

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

NOVEMBER EDITION

## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2013-2014

### *Upcoming Sermon Schedule*

November 3

Rev. Roger Mohr

#### **“We Remember Them.”**

This is a season when in many cultures we pause to remember our beloved dead. What are the gifts they left behind for us?

November 10

Rev. Roger Mohr

#### **“The Cosmic Drum.”**

One piece of living in harmony with the Cosmos is learning to feel its rhythm.

November 17

Rev. Roger Mohr

#### **“Faustus: Choice, Choices, and Choosing.”**

Our lives are about the human privilege of choice.



November 24

Danny Rebb

#### **“The Theist In Me.”**

The subject of God rarely comes up in our Unitarian Universalist churches, because God, as that idea is commonly understood, is more confusing than enlightening. To talk about God directly is usually to utter the unutterable, so I can only do it by way of hints and guesses.

December 1

Rev. Roger Mohr

#### **“Transcending the Family.”**

In contemporary life, the family is generally understood as the core of relationship and meaning, but family is not destiny.

December 8

Rev. Roger Mohr

#### **“The Circumspective Perspective.”**

Sometimes we become so focused that we forget to look around.

### Officers

#### President

*Marsha Bruhn*

#### Vice President

*Danny Rebb*

#### Immediate

#### Past President

*Sally Borden*

#### Board Secretary

*Katbe Stevens*

#### Treasurer

*Dan Wiest*

#### Board Members At-Large

*Matt Friedrichs*

*Joan Smykowski*

*Sean McAde*

### Staff

#### Minister

*Rev. Roger Mohr*

#### Music Director

*Todd Ballou*

#### Cantor

*Gwen Foss*

#### Office Admin

*Tamara Halliburton*

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.

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



## *Letter from the President*

I was struck by the October 18, 2013 article in the *Detroit Free Press* on the generosity of former Detroit resident Jeff Adler in providing a total of \$750,000 to seven groups to help in the City's revitalization. The gifts ranged from \$250,000 to Wayne State University's School of Nursing to \$50,000 to the North Rosedale Park Civic Association. As a resident of North Rosedale Park and now heading a major capital campaign to renovate our Community House and grounds, I enjoyed speaking with Jeff about his plans to give back to his community—about setting an example for others to follow, to look back at where they've been and support those who need help.

It reminded me of 1<sup>st</sup> UU as a community that nourishes us, and the many ways in which our members nourish the congregation in return. We may be a small church in terms of membership, but a well-developed web of committees and personnel make Sunday services, evening Vespers, programming and building maintenance possible. At the core of this web is the Board of Trustees, our office and music staff and our minister, but then the web fans out into worship, communications, building and grounds, membership, finance, GLBT relations, development, nominating, hospitality, activities, young adults, and outreach and social justice. Most recently, members tackled the grueling job of cleaning the choir loft, repairing the dangerous flooring, erecting new high efficiency lighting (in the rain!), and trimming trees--many examples of a committed community of church members.

Our continued growth is equipping us for the church's upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration in April 2016. To ensure its success, we will be looking to you, our membership, to provide leadership and input. Colleen Dolan-Greene will be bringing her superb organizational skills as chair of this momentous event.

## *The Rev's Room*

As the autumn weather begins to make itself felt, and the trees show their colors, I am reminded of the natural rhythms and pace of the year. This month we officially begin the holiday season, as Thanksgiving will be upon us before we know it. I am honestly a little impatient with the holiday season. For me it is a time of waiting, when I would much rather be working. During the holidays, meetings become more difficult to arrange, my usual routines and rhythms are disrupted, my regular stops become randomly more crowded or abandoned, and my usual playmates are distracted by other obligations. I like my rhythm and routines, and I don't appreciate having them disrupted.

However, I also recognize that many (perhaps most) people feel that the holidays are better understood more as opportunities to enjoy their lives, or at least as a welcome reprieve from the daily grind. The holidays are about family and friends, social gatherings and festive decorations. They are about sharing and caring, an opportunity to show their love and concern. Those are good things! I second that emotion.

Yet I am mindful that I have only a few weeks left to accomplish my agenda for this calendar year. I am aware of the sand slipping through the hour glass of this year a bit more quickly than I like. The turning leaves are a signal to me to pick up the pace! There is time only for one or two projects before the sand runs out, and the leaves cover the ground. My goal this year is to be ready for the holiday hiatus, in part so that I do not find myself under-prepared or out of position. And in part so that I am emotionally ready to wait it out, with my anxiety under control. I have to work before the year falls down around me!

