FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Sermon Schedule

July 3rd — "'Give me your tired, your poor' ... Welcoming Refugees"

Christine Suave, Southeast Michigan Community Coordinator, Welcoming Michigan and Monica Boomer, Director of Community Engagement, Zaman International We will recognize World Refugee Day with speakers and assistance from several local refugee resettlement groups and Amnesty International. Come to hear what we can all do to make this world a little better for refugees throughout the globe.

July 10th — "A Grown Woman's Tales of Detroit" Marsha Music

Marsha Music will share from her two acclaimed essays, "The Kidnapped Children of Detroit" - about the mid-last century flight from Detroit, and "Just Say Hi (the Gentrification Blues)" - about the flight back to the city.

July 17th — "Mandela"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray
On the weekend that the world commemorates the life of
Nelson Mandela, we consider one of the moral giants of our
time.

July 24th — "Heartland - Where Faiths Connect"

General Assembly attendees

The theme of this year's UUA General Assembly, held in Columbus OH, is "Heartland - Where Faiths Connect." Join us to hear some of UU Detroit's members speak about their impressions of GA from a spiritual perspective.

July 31st — "Breaking Good"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Two years ago, one of television's most popular shows, Breaking Bad, went off the air. Its central character, Walter White, on a descent into evil, is a fascinating study of human ambition and self-delusion over the course of its five seasons. We will examine what Breaking Bad might teach us about how to live well in a world that sometimes pulls us toward the worst sides of our natures.



4605 Cass Ave. Detroit, MI 48201 313~833~9107 www.1stuu.org

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About Us ...

UU DETROIT IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS — WWW.UUA.ORG — IN THE MIDAMERICA REGION — WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG

We are creating spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world; we practice radical hospitality.



The symbol of our faith is a Flaming Chalice.



We affirm and promote seven Principles.

We welcome you as individual people, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, religious background, marital status, family structure, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socioeconomic status.

We have been at the corner of Forest and Cass for a century ... our Universalist and Unitarian roots in Detroit go back 185 years.



Our Vision

First Unitarian-Universalist Church is an urban center in **Detroit** for spiritual renewal and social justice.

Our Mission

First Unitarian-Universalist Church strives to be an expanding transformative community whose mission is to liberate truth, radiate kindness, and love courageously.



We are a proud member of the Cass Corridor Commons.

We are a UUA-recognized Welcoming Congregation.



FIRST UNITARIAN -UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2016–2017

OFFICERS:

President Kathe Stevens

VICE PRESIDENT

Dan Wiest

Immediate Past President

Marsha Bruhn

Board Secretary

Danny Rebb

TREASURER Bob Lauer

TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE:

Dan Hale Sydney Schaaf Nathan Strickland, Jr. Dave Vailliencourt

STAFF:

INTERIM MINISTER
The Rev. Dr. Stephen
Butler Murray

Music Director Todd Ballou

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Alexis Mitchell

Social Hour Coordinator

Alyssa Bond

WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM



Letter from the President ...

Greetings to the First UU Detroit community!

I'm honored to begin my second year as your board president. I take seriously the pledge recited before every board meeting: "We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness and respect for each other as we carry out our elected responsibilities to do the business of this church to the best of our abilities. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."

Talk about moving forward ... take a look at our 2015-2016 Annual Report. The report is at http://lstuu.org/Governance/2016AnnualReport.pdf. There are so many people working to move our faith community forward, both in spirit and in practice. If you don't have access to the internet, Alexis Mitchell will print out our Annual Report for you, upon request.

Our new Policy and Procedure Manual is also moving us forward; you may find it on our webite at http://www.1stuu.org/Governance/PoliciesAndProcedures2016.pdf and there is more information from the Planning Committee on page 8 of this newsletter.

Also on <u>page 8</u> is a report from your Settled Minister Search Committee.

Our Canvass Campaign has ended. I'm proud of everyone who pledged, and pledged early. Our pledge goal was \$74,000 and we received \$86,770 in pledges! Your generosity is part of all the energy emanating from this beautiful building at the corner of Cass and Forest Avenues. We appreciate everyone who shows up on Sunday and pays their pledge. You're aligning with our **4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning**. When you're worshipping with us on Sunday morning, I can't help but believe that must help with your search for truth and meaning – and we're able to pay our minister to present ideas to help us search for truth and meaning because you're responsible and pay your pledge!

At the amazing Juneteenth service, Diarra McKinney led us through an interactive encounter. Browse through UU Detroit's <u>Facebook Group</u> for photos and video of us as we followed Diarra to "thread needle." Diarra then followed us as we continued to search for truth and meaning after the service through a discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, "Between the World and Me," sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

Last but not least, I want to celebrate that we've completed an agreement with Rev. Murray for interim ministry services through July 2017. Thank you, Stephen, for staying with us and loving us!

best ... Kathe



What are the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism?

