

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



MARCH
2016
EDITION

OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

March 6th – “Feminist Theology”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

As we enter into Women's History Month, I want to offer a brief review of feminist theology and its responses to the first wave, second wave, and third wave of feminist thought.

March 13th – “Defining Spirituality”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

One of my charges for this year is to offer programs on “spirituality.” This is an almost infinitely broad term, intentionally capacious in its scope. Today, I will speak to various approaches to spirituality and how we, as a congregation, might explore spirituality together through engaging programs in the months ahead.

March 20th– “Women and Ordination”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Unitarians and Universalists were among the first denominations to welcome women to join the ranks of ordained clergy, and indeed women always have been at the forefronts of these two, not twinned, religious movements. In conjunction with research done by Danny Rebb at our church's archives at the University of Michigan, I will discuss some of the influential UUA women who have moved through our church in Detroit.

March 27th – to be determined

Information on our Easter Sunday service will be circulated soon. Watch for announcements or check the church calendar, <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar>.

FIRST UNITARIAN - UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2015–2016

Officers:

President

Kathe Stevens

Vice President

Matt Friedrichs

Immediate Past

President

Marsba Brubn

Board Secretary

Danny Rebb

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Trustees At-Large:

Joel Batterman

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Dave Vaillencourt

Staff:

Minister

*The 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 ...

Greetings to the First UU Detroit community!

First, let me thank each and every one of you for your patience this winter as we have "chilled" in the sanctuary. The boiler that provides the heat to the sanctuary has a broken gasket. EMEAC is aware of the broken gasket and has come up with a work-around because the gasket will cost \$4,000 to repair. We're working with EMEAC to see how everyone may be comfortable. Meanwhile, dress warm for Sunday morning!

Let us focus on less temporal matters ... after Rev. Murray's sermon on March 13, "Defining Spirituality," **Rev. Murray invites people interested in spirituality programs for the rest of the year to engage in a conversation during potluck after the worship service.** Please get your food and join him on the sofas in the parlor for a discussion about spirituality at First UU, with Rev. Murray moderating the conversation.

The spirituality discussion comports with Goal 4 of our 2016 Strategic Plan, "develop, conduct and evaluate opportunities and programs for spiritual growth." Thanks for taking the lead, Rev. Murray. We're also moving along fast and furiously with Goal 2, our Centennial celebrations.

Our *minister emeritus* (how many of our new congregants know we have a minister emeritus?) **Rev. Larry Hutchison**, and his wife, **Nancy**, are confirmed attendees. Also confirmed is our former Director of Religious Education, [now **Rev.**] **Emmy Lou Belcher**, who was ordained in our sanctuary in 1989, as well as two of the other three women who were ordained in our sanctuary: **Rev. Nancy Doughty** (1962) and **Rev. Lynda Smith** (2006). Rev. Smith is also a former First UU RE Director. We're hoping Rev. Susann Pangerl, who was ordained here in 1979, is able to come as well.

Check out details about Centennial festivities on **page 8**: an April 16 history tour, which will be offered – concurrently – both as a bus tour and a bicycle tour, followed by dinner at Traffic Jam & Snug restaurant; and a special worship service on April 17, after which we'll gather together at a potluck to wind up celebrations .

May I ask you to start sharing information about our Centennial celebrations in any way you can? Send an email. Share our posts (or create your own) on Facebook. Tweet. Make an announcement at meetings. Tell your friends, acquaintances, and family. Call your congresswoman!

We're also planning an in-house service project: a Spring Clean-Up Day to get the church and grounds spruced up for our visitors. **Dan Wiest** and **Tim Bailey** are organizing this for Saturday, **April 9**. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters and orders of service.



Letter from the President ... cont'd

Also watch for details about the upcoming 2016-17 Canvass Campaign. How else will we fund festivities like our Centennial, and future celebrations? Not to mention our wonderful minister, **Rev. Murray**.

