

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

OCTOBER EDITION

## *Upcoming Sermon Schedule*

October 6

Rev. Roger Mohr

### **"Mad Hatter Day."**

Perhaps you didn't know that the character from Alice In Wonderland had an official holiday. But a little madness has its virtues. Feel free to wear your favorite hat!

October 13

Rev. Roger Mohr

### **"InterBeing: An Urban Eco-Spirituality."**

How can we tie our concern with our relationship to the Earth to our relationships to one another, our community, and the Cosmos?



October 20

Rev. Roger Mohr

### **"Global Grace."**

As a world power and global citizen, how can the United States best express its role in the world?

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?

## **FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2013-2014**

### **Officers**

#### **President**

*Marsha Bruhn*

#### **Vice President**

*Danny Rebb*

#### **Immediate**

#### **Past President**

*Sally Borden*

#### **Board Secretary**

*Kathe 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*

Rev. Mohr reported to the Board of Trustees at its September 11, 2013 meeting that there is increased energy in the congregation. I can certainly feel it. On a recent Sunday, a young man from Royal Oak who had dropped in the Sunday before liked it enough to not only return but brought a friend who he happened to see in the area just before the service. Both were still at the social hour when I left, and I could feel the energy emanating from the young adults' table.

I can feel that same energy when I hear about the good results from Dally in the Alley and the strong interest 1<sup>st</sup> UU's booth attracted from attendees who were drawn by the dual incentives of free water and a massage. And, hey, here's some literature on the church. Great thinking on Joan Smykowski's part! But let's not forget Tim Bailey, Sean McAde and Dan Wiest (and probably others I've missed) who set up, manned the booth, and monitored the parking lot.

And what about fundraising? Before we knew it, the Development Committee had a plan for the year, beginning with an energizing Jazz Vespers concert on November 17. Kathe Stevens and Sidney Schaff already have a crew of volunteers. What I like is their commitment to allocate a percentage of the funds raised to begin to replenish the Trust, something that hasn't happened in a long time.

Our goal to expand and deepen the church's relationships with the broader community has taken off with a new Outreach Committee under Joel Batterman's leadership. Lots of opportunity there, so see Joel if you're interested in participating.

We'll have more to report on shortly on the future of the Prentis parking lot and the return of child care during the service. Thank you, everyone, for your energy and support!

Marsha Bruhn

## *The Rev's Room*

Right now, to me, it seems like our church and our city are both in full transformation, changing so fast it is difficult to even keep up, much less understand. I am amazed at the transformation of both of these communities, as new energy flows through us, and as we experience the thrills and chills of our renaissance. Who knows where all of this may lead? I find that I am sometimes somewhat at a loss.

That is part of what is so exciting to me about serving First Church during this period. I am continuously challenged to learn and adapt in my roles, as minister and as resident. My philosophy has shifted a great deal, and I am seeing that there is little aside from a foundational evolution of consciousness that might have a hope of successfully changing the course the world is currently on. But at the same time, I also recognize that from where we are now, the most meaningful action will be on the level more local or even personal action.

This is the point that really inspires me. If what is required is a change in consciousness, and that the level of action remains the local and the personal, perhaps the most critical action is the transformation of our own consciousness. In my ministry, the critical transformation is a transformation of my own consciousness. To intentionally and mindfully evolve one's own way of being is the foundational revolutionary act!

Thus, my challenge right now is to evolve quickly enough to lead you. My own spirituality must be an expression of my own commitment to the revolution of consciousness which may form the basis of foundational change. I have to evolve spiritually in order to be part of the revolution, the evolution of human being. We have the opportunity to create something new together, but we have scarcely even begun. I have to find my own way forward to be of service in that process. Perhaps that is part of your calling, as well. I am grateful to be part of this church and this city at this time!

Namaste! Rev. Mohr



## *Church Announcements and Events*

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

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

October 9	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
November 13	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
December 11	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)

### **Chancel Flower Donations**

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!