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and use of the democratic process
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part of.

What About Individual Beliefs?

Unitarian Universalists have their individual beliefs about a number of things, including God, the Bible, Jesus, the earth, death, prayer and ritual. Individual beliefs are encouraged.

To learn more, please attend an "Introduction to UU Detroit" the first Sunday of each month at 12:30pm, in the Church narthex.

Interested in joining? Please contact Regina Weiss

at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

Membership at UU Detroit is Encouraged

At UU Detroit, our congregation consists of people from all walks of life. Though our backgrounds are different, as a faith-based community we believe that all people have value and that we should cherish and respect all people, regardless of their culture, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical being or family situation.

Unitarian Universalism is not a religion that claims to have all the answers. In our congregation, all members and friends are encouraged to develop one's own truth, within a community of fellow seekers.

Though we are all different, we believe that membership allows our total religious community to grow and improve. By becoming a member, one is making a commitment to our religious community

To learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UU Detroit, please attend an upcoming Introduction to UU Detroit. Please pick a Sunday at 12:30 pm, that fits your schedule. Upcoming dates are: Sunday, July 3rd, or Sunday, August 7th, or Sunday, September 4th. For more information, about becoming a member please contact Regina Weiss at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com.

Welcome To Our Newest Member

Ryan Grossenbacher of Detroit

We hope UU Detroit remains your spiritual home in your quest for truth and meaning for many years.



Committee Fair Date Changed Join us July 17th After the Service

Usher and Greeters Needed as Our Practice of Radical Hospitality Grows

To volunteer, please let Glenn Maxwell know during Social Hour or visit our website and sign up on line.

Glenn may be reached at detroitglenn@gmail.com

We are the "friendly church" on Cass and Forest. We often have more visitors than usual during the warm months. Let's continue to welcome everyone. Please volunteer!

Thank You to Our July 2016 Greeters and Ushers

Thank you to the women and men who have volunteered as greeters and ushers for July 2016! Please make a point of saying "Hello" or "Good morning" to them on Sunday.

Chloe Lundine
Carolyn Lusch
Carmen Mendoza-King
Bill McKnight
Edie McKnight
Aletha Oberdier
Danny Rebb
Regina Weiss
Sherry A. Wells
Roger Zeigler

Volunteering is a Part of Being in the UU Detroit Congregation

The Committee Fair, originally planned for July 10th, has been rescheduled to **July 17th**, 12:30 pm during the Social Hour.

As we continue to grow, volunteers are needed to ensure the quality and success of our committees, groups and events. Committees are a great way to meet new people, share your skills and develop new interests.

The new date for the next Committee Fair will be Sunday, July 17th, during Social Hour. Committee chairs, group leaders and event planners, are encouraged to have a fun, interactive display to promote your group. Members and friends are encouraged to sign up.

Let's continue to grow and look forward to the future. If you have any questions, please contact Regina Weiss at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com.

TWO REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A MEMBER

- 1. Sign the Membership Book,
- 2. Make a financial pledge to the Church, and/or
- 3. Make a financial donation of record to the Church.

Please contact Regina Weiss for more information at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com

IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP DATES

- "Intro to UU Detroit" sessions, after the service (choose one): July 3, or August 7, or September 4, at 12:30 PM, in the Church Narthex
- Membership Book signings, during the service, just before the closing circle (choose one): July 10, or August 14, or September 11, 2016.
- Committee Fair: July 17, after the service.



Standing Church Announcements and Events

WEDNESDAYS AT UU

DETROIT

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held from 7:00 - 9:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are July 13 and August 10.

All are welcome at Board meetings. Whole Foods Market is located at 115 Mack Ave (corner of 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 dfrebb@aol.com.

SINGING CIRCLE

7:00 PM — Singing Circle at the Church. Open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at <u>bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com</u> for more details.

VESPERS

Vespers runs from **6:00 - 7:00 PM** on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Parlor.

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

MESSAGE TOPICS

idea for a speaker or a sermon, please do feel free to share it: worship@1stuu.org.

SUNDAYS AT UU DETROIT

FIRST SUNDAYS: "INTRO TO UU DETROIT"

Are you new to the Church, or just interested in learning more about our Church and tradition? The "Intro to UU Detroit" class offers introductory information on 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 Unitarian Universalist tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of UU Detroit. 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 SUNDAYS: POTLUCK

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to Church to share with our UU Detroit community! As we add new members, it's 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.



Standing 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 UU Detroit on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. Contact **Dan Wiest** at dfwiest@comcast.net for more information.

