

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

SEPTEMBER 2015

## *Upcoming Sermon Schedule*

September 6:  
Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray  
"A Theology of Work"

On the Labor Day weekend, we often forget why indeed we celebrate the American labor movement and the social and economic achievements of workers. In Detroit, a city synonymous with American labor, it is important to recognize how industry has affected American sensibilities regarding community and identity, and how communities of faith have been shaped, changed, and transformed by these shifts in society.

September 13:  
Aurora Harris  
"Black Lives Matter"

Acclaimed Detroit poet, Aurora Harris, is the winner of a 2015 National Lawyer's Guild-Michigan Chapter Unsung Heroes Award, the 2014 Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award in Peace Studies and the 2012 PEN-Oakland Josephine Miles Award for her book of poetry *Solitude of Five Black Moons*. She holds an M.A. in Social Foundations of Education from Eastern Michigan University. Ms Harris is a Lecturer at The University of Michigan-Dearborn teaching English and African American Literature courses. This year, Ms. Harris attended a #BlackLivesMatter conference in Cleveland, Ohio. She will give us an update and express her personal reflections on the movement.

September 20:  
Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray  
"A Dream of Peace"

On the day before the United Nation's International Day of Peace, it is important to ask why there is this annual demarcation. What might we consider to be the basis of conversations on peace, and what resources might we bring to bear in considering peace? Of particular interest is how forgiveness is involved in our dream of peace.

September 27:  
Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray  
"Friendships with the Religious Other"

Encountering the "religious other" is a constant in a cosmopolitan society, especially when one takes on the identity of Unitarian-Universalism in the city, where one throws one's arms wide open to all who would come, from wherever they would come. Perhaps the most important way that we can know another person is through friendship, and in this sermon, we will explore the joys, the burdens, the challenges, and the triumphs of inter-religious friendships.

## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2014-2015

### Officers:

#### President

*Kathe Stevens*

#### Vice President

*Paul Chislett*

#### Immediate Past President

*Marsba Bruhn*

#### Board Secretary

*Danny Rebb*

#### Treasurer

*Dan Wiest*

#### Board Members At- Large

*Joel Batterman*

*Matt Friedrichs*

*Sydney Schaaf*

*Dave Vaillencourt*

### Staff:

#### Interim Minister

*Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler  
Murray*

#### Music Director

*Todd Ballou*

#### Office Administrator

*Alexis Mitchell*

#### Social Hour

#### Coordinator

*Alyssa Bond*

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

## *Letter from the President...*

### **Letter from your Board President, Kathe Stevens:**

Greetings to the First UU Detroit community!

Our new interim minister, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, was joyfully welcomed to his first day in the pulpit on August 23. I'm looking forward to the future with Rev. Murray delivering our message of liberal religion.

The launch of the UUA website template testing program for congregations has been delayed by a few weeks. Dan Secrest and Aletha Oberdier stand ready to participate when the UUA gives us the call. We'll keep you updated in future newsletter articles.

As our Music Director, Todd Ballou, announced at the August 23 worship service, the "Singing the Journey" hymnal fundraiser is progressing. Look for more information on page 7 of this newsletter and in our Sunday orders of service.

Please take a moment to say hello to our new Social Hour Coordinator, Alyssa Bond, who began working with us on August 30.

The centennial of our building is quickly approaching. Colleen Dolan-Greene, Danny Rebb and I have met to plan our celebrations. I'm so excited and I know you will be too! When we have some concrete information about festivities for the April 2016 centennial, we'll be passing them on to you.

EMEAC held a Leadership Transition Celebration event at the Cass Commons. Over the past few months the EMEAC board and the current Executive Director (Diana Copeland) have developed a planned leadership transition passing leadership onto Darryl Jordan, Siwatu-Salama Ra, and William Copeland. I attended the celebration, as did Lencha Acker, who is First Church's representative on the EMEAC board. The event was dazzling with food and entertainment. Lencha and I gave hugs to our old EMEAC friends, Diana, Kim Sherrobi and Dee Collins. We introduced ourselves to the new board members and were greeted with messages of collaboration. Congratulations to Darryl, Siwatu and Will!