As you may have noticed, your Board and Planning Committee have been on an organizational kick, so I want to let you know that we've been doing an incredibly thorough job at putting information on our church calendar. Please check it often to find out about sermon topics; UU events at our church and, sometimes, elsewhere; meeting times, room schedules, etc. <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar>.

I'm usually focused on our 1st and 7th principles but I've been thinking about our 3rd principle a lot lately: *acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations*.

As an almost 35-year member of First UU Detroit, I can confidently make the observation that more than ever before we are all working together well and helping each other to move the church forward. Rev. Murray will find out your thoughts on spirituality on March 13 but I would say that our encouragement of one another and devotion to our faith is part of our spiritual practice. Governance runs smoothly, events (big and small) get planned, worship services are [often] unconventional and [always] inspiring, and we are growing, adding new members almost every month. I believe these new members have been motivated to join by all of you – I know you motivate me.

best ... Kathe

• 1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

• 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

• 2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

• 6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

• 3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

• 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

• 4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF
DETROIT - AT THE CORNER OF CASS & FOREST

What Are the UU Views of God?

Among Unitarian-Universalists, conceptions of the divine range across a wide spectrum. Some hold a strictly atheistic view of the universe. Others may use the term God to convey something other than a conscious being with intention, such as the creative power of evolution in the universe, the power that makes transformation possible in our lives, the abiding power of love, or the ultimate mystery with which we all must live.

I'm Unsure What I Think. Will I Feel Welcomed at First UU?

Whether you believe in a concept of God or not, whatever you think God may be, even if you're not sure what you believe about God, your beliefs, questions, and doubts are welcome among us.

Unitarian Universalists revel in mystery. Being in the presence of others who believe differently can help us examine our own beliefs, articulate them, give them new shape, and deepen and strengthen them over time.

Collectively, Unitarian Universalists worship gives reverence to our highest ideals, whether embodied for you as God, Spirit of Life, Mother, Love or any other name.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

Becoming A Member of Our Religious Community

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.

Together, we create a force more powerful than one person or one belief system. As Unitarian Universalists, we do not have to check our personal background and beliefs at the door: we join together on a journey that honors everywhere we've been before.

Our beliefs are diverse and inclusive. We have no shared creed. Our shared covenant (our seven Principles) supports "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Though Unitarianism and Universalism were both liberal Christian traditions, this responsible search has led us to embrace diverse teachings from Eastern and Western religions and philosophies.

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions:

- The existence of a Higher Power
- Life and Death
- Sacred Texts
- Inspiration and Guidance
- Prayer and Spiritual Practices

If you feel and believe that the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit is your spiritual home, please consider attending the "Intro to First UU" session on Sunday, March 6, 2016, 12:30 pm.

Welcome to Our Newest Member

We would like to welcome to our Church family:

Cheryl Maliniemi Greene of Farmington

We hope Cheryl will continue to explore the important questions and meaning of life as a member of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit.



Greeters Update

We are happy to announce our Greeters, who have volunteered for the month of March 2016:

Anita Jones
Aletha Oberdier
Sherry A. Wells
Roger Zeigler

The greeters will be in the narthex, ready to greet current and future members each Sunday at 10:30 am. In this role, they are especially welcoming all those who believe in, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

Greeters Needed

To volunteer as the person who welcomes the stranger to our church, please contact Glenn Maxwell at detroitglenn@gmail.com.



Important Upcoming Membership Dates

Sunday, March 6, 2016: To learn more about Unitarian Universalism, please attend the next "Intro to First UU." The next session will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 12:30 pm. Topics at the session include a history of the Unitarian Universalist Church, the First Church of Detroit, and any questions that you may have. It is no-pressure, informative meeting.

Sunday, March 13, 2016-Membership Book Signing. If you decide that you want to become a Unitarian Universalist, please plan on signing the Membership Book on Sunday, March 13, 2016. There are three requirements to becoming a member of First Church:

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

For more information, or to access the forms to become a member, please visit <http://www.1stuu.org/Membership/membership.php>.