CARE COMMITTEE

Help us to minister to each other. If you or someone you know is sick, in need of a pastoral call or other assistance, please let the Care Committee know by contacting its chair, Nancy Owen **Nelson** at <u>nelnan@aol.com</u> to provide a network for communication and support. Other members are Sally Borden, Linda Darga, Edie McKnight, and Nathan Strickland, Jr.

CHILD CARE

Child care is available during Sunday worship service in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. See Sally Borden or Richard Hillier for details.

YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES

The UU Detroit Young Adults Group participates in two activities per month. To learn about upcoming Young Adults activities, visit us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ young 1 stuu/ or contact Aletha Oberdier at alethafaye@gmail.com to 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 sign up to donate flowers, please use the Flower Donation Signup Sheet on our website, see our Office Administrator, Alexis Mitchell, after the service, or send an email to webmaster@1stuu.org!

LOST & FOUND

We have a Lost & Found box in the office on the shelf to your right as you enter the office. If you find something, please take it to the office and put it in the Lost & Found box. If you have lost something, please check the box. —Greeter Team



Special Church Announcements and Events

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Board regretfully accepted the resignations of Robert Johnson and Aletha Oberdier as from the Settled Minister Search Committee. We appreciate their commitment to our community and understand that they must honor their commitment to themselves, as well. We wish Robert and Aletha well as they continue in other leadership roles at UU Detroit.

Your Search Committee is moving forward in the process to select a candidate for consideration by the congregation in the summer of 2017. The Board has asked the committee to search for a 3/4-time minister. We held a one day retreat in early June. We are now developing a survey for the congregation to complete in early September. The survey will help to determine the vision for UU Detroit to select our new minister. — Settled Minister Search Committee

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL NOW ON-LINE

The Board approved the 2016 Policy and Procedure Manual at the June Board Meeting. The entire manual can be found on our website on the Home Page under Congregational Life. Since policies and procedures can only be effective when implemented, we will be providing sections of the manual each month in the newsletter and in the Order of Service to inform all members of key policies and procedures. We also plan to have a policy and procedure workshop for Committee Chairs, Program Leaders, staff and interested members in September. — Planning Committee

WEDDING INVITATION—OCTOBER 15, 2016

Joel Batterman and Julie Brock are happy to announce that their wedding will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at 2:00 PM in the UU Detroit sanctuary. The most important part of our ritual is that we share it with our community. UU Detroit is an important part of our community, and the place that brought us together. We would be delighted if any and all would come. This means you! Save the date! For details and to RSVP: http://www.jbsquared-detroit.com/.

— Joel and Julie



WE SHALL BE KNOWN AS "UU DETROIT"

Who are we? How do we want to be known in 50 years? Do we have an approved brand name that is consistently used? That conveys what is most important about who we are, intuitively?

Our legal name is First Unitarian-Universalist Church but we have used many different acronyms or abbreviations in our documents, publications, newsletters, Order of Service, etc. At our June 15 annual congregational meeting, we put the question to you.

Out of 13 different acronyms and variations, the congregation chose "UU Detroit."

Of course, we're still First Unitarian-Universalist Church officially, but when we want to shorten it up a bit — on our website, our social media and print communications, official minutes and reports, etc. — remember to use UU Detroit to create a consistent message.

Go forth and proclaim, we are **UU Detroit!**



Special Church Announcements and Events

SOCIAL HOUR IN PARLOR—JULY 10 AND JULY 24

UU Detroit's coffee hour will be held in the Parlor on July 10 and July 24.

—July 10:

The social hall is rented out on July 10 so we'll move to the Parlor for our coffee, potluck, and conversation on July 10.

—July 24:

The Center for Progressive Leadership's monthly training will be in the Social Hall on July 24 so we'll gather in the Parlor for our coffee and conversation. All training dates are on the UU Detroit church calendar. CPL will also be training in the social hall on August 21.

Of course, you can find all this out by ...

CHECKING THE UU DETROIT CALENDAR FIRST!

Our growing and energized Congregation means there are many more meetings and events going on at UU Detroit on Sundays and on Wednesday evenings. By checking our Church calendar first, http://www.1stuu.org/calendar.php, you can see if the date on which you wish to hold your event is open. Then contact our Office Administrator, Alexis Mitchell, via email at office@1stuu.org or call 313-833-9107, to get your event on the calendar. Alexis will check with EMEAC's Dee Collins to make sure there are no conflicts and get your event calendared so you may invite all of us!