Your webmaster and Communications Committee mastermind, Dan Secrest, has presented proposals to the board to modernize our ability to collect donations, to communicate more efficiently and effectively internally, to increase outreach to the greater community via social media, and to make a directory of church members more accessible while maintaining privacy. The board considered all Dan's suggestions at its August 19 meeting and is moving forward to see how we may accomplish these goals. We're chugging along at moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

I'm so excited to be part of this community!

best ... *Kathe*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the truth | Radiate kindness | Love courageously

## What Have You Heard About Unitarian Universalism?

Perhaps you've hear that Unitarian-Universalists can believe anything they want. This is simply not true.

Unitarian-Universalism is a faith without a creed. This means that Unitarian-Universalists are encouraged to question and explore what is not known to them-such as what God is, or what happens after we die. The answers are not dictated.

## Why I Became a Unitarian- Universalist

I chose to become a member of 1st UU Detroit because my personal theology of being a Panentheistic Neopagan Humanist with Judeo-Christian roots tempered with a healthy dose of Agnosticism fit right in.

Our congregation welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities was a huge factor for me as well.

Danny Rebb

## Intro to First Church

All Friends and Visitors are Welcome to Attend

Are you new to the Church, or just interested in learning more about our Church and tradition? The Intro to First Church session is about offering introductory information about Unitarian-Universalism and is an important step toward becoming a member. At the session information is shared about the UU tradition as a whole, and there is focus on the history and traditions of the Detroit Church.

If you are interested in attending, please join us on September 6 or October 4 or November 1, 2015 at 12:30 pm. The session is usually held in the "mansion." For more information please contact Regina Weiss at [regina.hollingshead@gmail.com](mailto:regina.hollingshead@gmail.com).

## New Member Sundays

A monthly celebration of the new members who have signed the Membership Book is held the second Sunday of each month, after the service. Upcoming dates are:

September 13, 2015 October 11, 2015

November 8, 2015 December 13, 2015

For more information, please contact Regina Weiss at [regina.a.weiss@gmail.com](mailto:regina.a.weiss@gmail.com).

## *Thank You to First UU Greeters and Collectors*

Thank you, for making First Church a welcoming place for everyone!

Lencha Acker  
Tim Bailey  
Sally Borden  
Dale Compton  
Paul Chislett  
Anita Jones

Bill McKnight  
Edie McKnight  
Nancy Owen Nelson  
Danny Rebb  
Sydney Schaaf  
Joan Smykowski

Kathe Stevens  
Regina Weiss  
Sherry A. Wells  
Dan Wiest

To volunteer please contact Glenn Maxwell,  
[detroitglenn@gmail.com](mailto:detroitglenn@gmail.com).

## Important Upcoming Membership Dates

### September 2015

September 6, 12:30 pm, **Intro to First Church**

September 13, after the Service, **Membership Book Signing**

### October 2015

October 2015, **Ushers and Collectors are Needed**

October 4, 12:30 pm, **Intro to First Church**

October 11, after the Service, **Membership Book Signing**

October 18, 12:30 pm, **Getting Involved Session**

### November 2015

November 2015, **Ushers and Collectors are Needed**

November 1, 12:30 pm, **Intro to First Church**

November 8, after the Service, **Membership Book Signing**

*Membership Committee Contact Information*

To volunteer as a greeters and/or collectors, please contact Glenn Maxwell at [detroitglenn@gmail.com](mailto:detroitglenn@gmail.com).

Attending Intro to First UU and Getting Involved Sessions, please contact Regina Weiss at [regina.a.weiss@gmail.com](mailto:regina.a.weiss@gmail.com).



**CLF**

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation Without Walls

Traveling, moving or just life changes, may prevent many of us to be part of a traditional Unitarian-Universalist Church. Our first choice is to be a member of First UU, but sometimes that's difficult. You may want to consider becoming a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF).