But I think that the reminder that I am subject also to the laws and limitations of nature and time is the more important point. I need to relax and learn to adjust to the broader rhythms and patterns of our church, our culture(s), our planet, and the universe as a whole. I am willful, and I set a difficult pace - I like it more, better, faster. That may be sustainable for me perhaps, at least for now. But it is not necessarily what is best for others, or even for myself. The fall is a meditation on living in rhythm and harmony with the Cosmos. May we each find our own pace and peace.

Namaste!  
Rev. Mohr



## *Membership Committee*

### Membership Path

Newcomers are always welcome to the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit! We hope that any visitors or friends will consider becoming a member of our church. There is no formal conversion process, so becoming a Unitarian-Universalist is simply a matter of self-identification. Membership is voluntary and does not require renouncing other religious affiliations or practices.

Church membership represents a deeper connection with your faith community. To help you discern whether or not the First Unitarian-Universalist Church membership is right for you, we encourage you to attend a variety of services, join us for activities and attend our Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism session the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. Our next Intro sessions will be held November 3 and December 1, 2013 in the mansion.

We also have a Getting Involved session the fourth Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. One way to deepen your connection, as well as increase your reward as a member of the church, is by active engagement in a church program, activity or committee. Our next Getting Involved sessions are November 24 and December 22, 2013 in the mansion.

A member is a person who:

- Signs the Membership Book
- Makes a monetary pledge of support
- Makes a financial contribution of record

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Please welcome our newest members to the First UU family:

Dale Adcock

Lon Herman

Thomas Layton

## *Membership Committee (continued)*

### When Is It Time To Become A Member?

Unlike many religions, in Unitarian Universalism no higher authority creates a congregation; in fact, a congregation is formed only if people are willing to constitute one. Membership, then, is the heart of our Unitarian Universalist congregational life.

Membership is a dynamic process rather than a single act. It begins when one makes the conscious choice to formally affiliate with a particular congregation—yet that decision marks the beginning of the membership journey rather than its end.

If you have been attending the First UU for awhile, and would like to finally become a member, please contact Joan at [trustee4@1stuu.org](mailto:trustee4@1stuu.org).

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## *Buildings and Grounds*

Isn't it wonderful to see all the new windows on the campus? EMEAC has gone to great lengths to improve our ecological footprint and appearance. These improvements cost \$130,000 to implement. All the windows of the mansions first and second floors were replaced. The windows along the alley in McCollester as well as the window above the ramp were as well. The old windows and frames in McCollester Hall date back to early 1960's. No one knows how old the windows in the mansion are. Many thanks go to the funders who include: Midtown Inc, the Erb Foundation, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC), and member and individual donations. First UU was prominent among the individual donors. All involved look forward to see what effect these changes will have on the upcoming utility bills as well as the positive effects on the environment. Thanks EMEAC!

You may also notice new lighting around the grounds. Dale Compton and Local 58 have acquired excess exterior lights leftover from projects and are installing them free of charge (on the Saturdays) around the buildings. Some of these lights list for \$500 but we are getting them for free. They are energy efficient, diminish light pollution, and enhance safety and security while adding a pleasing, welcoming appearance to our locale at night. Let Dale know how much we appreciate his and Local 58's contributions.



## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **1st UU Board Meetings**

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

|             |               |                |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| November 13 | Memorial Hall | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |
| December 11 | Memorial Hall | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |
| January 8   | Memorial Hall | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |

All are welcome at board meetings. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact Kathe Stevens, Board Secretary at [kathestevens@gmail.com](mailto:kathestevens@gmail.com)

### **Outreach Committee Meeting - November 6th**

The Outreach Committee (formerly the Social Justice Committee) will meet at 7:00 on November 6th. This meeting will be about discussing the issues, organizations, and events we want to support as a church, and how that support will be expressed. Be part of the good work of First Church!

### **Vespers Wednesday**

Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the **2nd** Wednesday each month.

### **Singing Circle**

Wednesdays at **7:00 pm** - Singing Circle at the church. Open to all. Contact Gwen Foss [bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com](mailto:bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com) for more details.

### **Amnesty International**

Amnesty International is a global movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights. Amnesty International meets at 1st UU on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. Contact Dan Wiest for more information.

### **Monthly Young Adults Meeting**

Join young adults from the congregation and beyond to discuss the development of this new social and community group within First UU. They meet on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 in Memorial Hall.

## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **ASCENDANTS!**

Wednesday, November 6 and 20, 6:00 p.m. Introducing the First Church *NEW MEMBERS PROGRAM*. If you have joined the church within the last year or two, and are interested in growing in your spiritual and relational life, we are beginning a new program targeted at helping you to evolve both individually and within the church and larger community. This will be a six session course meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:00, beginning September 18 and ending on December 4. Participation is limited, so please register to be included. Contact Rev. Mohr or Mary Lou Malone for more information.

