

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

MARCH EDITION

Investing in the Future at First UU

For almost 100 years, the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit has been an active part of the community. As with the City of Detroit, our Church is now experiencing growth and new energy. We want to continue growing as a relevant church community. We are asking our church family to invest in the future at First UU, by being part of the 2014-2015 pledge campaign: Investing in the Future at First UU.

During February and March, we will be conducting a listening campaign. We want your input and ideas. Please take the time to participate and share your observations, concerns and dreams for the church. Your input is very important.

The 2014-2015 pledge campaign will be starting with house canvas meetings. We are inviting all members and friends of the First UU to attend at least one house canvas meeting in March-April 2014. At the canvas meetings, we will be discussing:

- The financial realities of our church,
- The programs and activities we would like to accomplish in the next fiscal year and
- Answer any questions that you may have.

The four canvas meetings will be held at homes of the congregation members. We ask that you attend one meeting, which is near your home or work. The meetings will be held on the following dates and places:

- ◇ Thursday, March 13, 2014, 7-9 pm, Nancy Owen Nelson and Roger Zeigler's home, 2211 Golfview, Dearborn. Please RSVP at zigrtrd@aol.com or 313-914-3475 by March 9, 2014. Limit 10 guests.

(continued on next page)

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2013-2014

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

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

Investing in the Future at First UU

- ◇ Sunday, March 16, 2014, 6-8 pm, Kathe Stevens and Glenn Maxwell's home, 443 W. Hancock Street, Detroit. Please RSVP at 313-675-1553 or kathestevens@gmail.com. Deadline March 14, 2014. Limit 10 guests.
- ◇ Saturday, March 29, 2014, 5-7 pm, Marilyn and Jerry Mitchell's home, 140 Edison Street, Detroit. Please RSVP at 313-867-8960 or mitchell140@comcast.net. Limit 16 guests.
- ◇ Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 6-8 pm, Sharlene Gage's home, 1300 E. Lafayette St., Apt. 1202, Detroit. Please RSVP at shargage@gmail.com or 313-393-8502. Deadline April 4, 2014. Limit 15 guests.

It's important that you attend, so you will know about the present and future plans for First UU. One hundred years ago, previous Church members made an investment which we are still benefiting. We want to do the same for future generations. Please pick a canvas meeting, attend, participate and decide your most comfortable level of giving for the next year.

We look forward to seeing you at one of canvas meetings in March or April.

Church Announcements and Events

Planning for the Prentis Parking Lot

The Board of Trustees has approved a short-term, six-month agreement with a neighboring business, Motor City Brewing (MCB), for their lease of ten spaces in First UU's Prentis parking lot, beginning February 15, 2014. This will allow the church to earn some revenue while finalizing a longer-term strategy for improvements, management, usage, signage, and maintenance of the lot. In the interim, the remainder of the lot will be available for the use of EMEAC and the congregation, as it is now. The Board is also taking action to deal with the number of people who are parking illegally in the lot.

Sanctuary Clean-up Day

Join us on Saturday, March 1 to help spruce up the Sanctuary for the Choir Fest. Floors, pews, risers, Tim Bailey: all of these items need at least some freshening up if not downright scouring (Scouring? Scourging? They seem so similar. It's easy to see how one might get confused.) The action officially starts at 8:00. Gloves, buckets, sponges and rags would be welcome. See Dale Compton for more information.

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

March 2

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Race, Class, and a New Consensus.”

The issues that we struggle with in regional Detroit need initiatives that can reach across lines of race, class, and community.

March 9

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The Significance of Herstory.”

March is Women’s History Month. A woman who treats her life story as being of general human significance is much more likely to treat herself as worthy of care and respect. Readings by Nancy Owen Nelson.

March 16

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Ubuntu, Interdependence, and the Soul.”

Often, religious thought focuses on selfless love. But perhaps our relationships are better understood in terms of Dr. King’s Network of Mutuality.

March 23:

“The Feminist in Me.”

In recognition of Women's History Month, Nancy Owen Nelson and other members of First UU will discuss the notion of feminism in their lives.

March 30

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Trans-Humanism: Humanity and Technology.”

Humanity is increasingly dependent on technology. But perhaps that is the foundation of future evolution.

April 6

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The Center of the Universe.”

A central challenge in social justice is the experience of alienation and despair. How do we experience spiritual renewal?