For more information about becoming a member,

Update on the 125-4-100 Campaign Successful First Quarter for the Campaign

As we celebrate 100 years in our present congregational home, we are proud to announce that we now have 103 members! We have a goal of 125 members for our 100 years at the corner of Cass and Forest.

Let's continue to reach out to old members and new friends.



Church Announcements and Events

First UU Detroit Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

March 9	Whole Foods Community Room	7:00 - 9:00 pm
April 13	Whole Foods Community Room	7:00 - 9:00 pm

All are welcome at Board meetings. Whole Foods is 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 dfrebb@aol.com.

Vespers Wednesday

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

FIRST Sundays: "Intro to First UU"

Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The "Intro to First UU" 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 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** at 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 First 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.

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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/>. 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!

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 nelnan@aol.com, to provide a network for communication and support. Other members are Sally Borden, Edie McKnight, and Nathan Strickland.

Child Care

Childcare is available during service in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the church, off the narthex. See **Sally Borden** or **Richard Hillier** for details.

Church Announcements and Events

Escalating Inequality: Let's Talk, 2016 Winter Speaker Series

Sponsored by Birmingham Unitarian Church, First UU and four other southeast Michigan UU churches, the last in this speaker series takes place at BUC, 38651 Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills on Thursday, March 17, 2016: Peter J. Hammer, Director, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, Professor, WSU Law School, **150 YEARS LATER: The 13th Amendment—Freedom Comes to Michigan?** The fee is \$7. For more information or to make reservations, see **Mary Lou Malone** or **Sharon Mills** at the Social Justice table during Coffee Hour.

UUA May 2016 Trip

The Unitarian Universalist Association has been sponsoring trips to the Deep South to visit historic sites in the Civil Rights Movement, e.g., Selma and the church at which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached, museums and other churches and cemeteries. People who have taken the trip tell me it is an incredible, unforgettable experience. Registration for the May, 2016, trip is now open at <http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/may-2016-registration-information.html>. I am planning on going and I would love to share a room with someone and have other people from our church go. Follow the link and learn more. —**Linda Darga**

Lost & Found

We now 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 for that item. —**Greeter Team**

In the Parlor on March 6

Anishinaabe World View is being hosted by Diana Copeland March 4 - 6. The event, which is open to invited participants, only, will be in the Parlor from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 6.

Social Hour in Parlor on March 13

First UU's coffee hour will be held in the Parlor on Sunday, March 13. The Center for Progressive Leadership's monthly training will be in the Social Hall so we'll move to the Parlor for our coffee and conversation. All training dates are on the First UU church [calendar](#). Other dates are: April 10, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 21.

Do you have questions about our search for a settled minister?

Rev. Barbara Child, the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the MidAmerica Region, will be presenting information and answering questions about our settled minister search process after the worship service on Sunday, April 10, at 12:30 PM in the sanctuary. That's our Potluck Sunday, so bring your best dishes and be prepared for an informative meeting!



Church Announcements and Events



FIRST UU CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

!!! SHARE THE DATE !!!
!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!

SAVE THE DATES of Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17 for the 100-year anniversary celebration of the historic sanctuary of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church at 4605 Cass in Detroit.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Historic bus tour tracing Unitarian and Universalist roots from the 1830s – when free thinkers first began to dream of a liberal religious denomination in Detroit. Who organized first, the Unitarians or the Universalists? Which major figures in Detroit's and Michigan's early history were involved in the founding and leadership of our liberal churches? What locations did they choose? Why? Where did civil rights martyrs, groundbreaking African-Americans, icons of women's and workers' rights movements, politicians, poets and peace activists worship, meet and organize? How long have we actively supported the LGBTQ community?

5:30 – 8:00 PM

Dinner and drinks at Traffic Jam & Snug Restaurant, 511 W. Canfield, to celebrate each other and history in Detroit.

TICKET PRICE for the historic bus tour is \$20 per person
TICKET PRICE for dinner is \$20 per person

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Centennial worship service in our historic sanctuary – come home for a reunion or come to learn more about us!