### **FIRST Sundays: "Intro to First Church."**

Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The New UU class is about offering introductory information about what the church is all about, and it is an important step toward becoming a member. There are two objectives: one is to share information on the UU tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of the Detroit church. Please do attend: We are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us!

### **SECOND Sunday: Welcoming New Members**

This is a normal service, but we also include a time to invite our new members to come forward, present themselves to the community, and sign the membership book. This is an important ceremony honoring those who have chosen to identify themselves with our values, our tradition, and our community. Make them feel welcome among us!

### **SECOND Sunday: Potluck**

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church – share your food with FUUD! As we begin to add new members, it is a good time to share fellowship and nourishment with the people who nourish us, in return. Remember that everything must come and go the day of the event – we have no refrigerator space to keep things beyond the immediate need. If you have dietary concerns (peanut allergies, and such), please do let us know, so that food can be labeled.

### **Sunday Worship Service**

The Worship Committee generally plans for Sunday worship service to run for about 1 hour. However, the Worship Committee does allow our speakers to take a few more minutes if needed to finish their point. So as a general guideline, please plan for Sunday worship services to end between 12:00 and 12:15pm.



## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **Detroit Repertory Theatre Event/1<sup>st</sup> UU Fundraiser!**

Margaret Beck reserved seats on Sunday, Nov. 10th at 2 p.m. at the Detroit Repertory Theatre (with a trip to Traffic Jam afterwards). The play is *Seniors Disobey in A Facility for Living*; tickets are \$15 with the church getting \$5 for each ticket sold. Please call Margaret at 313-882-7775 or email [margretbeck@comcast.net](mailto:margretbeck@comcast.net) if you are interested in purchasing tickets. She will also have tickets available at church. Last spring, we made \$125 on our theatre outing. Thanks for participating!

### **Sunday Social Hour**

First UU would like to thank Collette and Joey Landis for the time they spent with us as our Social Hour help since last November. They have moved on now and you will see Kevin McKinney working Sunday mornings. Welcome Kevin!

Speaking of the Social Hour, ever wonder what goes into preparing Sunday mornings? For many of you, that cup of coffee after the service is a pretty important part. Know that much care goes into the making of it. Tim Bailey is the lead person who does his best to ensure that fresh, quality, organic and fair trade beans are at the forefront of that cup you enjoy. Knowing that the area has newcomers who are used to offerings better than our former percolator selections, Tim has acquired a grinder, drip coffee maker and Bun dispensers to enhance everyone's experience. Contact Tim if you have suggestions to improve the Sunday experience. Contact Kevin if you have complaints.

### **Free Guided Meditation Session at 1st UU**

Sunday, November 10th

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

Isha Foundation, an international, non-profit organization, dedicated to human well-being, is offering a free one-hour guided meditation class to members and guests of the 1st Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit. The meditation, called Isha Kriya, is a simple but powerful mediation that can be learned by anyone 12 years and older and does not require previous meditation or yoga experience or agility. Find Isha Kriya online at [www.bebreathe Blossom.com](http://www.bebreathe Blossom.com)



## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **Jazz Vespers Fundraiser Concert**

November 17th 5pm-8pm - featuring the Metro Jazz Voices. Food and refreshments provided by local businesses - Treats by Angelique and The Bottom Line Coffeehouse. Tickets are available at [fuudjazzvespers.eventbrite.com](http://fuudjazzvespers.eventbrite.com) for \$25 each or \$40 per pair. Contact Sydney Schaaf for more information!

### **Noel Night Is Coming!**

Lots of company is coming! We are expecting a record number of visitors for the 41st Noel Night on Saturday, December 7, 2013. The First UU is working cooperatively with the Cass Commons to ensure a pleasurable and unforgettable evening for our visitors.

We have a full evening of outstanding performances planned for the evening. We will be needing volunteers for ushers and greeters for the evening. More information will be shared as the date get closer.

The Young Adult group is planning on having a coffee cafe in Memorial Hall. For more information contact Matt Friedrichs at [friedrichs.matt@gmail.com](mailto:friedrichs.matt@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about possible sales in McCollister Hall, please contact Kim Sherobbi at 313-478-7610. A decision has not been made regarding sales in McCollister Hall.

If you have an entertainment group that would like to be scheduled at another venue or would like to be informed of another location to sale items, please contact Njia Kai at [njiakai@gmail.com](mailto:njiakai@gmail.com).

If you would like information on marketing and sponsorships, please contact Annmarie Borucki at [aborucki@midtowndetroitinc.org](mailto:aborucki@midtowndetroitinc.org).

If you would like information on food permits, please contact Mark Loeb at [mark@integrityshows.com](mailto:mark@integrityshows.com).



## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **Save the date!**

Friday, November 22, 2013 MUUSJN fundraiser at Northwest UU.