President's Letter

It wasn't too long ago that a friend asked me why I had "returned" to First UU. My first thought was, "Well, I never really left" even though there were many years when I was working long hours and became one of the "those people" who mainly showed up at Christmas and Easter. I certainly didn't leave in terms of pledging, and I certainly didn't leave in terms of feeling connected to this church. It was there on my medical records, on my Christmas card list, in conversations with friends, in the way in which I viewed life. "I'm a Unitarian and I go to the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Detroit."

But the question intrigued me because I not only started attending regularly a couple of years ago but found myself being drawn first onto the Board and then into my current role as president. I think the answer for me lies in reconnecting with a tradition that stretches back to the Episcopalian days of my youth and the Church of the Transfiguration in Buffalo attended religiously by my family each Sunday – the majesty of the organ, familiar hymns, lit candles, responsive readings, meditation, the message from the pulpit. My mother thoughtfully preserved the prayer book I carried as a teenager, and when I look at it now and then (as I have done just at this moment of writing) I'm captivated not by the book itself but by her handwritten note tucked just inside the cover reminding me and all the world of our connections to each other and to another time.

Which brings me to the listening campaign, an initiative to foster stronger relationships within the church and help get a better idea of what we as First UU's care the most about. As we connect and reconnect in one-on-one conversations over the next month, the hope is that we will emerge with a clearer idea of the strength of our congregation. You should be getting a call soon from one of the listeners, if you haven't already – Bill McKnight, Edie McKnight, Marilyn Mitchell, Joel Batterman, Corinne Streicher, Mary Lou Malone, Sharon Mills or Alayna Ohneck. I'm already scheduled for March 5. I expect a growing connectedness from this experience as we look to the future.

Marsha Bruhn

The Rev's Room

As I write this, I am working through the second week of my two weeks of doctoral course intensives. This is my last intensive session before I begin the research and writing to perform my doctoral project. I think I have learned a great deal. I am prepared to develop a program of spiritual growth based on both a multi-dimensional soul and on personal differences. Look for a new Ascendants course to be announced for the beginning of April.

However, this session has been particularly important to me, as it has helped me to see more clearly a path to address some of the deeper philosophical issues with which I have been struggling. I have had two main courses: Social Justice, and Interfaith Activism. I have been surprised that they have informed one another, and offered me insight into some ways to approach what I have seen as some of the more intractable problems in my ministry in Detroit.

One of the main challenges I have perceived in doing social justice in Detroit has been the difficulty of crossing lines of race and class to engage in sincere community building beyond Midtown/Downtown. The social justice class helped me to see that the real problem here is that such an outreach cannot be understood in terms of charity or condescension, but rather as part of building Dr. King's "beloved community." However, the concept of Christian outreach has "charity" at its very heart, an assumption of moral and material superiority. Instead, "Ubuntu" must be central, the idea that we build up the community as a mutual and reciprocal act of empowerment. Charity carries the fallen, as they are too weak to carry themselves. Ubuntu lifts them to their feet to walk together with us. But it also expects that they will walk.

The second is the idea that interfaith activism is the voice of religion as acting as an advocate for the people as a whole, not simply the adherents of one's own faith. Religion should not serve as a sectarian voice, representing only the members of one's own group, but as a means of addressing structures of power as the champion and defender of those who do not hold sufficient power to be heard as individuals. Religion speaks for the rights of ALL the people. The goal is to build consensus across the artificial lines that divide us, to focus on our shared humanity and shared biosphere. Who shall speak for the people in a world in which the government exists at least as much to prevent meaningful public discourse and positive action as to serve the public good? Religion can, if we choose to reach across religious lines to join people together.

Those two ideas, taken together, set a new agenda for me upon my return. My intention is to begin to reach across lines of race, class, and religion, to build a broad network of cooperative and collaborative relationships throughout SE Michigan and western Ontario. The time has come for us to build the beloved community. But that community is not just Detroit, not just midtown, certainly not just the church. If we are to make meaningful change, we must enlarge our vision of both our faith and our community. Let the Beloved Community begin, but not end, with us.

Namaste.
Rev. Mohr



Membership Committee News

Membership Anniversaries

March 1968-2013

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

2013 (1 year)

Tim Bailey

Joel Batterman

Eric Cortright

Richard Hillier

Sydney Schaaf

Joan Smykowski

Corinne Streicher

The following individuals became members of the First UU of Detroit in March 1968-2013. Our Church thanks them for their contributions of time, talent and treasure.