The CLF is the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls. Our 3,500 members, with their children, live all over the world. What brings us together is the desire to connect, seek, share and grow. You are welcome here whether you are a CLF member or not.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship has a rich and interesting history beginning back in the days of the Pony Express, when circuit riders brought tracts from the Unitarian "Post Office Mission" to the ranches and farms in the west.

The story of the CLF begins with the human quest for religious fellowship and freedom across daunting frontiers of geographical, social, and spiritual separation. It is a story about the determination to share Unitarian and Universalist faith, and the evolution of a new paradigm for a "church without walls." Such are the roots and the visions of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, then and now.

For more information, about the Church of the Larger Fellowship please visit: <http://www.questformeaning.org/clfuu/about/>.

## Volunteer Ushers and Collectors are Needed

First UU is a welcoming congregation, because of our commitment to welcome all visitors, friends and members. Please take the time to check your calendar to volunteer as an usher or collector. Prior experience is not needed. You may sign up directly, by going to <http://www.1stuu.org/Worship/worship.php> or contacting Glenn Maxwell at [detroitglenn@gmail.com](mailto:detroitglenn@gmail.com).

## *Church Announcements and Events*

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

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

September 9	Parlor, 1st UU ( <b>location change</b> )	7:00 - 9:00 pm
October 14	Whole Foods	7:00 - 9:00 pm

All are welcome at board meetings. This month we'll meet in the Parlor at church; most meetings are at Whole Foods, located at 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact Danny Rebb, Board Secretary, at [secretary@1stuu.org](mailto:secretary@1stuu.org).

### **Vespers Wednesday**

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

### **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 Sundays: "Welcoming New Members."**

This is a regular 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.

### **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.

## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **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.

### **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.

### **Young Adults Activities**

The first UU Young Adults group participates in two activities per month. To learn find out about upcoming Young Adults activities, visit us on Facebook at: [groups/young1stuu/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/) or contact Beth Bailey to be join our Google Group.

### **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 would like to signup, please visit the signup sheet on our website at [1stuu.org/Worship/worship.php](http://1stuu.org/Worship/worship.php), see Alexis after the service, or send an email to [webmaster@1stuu.org](mailto:webmaster@1stuu.org)!

### **Care Committee**

The Care Committee addresses pastoral cares of our church community. It is chaired by Nancy Owen Nelson. Other members are Sally Borden, Edie McKnight, and Nathan Strickland. Please contact Nancy Owen Nelson, [nlnan@aol.com](mailto:nlnan@aol.com) or call her at 313-914-3475, if you would like a member of our Care Committee to reach out to you in a time of need.



## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **2015 Congregation Planning Meeting Invitation**

The Board is pleased to announce that there will be a congregational planning meeting open to all church members on October 10. This planning meeting will be an opportunity for you to help shape our activities and allocate our volunteer resources for 2016. Your voice is needed to continue the growth of our church and our faith. Please plan to attend.

The meeting will be held on October 10, 2015 from 9:30 am to noon. The planning meeting will be held at Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp. main office - 19800 Grand River (just east of Evergreen, north side of street, at Bretton Drive). There is parking behind the building, on the street, and in the Auto Zone parking lot next to the office.

In order to plan for space and refreshments, you must register to attend by October 4, 2015. You may email your attendance to [Deanna.mcgraw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Deanna.mcgraw@sbcglobal.net), call Deanna at 586-202-5241, or sign-up with Deanna at coffee hour starting August 30, 2016.



### **1<sup>st</sup> UU Church initiates “Singing the Journey” Project in September!**

As your music director, I am pleased to announce an effort to fund-raise and purchase our newest hymnal supplement titled “Singing the Journey.” It contains many of our favorite songs including: *Blue Boat Home*, *Woyaya*, *Lean On Me*, and *When the Spirit Says Dance*. These books will be permanently marked to honor the centennial of our building in 2016, as well as personal dedications. At coffee hour, during September and October, you will have the opportunity to purchase a hymnal and dedication for \$20 each. In addition we are offering reduced \$10 dedications for those who need it, while also soliciting sponsor donations of \$5 to cover the cost of the reduced donations for those who can. Online donations are also expected to become available. Our fundraising effort will culminate in a music concert and sing-a-long to celebrate our new repertoire of songs. For more information, email the committee at [hymnal@1stuu.org](mailto:hymnal@1stuu.org) , or speak with Todd Ballou after the service or by phone [\(734\) 276-2110](tel:7342762110)

