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# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
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July Edition

## July Sermon Schedule

### July 1

Rev. Roger Mohr

*"Dreaming of the Future."*

During the summer, there is a mild lull in activity, while we regroup and plan for the next church year. That may seem like a time to rest, but it is also a time for us to spend some energy in imagining what we want the church to have done and become by this time next year. What do YOU dream for First UU next year? Let's dream together.

### July 15

Rev. Roger Mohr

*"Our Humanist Tradition."*

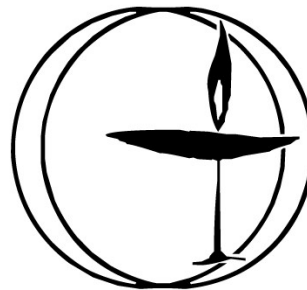
In Unitarian Universalism, a very important source is Humanism – the belief that human agency and activity is the primary source of positive change in the world. There are many different ways of understanding and applying Humanism, but it arguably where our disparate perspectives find their common ground.

### July 29

Rev. Roger Mohr

*"Achieving Our Spiritual Best."*

In doing the reading for my doctoral course-work, my first course is about spiritual development. In our culture, we often understand that to be a purely internal process. But our spiritual life is bigger than just whether or not we happen to meditate. Spirituality is a holistic concept, and includes every part of our lives. What difference does your spiritual life make?



## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2012-2013

### Officers

#### President

*Sally Borden*

#### Vice President

*Cynthia Zurschmiede*

#### 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.**

*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.*

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

I hope you're all enjoying the good weather! I wanted to bring you up to date on some current issues that the board is working on and also introduce you to a few of our new members and friends. In upcoming articles I'll continue to introduce you to both new and old church members.

You may have noticed that the name tag rack is gone and plans are underway to develop a new and improved way to handle our name tags on Sundays. In the meantime, name tags will be available on a table in the Narthax (a fancy name for the area in the back of the sanctuary). We will be moving our bulletin boards, pictures and other items that relate specifically to the church to areas within the sanctuary. We are forming a "Nits and Gnats" Committee (so named by Bill McKnight) to help us decide the best places to display information about church. If you're interested in helping with this please let me or Bill McKnight know.

Since last fall we have had several people formally join the church as new members and we've also had some hard-working people join us as "Friends" of the church.

So let me tell you about two of them.

Dale Compton started attending services last fall because he was interested in hearing more about the Occupy Detroit movement, which was a topic of one of Rev. Mohr's sermons. Dale hadn't previously been interested in attending church regularly or expecting to find a community of like-minded people, but both things happened once he started coming to services. He had been invited by longtime friends who had also started attending and was amazed and pleased at the diversity of the congregation and at the sense of community that he felt. He has lived in the Metro Detroit area for most of his life and really enjoys getting to meet new people at coffee hour after service. He says everyone he has met so far have been really interesting people and he's looking forward to meeting many more. Please welcome Dale as a new member.

And a new Friend of the Church is Joan Symkowski who started attending services last summer after going downtown to the fireworks. She and her husband, Tim Bailey, have coming ever since and have gotten very active. Joan feels she's on a "spiritual quest" and finds it fulfilling to be at First Church. She has helped with pot lucks, Noel Nite and other church events. She enjoys learning about other religions and says when coming to church, she doesn't have to feel guilty or pressure or about anything. More about Tim, the super handy man, coming soon.

We're glad Dale and Joan have joined in our mission to make First Church an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit.

Sally Borden  
President

## The Rev's Room

As I write this it is the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. That means that now the days will really be getting shorter, even as they get hotter. It is one of the lessons of life that as we grow older we feel time passing more quickly, from the infinite days of childhood to the “blink and you missed it” years I now experience in middle age. Time passes too fast, and there is always much to do.

This spring I have been busy staging and re-positioning for the next phase of my own life and career. That is an exciting process, as the possibilities and plans are wonderful to me, better than anything I could have dreamed as a child. I love my work, my home, my friends. I love Detroit, and Michigan. I have enough time and enough money to live within my means, even if it is not exactly fame and fortune. And I am still ridiculously healthy, getting back in shape – before you read this I will have competed in my first ever adventure race (orienteering, trail running, canoeing, and mountain biking). Last but not least, my spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth are all on track and flourishing. Indeed, I will begin my doctorate work this August, recognizing the professional experience and passion for ministry to allow me to pursue the next level. And I could count many more blessings. No one needs to tell me how fortunate and privileged I am - I have seen the other side, and I am grateful. I am a happy man. This is the summer of my life.