1968 (46 years)

Kenneth Meyer

1969 (45 years)

Nora Holt

Edie McKnight

1981 (33 years)

Colleen Dolan-Greene

Trey (Walter) Greene

George Waterman

Judith Waterman

1991 (23 years)

Lee Thume

1993 (21 years)

Glenn Maxwell

2003 (11 years)

Sharlene Gage

2009 (5 years)

Kathleen Johnson

Robert Johnson

The Journey To Membership

Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism

The decision to become a Unitarian-Universalist is a personal decision. If you feel you would like to know more about our church community, please join us for the Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism session on March 2, 2014, at 12:30 pm. The session will be held in Memorial Hall/ mansion after Coffee Hour.

Signing the Membership Book

If the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, feels like a place you'd like to be a member, our next Membership Book signing will be March 9, 2014, during the worship service. If you do not want to sign the book during the service, arrangements can be made for a personal signing. Please let Rev. Mohr or Joan Smykowski know of your intention.

Membership Committee News (continued)

Getting Involved

The First UU of Detroit offers a variety of activities, groups and committees for new friends and members to become involved in. By becoming involved, your commitment to the church will be enhanced. We will not be having a Getting Involved session in March 2014. Our next Getting Involved session will be April 27, 2014, at 12:30 pm, in Memorial Hall. Please plan to join us.

Responsibilities of Membership

Signing the Membership Book is part of being a member of First UU. Additionally, members must complete pledge sheet and make a contribution of record. If giving cash, please write your name on the offering envelope.

Church Directories

The January 2014 Church Directory may be purchased for \$2 each. Please see Kathe Stevens or Joan Smykowski to purchase a copy.

Membership Committee Needs 1-2 More

Worker Bees

The Membership Committee plans to kick-off soon. If you are a worker bee, and would like to be part of the committee, please see Joan Smykowski or contact her at joan.smykowski@gmail.com.

Remembering First UU in Your Will

No one likes to talk about, but taxes and death are certain. Please consider asking with your lawyer or tax consultant about putting the First UU in your will. Let's continue to invest in the future at Cass and Forest.

Greeters are Great

Unitarian Universalists take pride in practicing radical hospitality. While other aspects of congregational life can vary, our congregations are all welcoming places for newcomers.

From the UUA website

The following individuals have volunteered as greeters who displayed radical hospitality between January-February 2014. Thank you!

Lencha Acker

Beth Bailey

Sally Borden

Marsha Bruhn

Paul Chislett

Colleen Dolan Greene

Eric Cortright

Trey Greene

Glenn Maxwell

Marilyn Mitchell

Alayna Olneck

Dan Wiest

Sherry A. Wells



Activities Coordinator

Linda Darga and I will have started a monthly Fourth Sunday Films at 1 p.m. If you have a DVD film you think would be appreciated in that setting, contact me.

You've likely noticed that most of the activities I list in the insert of the Order of Service (which is available online at the website, by the way, in case you miss a Sunday) are either at the church or in Midtown.

Recently, I've been at film/lecture events at the Charles H. Wright African-American Museum. Another woman and I have befriended (face-to-face!) each other. She said if it weren't for that museum and the D.I.A., she'd leave Detroit.

We have three draws--1st UU, too. But please check out those other two. Second Sundays are always free and film/lectures are often free at the Wright Museum. The DIA admission is free to residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. The fabulous DIA film series is separate and does charge but discount coupons are available.

Only occasionally do I see someone from our church community and I know what you're missing. Plus when others of us are there, passersby have overheard us mentioning 1st UU with positive excitement. Or we can introduce fellow congregants when we're with other friends, giving them more than only our feedback about our wonderful religious community.

Did you know?...The African-American Museum is the largest one in the world? That it is owned and operated in a partnership with Detroit, and yes, the bankruptcy is affecting it, too. So donations are welcome.

But, at least, join and get in free other than 2nd Sundays : Regular \$35, Senior (62+) \$15, etc. See <https://thewright.org/support/membership> for a long list of fringe benefits for doing so, including 20% off meals at Union Street.

Sherry A Wells
esperantosherry@tm.net
248-543-5297

Renew Reunite Rejoice!