12:30 – 2:30 PM

Celebratory luncheon in our historic social hall – main courses provided with our traditional potluck side

First UU is located in and a proud member of the Cass Corridor Commons, 4605 Cass at Forest, in Detroit.

We welcome all to join us in celebrating 100 years at the corner of Cass and Forest. **PLEASE PASS ON THIS INVITATION** to anyone interested in a **history of liberal religion in the city of Detroit**, to all UUs who wish to celebrate our **joint history**, and to current and former First Churchers near and far who **made that history**.

For more information, email uudetroitcentennial@gmail.com or call the church office, 313--833-9107, and leave a message.

Sincerely,
The Board of Trustees of First UU Church of Detroit
The Centennial Committee

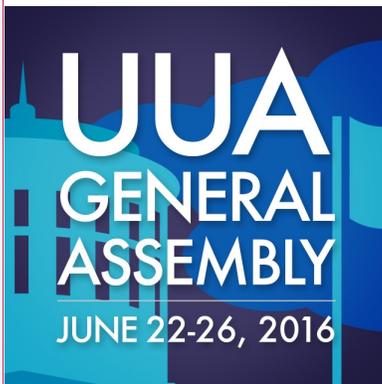
Church Announcements and Events

Exciting denominational events are coming up!

MidAmerica **Regional Assembly** is April 29-May 1 in St. Paul MN; Glenn Maxwell and Kathe Stevens are attending as delegates. Early bird registration ends March 31.



Regional Assembly 2016
**The WHO in the New Era
of Unitarian Universalism**
April 29 - May 1 • St. Paul, MN
MidAmericaRegionUUA.org/ra



2016 **General Assembly** early bird registration is now open; rates increase May 1. The conference is in Columbus, Ohio, and First UU Detroit will have great representation this year. Nathan Strickland, Jr., has written a grant proposal and there are other exciting plans.



Calendar: First UU Church

Detroit

Wed Mar 2

6:00pm – 7:00pm: Social Justice Committee meeting - Parlor

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Singing Circle - Social Hall

Sun Mar 6

9:00am – 10:30am: Choir Practice - Chancel

10:00am – 5:00pm: *Anishinaabe World View* hosted by Diana Copeland (invited participants, only) - Parlor

11:00am – 12:00pm: Worship Service: "Feminist Theology" (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) - Sanctuary

12:30pm – 1:30pm: Introduction to First Church - Narthex

Wed Mar 9

7:00pm – 8:00pm: Board Meeting - Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Singing Circle - Social Hall

Sun Mar 13—Daylight Saving Time starts

9:00am – 5:00pm: Center for Progressive Leadership training – Social Hall

9:00am – 10:30am: Choir Practice - Chancel

11:00am – 12:00pm: Worship Service: "Defining Spirituality" (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) - Sanctuary

11:45am – 12:00pm: New Member Sunday

12:00pm – 1:00pm: Potluck - Parlor

12:30pm – 1:30pm: Spirituality Conversation with Rev. Murray - Parlor

Wed Mar 16

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Singing Circle - Social Hall

7:00pm – 9:00pm: Worship Committee - Parlor

Thu Mar 17

7:00pm – 8:00pm: AT BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH: "Escalating Inequality: Let's Talk," 2016 Winter Speaker Series - Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills MI

Sun Mar 20

9:00am – 10:30am: Choir Practice - Sanctuary

Sun Mar 20

11:00am – 12:00pm: Worship Service: "Women and Ordination" (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) - Sanctuary

12:30pm – 1:30pm: Canvass Campaign Kick-Off Presentation - Social Hall

Mon Mar 21

7:30pm – 9:00pm: Amnesty International - Parlor

Wed Mar 23

6:00pm – 7:00pm: Vespers - Parlor

Wed Mar 23

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Singing Circle - Social Hall

Sun Mar 27—Easter Sunday

11:00am – 12:00pm: Worship Service: TO BE DETERMINED - Sanctuary

Wed Mar 30

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Singing Circle - Social Hall



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 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.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.

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

Wednesday, April 20th

Next issue covers April 1—April 30, 2016

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org