### **Entertainment Books – Church Fundraiser**

Margaret Beck has Entertainment books for sale! They are \$25 with the church earning \$5 for each book sold. We also get 2 free books worth \$50 after she sells 15 books. There are many great values in the Entertainment book - restaurants, activities, stores, hotels, car rentals, etc. They make great gifts. Please call Margaret Beck at 313 882 7775.

### **"Getting Involved" at First UU**

The Membership Committee would like to invite any visitors, friends or members to a "Getting Involved" meeting Sunday, October 27th at 12:30 pm. You will have the opportunity to find out more about the programs, activities and committees of the First UU. Meet the chairs and leaders of the various programs, activities and committees of the church. The "no pressure" meeting will be held in the mansion. If you can't make it on October 27th, we'll be "Getting Involved" on November 24th at 12:30 pm.

Any questions? Please see Joan Smykowski.

## *Church Announcements and Events*

**ASCENDANTS!** Wednesday, October 2 and 16, 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.

### **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.

### **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 by **4:00 pm Thursday**.





## *Pictures*



Kathe and Glenn visit Eiko

What subliminal message is  
Joan trying to spread?



Sean and Eric mind  
the Prentis lot for Dally in the  
Alley

## Pictures

Maysel, Robert and Kathleen  
speak with Tabitha from UU  
Brighton at Dally



Joel waiting for converts to  
arrive



Tim strangely not in motion.  
Massage therapists were added  
as a successful drawing card at  
the booth this year.







## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **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.

### **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 bookdoc-torgwen@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.

### **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.

### **1st UU Walking/Running Team**

Rev. Mohr is interested in starting a team of walkers and runners to participate in local races. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Mohr.

### **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.



# OCTOBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 pm - ASCENDANTS! (New member series) 7:00pm - Singing Circle <b>Happy Birthday Earl Harvey!</b>	3	4 <b>Happy Birthday Donna Walker!</b>	5
6 11:00am - "Mad Hatter Day." 12:30pm - Intro to First Church <b>Happy Birthday Robert Lauer!</b>	7 <b>Happy Birthday Nora Holt!</b>	8	9 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	10	11	12
13 Welcoming New Members 11am - "InterBeing: An Urban Eco-Spirituality." 12:30pm - Potluck	14	15	16 6:00 pm - ASCENDANTS! (New member series) 7:00pm - Singing Circle	17	18 <b>Happy Birthday Judith Waterman!</b>	19
20 11:00am - "Global Grace." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting	21 7:30pm - Am-nesty International Meeting <b>Happy Birthday Sherry</b>	22	23 7:00pm - Singing Circle	24	25	26 <b>Happy Birthday Yvonne Ham!</b>
27 11:00am - Sermon information is TBA 12:30 pm - "Getting Involved" at First UU meeting	28	29 <b>Happy Birthday Ruth Harvey!</b>	30 7:00pm - Singing Circle	31		



**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*

### **Bicyclists of the world...**

Hats off to the increasing number of bicyclists attending functions at First UU. Please don't spoil our ability to condescendingly look down upon our auto-addicted brethren with less than careful choices in where we park and lock our bikes. Please do not bring bikes inside the buildings where it may block access or cause egress problems (especially for the disabled). When parking outside, please do not place the bike on the inside of the ramp. The outside of the ramp is fine as long as it does not block through-ways. Until more permanent facilities are provided, it is suggested that we use the playground for our parking space. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **1st UU Church 100th Anniversary!**

Faye Colling would like our church members and friends to be thinking ahead about plans for a celebration for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> UU Church at Cass and Forest in 2016. This should be an event of such importance that we include Unitarians from the Boston General Assembly and involve people of city and state government as notable speakers.

### **November Newsletter Deadline**

Sunday, October 20th

Next issue covers November 1 - November 30, 2013

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

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