UU Choir Festival 10 choirs : 150 voices



1st UU Church of Ann Arbor
1st UU Church of Detroit
Birmingham Unitarian Church
Emerson Church U-U
Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
New Hope UU Congregation
Northwest U-U Church
Paint Creek U-U Congregation
U-U Church of Olinda
UU Church of Farmington

Sunday, March 9, 3 pm
Complimentary Reception to Follow

At 1st UU Church of Detroit
4605 Cass Ave, Detroit 48201 at the corner of W. Forest Ave.

*** Safe, secure, parking***

<http://1stuu.org/parking.html>

Carpooling is encouraged - \$4.00 per car

**With Special Guest
Naomi Long Madgett,
Detroit Poet Laureate**

**There will be a voluntary collection
to defray Festival expenses**



Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

March 12	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
April 9	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
May 14	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

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.

Mark your calendars and support your choir...

On *Sunday March 9th at 3 pm*, our church will host "Renew Reunite and Rejoice" a choir festival with 10 UU choirs and about 150 voices from southeastern Michigan and Ontario. As the host choir, we need volunteers and donations. You can volunteer via email at choirfest@1stUU.org or call Dan Secrest at 580-7082. This a major undertaking and a chance to showcase how much we love our UU church in Detroit. We know you'll all come through for us...and our guests.

Budget Requests from Committees

The Board asks that the standing committees submit their budget requests to Treasurer Dan Wiest for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. This often serves as an opportunity to make plans for what your committee would like to accomplish as well as to see what is within our means.

Marche du Nain Rouge

The Marche will pass by the church again in hopes of banishing the Red Dwarf from our fair city once and for all on Sunday March 23 around 1:00ish. Will First UU aid in this endeavor? All is not as it seems. Come to an organizing meeting on Sunday, March 2 at 12:30 in McColleston Hall and learn more. The game is on.

La Marche passera par l'église de nouveau dans l'espoir de bannir le Nain Rouge de notre belle ville une fois pour toutes le dimanche 23 Mars autour de 1:00 ish. Premiers soins UU dans ce s'efforcera? Tout n'est pas comme il semble. Venez à organiser une réunion le dimanche 9 Mars à 12h30 dans la Salle commémorative en savoir plus. Le jeu est sur.

Church Announcements and Events

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.

Vespers Wednesday

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

Singing Circle

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

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.

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.



Church Announcements and Events

Upcoming Changes for Social Hour

In order to economize and have continuity, we will be asking church members and friends to bring items for "coffee hour" all Sundays except Potluck Sundays. This will be in addition to the items the church will be supplying.

We will be asking each person to bring items once or twice a year, so that no one has to do too much. So when you get a call to bring cookies, cheese & crackers, and/or veggies, please step up if you can.

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 suggested donation of \$20 is negotiable if your situation requires. Lencha Acker purchases the flowers each Saturday at Eastern Market and brings them to church. The donor takes the flowers home to enjoy and returns the vase later. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, see Tamara after service or send her an email. Thank You!

Acknowledgements

If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce during a worship service, please write the message on one of the index cards which can be found in the backs of the pews, and place the card in the offering basket during the collection. Milestones and visitor names will be passed to the minister for sharing with the congregation as part of our closing circle.

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.

MARCH 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 11:00am - "Race, Class, and a New Consensus." 12:30pm - Intro to First Church	3	4 Happy Birthday Cynthia ZurSchmiede!	5 7:00pm - Singing Circle	6	7 Happy Birthday Janet Thompson!	8
9 Welcoming New Members 11:00am - "The Significance of Herstory." 12:30pm - Potluck 3:00pm - UU Choir Festival	10	11 Happy Birthday Anarosa Mendoza-King!	12 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	13	14	15
16 11:00am - "Ubuntu, Interdependence, and the Soul." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting	17 7:30pm - Amnesty International Meeting	18	19 7:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday Linda Darga!	20	21	22
23 11:00am - "Trans-Humanism: Humanity and Technology."	24	25	26 7:00pm - Singing Circle	27	28 Happy Birthday James Harvey!	29 Happy Birthday Lencha Acker!
30 11:00am - "The Center of the Universe."	31 Happy Birthday Janice Berry!					



**FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF DETROIT**

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI
48201

Please visit us at www.1stuu.org,
email us at info@1stuu.org, or give
us a call at (313) 833-9107.

Church Announcements

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 by **12:00 pm Thursday**.

April Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, March 20th

Next issue covers April 1 - April 30, 2014

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org