### **Inequality for All Discussion**

The discussion on Inequality for All led by Rhonda Rodgers will be Sunday, November 3, during Coffee Hour.

### **Chancel Flower Donations - 2014 Dates Now Available!**

Our custom for providing flowers for each Sunday service is to have members and friends donate them in honor or memory of a person or event. The signup sheet for donating flowers is in the back of the church (some call it the narthex). 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. Lencha Acker purchases the flowers each Saturday at the Eastern Market and delivers them to church on Sunday. The donor then takes the flowers home to enjoy and returns the vase later. If you have questions, see Lencha Acker after the service or call her at 313-393-8544. Thank You!

### **Acknowledgements**

If you have a milestone or visitor to introduce, please write the message and put it in the visitor-milestone box in the narthex (foyer at back of church) or place it in the plate during the collection of the offering. For your convenience, there are forms at the end of each pew which can be used for this purpose.

### **Reimbursement Policy**

Expenditures made to benefit First UU are not always reimbursable. Budgets have been set for salaries, programming and events and it is important that we stay with the confines of them. If you want to spend money on behalf of First UU and believe it to be a reimbursable item, please seek approval beforehand. Consult a member of the Board who will research it for you. It may determine whether you proceed with your purchase. Many times members will drop off items or donate towards an event and not expect to be reimbursed. An alternative exists for you to receive a signed document from the Treasurer acknowledging your gift that can be applied to your tax return. See Dan Wiest for more information.

# NOVEMBER 2013

| SUN  | MON   | TUE  | WED   | THU  | FRI  | SAT  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>More details on ALL events can be found in the newsletter.</p> <p>Watch for more information on our events during the 41st Annual Noel Night on Saturday, December 7, 2013!</p>   |   |  |   |  |  |  |
| <p>3 11:00am - "We Remember Them."<br/>                     12:30pm - Inequality for All Discussion<br/>                     12:30pm - Intro to First Church</p>   |   |  | <p>6 6:00 pm - ASCEN-DANTS! (New member series)<br/>                     7:00pm - Singing Circle<br/>                     7:00pm - Outreach Committee Meeting</p> | <p>7</p>   | <p>8</p>   | <p>9<br/> <b>Happy Birthday Stephen Young!</b></p>   |
| <p>10 Welcoming New Members<br/>                     11am - "The Cosmic Drum."<br/>                     12:30pm - Potluck<br/>                     1:00pm - Guided Meditation<br/>                     2:00pm - Detroit Repertory Theatre Fundraiser</p> |   | <p>12</p>  | <p>13<br/>                     6:00pm - Vespers<br/>                     7:00pm - Board Meeting<br/>                     7:00pm - Singing Circle</p>              | <p>14<br/> <b>Happy Birthday Carole Hosey!</b></p> | <p>15</p>  | <p>16</p>  |
| <p>17 11:00am - "Faustus: Choice, Choices, and Choosing."<br/>                     12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting<br/>                     5:00pm - Jazz Vespers Fundraiser Concert</p>  | <p>18<br/>                     7:30pm - Amnesty International Meeting</p> | <p>19<br/> <b>Happy Birthday Sharon Mills!</b></p> | <p>20<br/>                     6:00 pm - ASCEN-DANTS! (New member series)<br/>                     7:00pm - Singing Circle</p>                                    | <p>21</p>  | <p>22<br/>                     MUUSJN Fundraiser and Northwest UU. More details to come!</p> | <p>23<br/> <b>Happy Birthday Jerry Williams!</b></p> |
| <p>24 11:00am - "The Theist In Me."<br/>                     12:30 pm - "Getting Involved" at First UU meeting</p>   | <p>25<br/> <b>Happy Birthday Kathie Stevens!</b></p>                      | <p>26</p>  | <p>27<br/>                     7:00pm - Singing Circle</p>  | <p>28</p>  | <p>29</p>  | <p>30</p>  |



**FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF DETROIT**

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

## *Church Announcements*

### **Donation Letters**

It is not unusual for members to generously donate food, appliances, services or other items to First UU and then not ask for reimbursement. Letters may be provided upon request itemizing donations so that they may be taken advantage of for tax purposes. Please provide receipts to the office admin to receive the proper documentation.

### **Message Topics**

Remember, Rev. Mohr is always open to new ideas for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an idea for a sermon, please do feel free to share it.

### **Weekly Order of Service Deadline**

Have an item/event to be included in our weekly Order of Service? We'll do our best to include it, although printed materials have significant space limitations. Send your information to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org) by **4:00 pm Thursday**.

### **December Newsletter Deadline**

Wednesday, November 20th

Next issue covers December 1 - December 31, 2013

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org)