## *Church Announcements and Events*

### **Dally in the Alley**

First UU will be continuing its tradition of having an information table at the Dally in the Alley ([www.dallyinthealley.com](http://www.dallyinthealley.com)) on Saturday, September 12 from 11-6. The Dally is one of the neighborhood's highlight events of the year and serves as an opportunity for outreach to prospective supporters and reconnecting with old friends. An organizational meeting will be held after Social Hour on Sunday, August 30 at 12:30 in Memorial Hall (the parlor) to see what we can do to add some zazz to our booth. Contact Dan Wiest ([treasurer@1stuu.org](mailto:treasurer@1stuu.org)) for more information and if you're interested in staffing the table during the event. To have a place at the table is a great way to watch the Dalliers, listen to the music and meet our fellow unconventional neighbors.



### **Developing Your Leadership Workshop**

Organizations are only as strong as the people who lead and manage them, whether you are a church, a nonprofit organization or a for-profit company. There is nothing more critical to an organization's success than the development of its leaders: especially today as churches are continually challenged to identify strategies that help improve organizational stability.

Leaders are needed at all levels of churches. To be an effective leader, it is critical to know yourself, your leadership style, and strategies to lead. This workshop is designed for formal and informal leaders that want to develop effective leadership styles and take their leadership to a higher level.

Your Planning Committee is pleased to announce a two-hour workshop on leadership development to be held on **Sunday October 4 at 12:30 at church**. Deanna McGraw, former Executive Director at Detroit Executive Service Corps and a member of First Church, will present this interactive workshop.

The workshop will be limited to the first 15 church members who register to attend; **there are still openings**. To register for your attendance please respond email [Deanna.mcgraw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Deanna.mcgraw@sbcglobal.net) or call Deanna at 586-202-5241. Light refreshments will be served.

Planning Committee: Deanna McGraw, Paul Chislett, Danny Rebb, Matt Friedrichs



## *Church Announcements and Events*

**2015 General Assembly workshop handouts** are now available at this link: <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2015>

Workshop topics for which some committees may be able to use information include: Congregational Stewardship, Economic, Environmental, LGBTQ & Racial Justice, Leadership Development, Social Media.

**ALSO, PLEASE SAVE THE DATES: General Assembly 2016, June 22-26, Columbus, OH.**

If you can manage the costs, please give some consideration to attending 2016 GA in Columbus, which is more accessible to our congregation than the 2015 location (Portland OR). The theme for GA 2016 will be *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*. "The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels – Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist – no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all."

There are opportunities to waive registration fees by volunteering, and there are scholarships. There were 5,000 UUs in Portland; it's an amazing experience to immerse yourself in a UU Universe for a few days.



Gwenn	Foss	9/2
Dave	Williams	9/2
Gloria	Williams	9/3
Dann	Rebb	9/4
Toni	Tront	9/13
Joan	Smykowski	9/13
Arthur	Gabhart	9/16
Stephanie	Chang	9/24
Sean	Gray	9/28
Roger	Zeigler	9/28
Maya	Thottakath	9/30



\*\*There will be cards to be signed on the first radiator on the right for birthdays.



**FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF DETROIT**

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
... in the Cass Corridor Commons ...

*First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, which has a long history of activism and is an affirming and welcoming congregation, is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice, whose members strive to liberate truth, radiate kindness and love courageously. We are located in the Cass Corridor Commons in Midtown.*

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*

### **Message Topics**

Remember, the Worship Committee is always open to new ideas for speakers and for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an idea for a speaker or a sermon, please do feel free to share it: [worship@1stuu.org](mailto:worship@1stuu.org).

### **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 **12:00 pm Thursday**.

### **September Newsletter Deadline**

Sunday, September 20th

Next issue covers October 1 - October 31, 2015

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

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