Acker or call her at 313-393-8544. Thank You!

#### Birthday List

I would like to start acknowledging birthdays in the newsletter. If you would like to be included, please email your birth date to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org) or leave it in the office!

## Your Activities Coordinator

The Board of 1st UU has adopted the proposal supported by many who met after church. It appointed volunteer, Sherry A Wells, to the position. She will work with a crew of volunteers and with Rev. Mohr as Board liaison. The concept favors activities suggested by individuals in the congregation rather than looking to a Program Committee to try to guess what would appeal to us by way of educational, social and social action activities.

Contact Sherry A Wells at [248-543-2597](tel:248-543-2597) or [esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net) or her crew--Joan, Smykowski, Gwen Foss, Kimberly Kleinhaus and Maysel Brooks.

### **APRIL 15** – Sunday – Activities Smorgasbord

Displays and sample demonstrations after the service of social, educational, and social activist activities for us to select from for individual and group involvement and for programming. We will set it up before church (start at 9 AM). Examples: MOSES, MUUSJN, UUSC, Movement Choir, films, workshops (what you want, what you could teach), activities at church and those outside of it, "formal" and informal. Contact Sherry A Wells, [248-543-2597](tel:248-543-2597) or [esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net) for time and table space.

### **APRIL 15** Sunday, 3:00 pm · SMRH *FREE*

**Faculty Recital:** Don Platter, clarinet; Gail Gebhart, piano. We'll meet to eat locally, get better acquainted, then go to the recital.

### **APRIL 20** Friday evening—The Peoples Church, E. Lansing

A taste of the Jesus Seminar by attending the Friday evening lecture about Parables of Jesus--reclaiming them and how and why Jesus crafted them. ( Info. will be posted--it's all day Saturday, too.) For Friday only is \$20. Share the ride with Sherry A Wells, [248-543-2597](tel:248-543-2597) or [esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net)

### **APRIL 22** Fourth Sunday Forum -- TBA

One of the top picks from the Activities Smorgasbord.

### **APRIL 29** Fifth Sunday Funday TBA

There are usually four fifth Sundays each year. We'll do something fun for each of them. Suggestions welcomed by your Activities Coordinator and her crew.

## Cleaning Day

On Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 - ?, there will be a joint-effort cleaning day involving EMEAC and First UU helpers. We will work inside and weather permitting, outside the buildings. Cleaning supplies and some implements will be provided. Bring your own gloves and any rags. Take advantage of the opportunity to work side-by-side with our new partners. Share your knowledge of the buildings and grounds with them. They're eager to learn.

See Dan Wiest for details.



FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF DETROIT

4605 Cass Avenue  
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48201

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email us at [info@1stuu.org](mailto:info@1stuu.org), or give  
us a call at (313) 833-9107.

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## WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR SUMMER VACATION?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if everyone in the world had an attitude of open-mindedness, tolerance, concern for the planet, and support for each other that UUs do? For one week each summer, we experience such a world. That world is **MUUSA!**

Join us on **Sunday, July 1st to Saturday, July 7th** at MUUSA, the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, where you can vacation with other Unitarian Universalists in a beautiful natural setting with activities and fun for all ages. We invite families, singles, and couples to join us at our inter-generational retreat, where you can enjoy work-

shops, classes, and leisure time. We gather at Trout Lodge, located in 5,200 acres of pine and oak forest on a private 360 acre lake 75 miles southwest of St. Louis, Missouri, near Potosi.

Save the date now and make your summer vacation planning easy. The 2012 theme, "Living Once Upon a Time: The Stories Deep Within Us," will be led by **Reverend Keith Kron**. Your stay includes three buffet meals a day, comfortable housing, relaxing at the beachfront, watercraft use, opportunities for horseback riding, creating in the arts and crafts center, your choice of morning and afternoon workshops and much, much more!

We offer a nursery and day camps for our youngest campers and a unique program with separate housing for our junior and senior high youths. Our campers rave about MUUSA! To hear more, visit YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNWMdbjxuE> and view our video to see what a week at MUUSA is like. You can register today at [www.muusa.org](http://www.muusa.org). Have questions? Contact Susan Porter, Registrar at [muusa@uua.org](mailto:muusa@uua.org). We can't wait to welcome you to the most fabulous week of the year!

**(Remember Save the Date:  
Sunday, July 1st to Saturday,  
July 7th, 2012)**