Likewise, the church is entering a summer of its own. We have another year to work together, even as our work last year has prospered and the church shows many signs of renewed life. It is very exciting to be part of the renaissance of Detroit's First UU Church. I believe in this church, in its mission and its members. This church is positioned to see another summer, after weathering a very long winter. That is a sign of the true strength and resilience of this congregation, and of the importance of its role in this community. First UU is “an urban center for social justice and spiritual renewal.” We have important, exciting work to do together, preparing to grow and flourish in the coming summer. And that is because this church has a future full of possibilities, new dreams that it has yet to dream and make come true. This summer we are staging and positioning for that future. Let's live and love while the sun shines upon us.

With love,

Rev. Roger Mohr

## Church Announcements and Events

### **Vespers Wednesday**

Vespers will be on vacation in July and August. Look for new and improved Vespers 2.0 coming this fall.

### **MUUSJN Special Collection - July 1st**

An additional offering will be taken on July 1st and be used to pay 1st UU's congregational MUUSJN dues for the 2012 - 2013 church year.

### **Learning to Love**

The Learning to Love group will meet on the first and third Sundays in July after services (about 12:30). The group is open for now (meaning that anyone can join, anytime), and will be working on helping one another to live in a more loving way during our day to day and moment to moment lives. All are welcome!

### **Pop Songs for a First UU hymnal!**

We have been using lots of "contemporary" songs in our services this year, and we want to start collecting them up so we can gather sheet music for our professional musicians, Todd and Gwenn, to use on Sundays. What songs do you love to sing that might be uplifting for our services? Pete Seeger, "Turn Turn Turn"? How about Desiree, "You Gotta Be"? Beatles, "All You Need Is Love"? Marvin Gaye, "What's Going On"? Louis Armstrong, "What a Wonderful World"? If you think of something, Rev. Mohr is collecting them, just send your ideas with artist and title to [reverendmohr@gmail.com](mailto:reverendmohr@gmail.com) .

**Rev. Mohr will be gone** from August 5 -18, as he will be in New York doing coursework for a Doctor of Ministry degree. In case of emergency, Sally, as board president, will have a colleague contact for ministry.

### **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!

## Church Announcements and Events

**Condolences to Sondra Greene** on the death of her son, Darius Greene, on June 16, 2012. Darius was active in the Red Door Players.

### **From Your Activities Coordinators**

Activities Coordinated for July

#### **BEFORE SERVICE -- 9:30 - 10:30am**

- 1 Movement Choir, Kimberly Kleinhans
- 8 Mysteries of the Hymnal, Gwen Foss
- 15 Movement Choir, Kimberly Kleinhans
- 22 Tinkaboudit (with discussion!), Jerrold Foke
- 29 Talent Show Run-thru

#### **AFTER SERVICE -- 12:30pm**

- Learning to Love, Rev. Mohr
- Learning to Love, Rev. Mohr
- 5th Sunday Funday Talent Show

Choir practices are over for the summer so we're trying the before-service sessions. Kimberly and Jerrold volunteered their activities. Jerrold's been giving micro-sessions during Social Hour but this is an opportunity for discussion that he knows we want. At my request, Gwen agreed to explain the curious words and symbols in our hymnal.

Joan Smykowski insisted that we not neglect fun, hence the 5th Sunday Funday. The first one will be an in-house talent show simply for fun, no charge. Please contact me to offer about 3 minutes of your talent--a song, humorous reading, skit, dance, stand-up comedy, instrumental piece and ??? In the AM that day, we'll do a run-through, not a full rehearsal.

Learning to Love, as those of us who attended the first one decided, will initially be a twice-monthly open group with Rev. Mohr facilitating. At some point, there may be a closed group as well.

Anything you want for August? Remember--my crew and I are coordinating, not creating--it's your church community !

Sherry A Wells, Activities Coordinator, [esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net), 248-543-5297

### **Wanted to Purchase**

A gently used exercycle (a stand in place bicycle) to help get some much needed exercise.

Please call if you know of one available.

Sally Borden 313.533.1494



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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

# JULY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Movement Choir 12:30pm - Learning to Love	2	3	4 Happy Birthday Mildred Robinson!	5 Happy Birthday Ruth Seifert!	6	7
8 9:30 am - Mysteries of the Hymnal	9	10	11	12 Happy Birthday Edie McKnight!	13	14
15 9:30am - Movement Choir 12:30pm - Learning to Love	16	17	18 Happy Birthday Walter Greene III!	19	20	21
22 9:30am - Tink-aboutit (with discussion!)	23 Happy Birthday Edward Collins!	24	25 Happy Birthday Stuart Smith!	26	27	28
29 9:30am - Talent Show Run-thru 12:30pm - 5th Sunday Funday Talent Show	30	31				