REMEMBER THE TRUST

The First Unitarian-Universalist Church Trust was established in 1964 by the merger of the First Unitarian Church Trust with the Annis Fund and the Woodward Fund. Initially, only the interest earned on the principal in the Trust was given to the Church. However, as membership declined while salaries and building maintenance continued to increase, the Church called on the Trust repeatedly to invade the principal to keep the doors open. As of July, 2008, \$223,816 of Trust principal had gone to the Church. Had it not been for the Trust, the Church would not have been able to celebrate the centennial of the sanctuary on April 16-17, 2016. We ask you to consider honoring the centennial by making a **special** gift to the First Unitarian-Universalist Church Trust. Feel free to contact me at 313-617-5989 to make a legacy gift. Thank you. — Marilyn Mitchell



Special Church Announcements and Events

STANDING WITH ORLANDO — LOCALLY

FROM SHARON MILLS, UU DETROIT'S FAITH ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO AFFIRMATIONS: On June 14, over 700 people gathered at Affirmations in an interfaith vigil to remember and to honor the LGBTQ victims of the Orlando massacre. The room was silent as one by one the name of each victim was read aloud. We had gathered to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ

community and to grieve with them for the victims of this unspeakable tragedy. The mood was emotional and defiant, with calls to action that resonated with the principles of our faith. The speakers, which included religious leaders, community activists, and elected officials from the entire metropolitan area, urged everyone present to continue to support the work of faith communities whose principles are rooted in inclusiveness. In addition, they asked that we all stand in solidarity against politicians who propose banning all Muslims, branding them as terrorists, while protecting the so-called right to carry militarily-designed guns in our communities. And most of all, "Stand up, Stand up in courage and in love." May it be so.

— AT UU DETROIT

Rev. Murray changed his June 26th sermon topic in order to address the tragic events in Orlando.

Check the bulletin board in the Church Narthex to see our support for Orlando and to "Say Their Names."

— REGIONALLY

Vigils were organized by Rev. Kimi Riegel at Northwest UU Church and Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi of UU Church of Farmington. UU Detroiter's attended the vigils at our neighboring churches.

— NATIONALLY

Annette Marquis, the Director of the UUA's LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs, Multicultural Growth and Witness, issued "An Open Letter to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queeridentified Unitarian Universalists."

UUA president Peter Morales issued a statement, excerpted in this graphic which was widely distributed among UU congregations:



"Unfortunately, this is the kind of violence that is predictable when hatred and fear are aroused by demagogues and when firearms are easily available. There are about 100 gun deaths per day in the United States. Only mass shootings are newsworthy.

This is madness.

May all people of good will, people of all faiths and no faith, renew our determination to end racism, end demonization of those of other faiths, end homophobia, and create a society where access to lethal weapons has some rational control. Otherwise we will wait helplessly for the next atrocity."

-Rev. Peter Morales, Unitarian Universalist Association President

Calendar

All events take place at UU Detroit, 4605 Cass, unless otherwise indicated View calendar at http://www.1stuu.org/calendar

Sunday, July 3

9:00 AM: Choir Practice—Chancel

11:00 AM: Worship Service "'Give me your tired, your poor' ... Welcoming Refugees" (Christine Suave, Southeast Michigan Community Coordinator, Welcoming Michigan and Monica Boomer, Director of Community Engagement, Zaman International)— Sanctuary

12:30 PM: Introduction to First Church— Narthex

Wednesday, July 6

6:00 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting— **Parlor**

7:00 PM: Singing Circle—Social Hall

Sunday, July 10

9:00 AM: Choir Practice—Chancel

9:00 AM: Training event in the Social Hall— Coffee Hour in the Parlor

11:00 AM: Worship Service "A Grown Woman's Tales of Detroit" (Marsha Music) —Sanctuary

12:00 PM: New Member Sunday—Sanctuary

12:00 PM: Potluck—Parlor

Wednesday, July 13

7:00 PM: Board meeting—Whole Foods

Community room

7:00 PM: Singing Circle—Social Hall

Sunday, July 17

9:00 AM: Choir Practice—Chancel

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Mandela" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)— Sanctuary

12:30 PM: First UU Committee Fair—Social Hall

Monday, July 18

7:30 PM: Amnesty International Meeting— Parlor

Wednesday, July 20

7:00 PM: Worship Committee Meeting—Parlor

7:00 PM: Singing Circle—Social Hall

Sunday, July 24

9:00 AM: Center for Progressive Leadership training in the Social Hall —Coffee Hour in the Parlor

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Heartland - Where Faiths Connect" (General Assembly attendees)—Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 27

6:00 PM: Vespers—Parlor

7:00 PM: Singing Circle—Social Hall

Sunday, July 31

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Breaking Good" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler

Murray)—Sanctuary





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

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST **CHURCH OF DETROIT**

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

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

Deadlines & Office Hours

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.

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday, July 20th

Next issue covers August 1—August 30, 2016

No submissions accepted after the deadline—send items to office@1stuu.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR WORK SCHEDULE

Alexis Mitchell works every Sunday and occasionally during the week, as needed. Her hours are generally:

First and third Sundays: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Second, fourth and, if necessary, fifth Sundays: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM