

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY  
2017  
EDITION

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

### February 5th — “Mapping the Water Crisis”

*Monica Lewis Patrick*

Monica Lewis-Patrick, president and CEO of *We the People of Detroit*, is African American and has lived in Detroit for the past decade. Deeply disturbed by the water crisis here in Michigan, Lewis-Patrick set out to provide daily essentials to those in need. She has helped low-income families and the elderly, from Detroit to Flint, gain access to clean water—something many of us take for granted. Through her work with *We the People*, the organization she co-founded, Lewis-Patrick advocates for water rights, workers' rights and housing rights, among other issues.

### February 12th — “A New America?”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

In the aftermath of the 2016 election, we have heard about a troubling rise in disturbing behaviors which many would describe as racist and anti-immigrant, including the national story that originated out of Royal Oak here in Michigan. Is this a new American reality, or is this indicative of who we were already?

### February 19th — “On James Baldwin”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

During this Black History Month, a request that came from a member of our congregation is that I speak about novelist, playwright, and social critic James Baldwin and his legacy.

### February 26th — “Conscience and Democracy”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

Continuing our monthly series on the seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, I will focus on the Fifth Principle: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”



4605 Cass Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313-833-9107  
[www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org)

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# About Us ...

**UU DETROIT IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN-  
UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS —  
[WWW.UUA.ORG](http://WWW.UUA.ORG) — IN THE MIDAMERICA REGION —  
[WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG](http://WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG)**

**FIRST UNITARIAN -  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
2016-2017**

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**.   
CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK →



We affirm and promote **seven Principles**.  
← CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK

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.

## 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 Vaillencourt*

## STAFF:

INTERIM MINISTER  
*The Rev. Dr. Stephen  
Butler Murray*

MUSIC DIRECTOR  
*Todd Ballou*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
*Alexis Mitchell*

SOCIAL HOUR COORDINATOR  
*Humphrey Blakemore*

**WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY  
SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM**

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



Welcoming Congregation

↑ CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK

We are a UUA-recognized **Welcoming Congregation**

We are a proud **member** of the **Cass Corridor Commons**.

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CLICK TO →  
FOLLOW LINK



**Black Lives Matter** to Unitarian Universalists.



## Letter from the President ...

Greetings to the UU Detroit community!

I've been unable to get to a church service since Christmas Eve and, wow, do I ever miss my faith community. I miss people scurrying about on Sunday mornings to get everything in place before Todd's fingers on the keyboard begin our adventure. I miss folks settled in their pews, nodding to the music or a poignant piece in a reading or an inspirational message from the pulpit. I miss the squircle. I miss the queue into the social hall with hugs and greetings coming from every direction. I miss Alexis' serene smile as she works around all the commotion. I miss the hardworking folks who set up and clean up our coffee and cookies. I miss the meetings, the book discussions, the exchange of ideas. And I miss stopping at tables to say goodbye as another Sunday at UU Detroit comes to an end.

I'm so grateful for our faith community. It's more important to me now than ever it was, on Sundays and every day. I need my faith community for solace.

And for action. Have you seen the [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) website? I understand it's in transition; not yet fully populated. Still, I am troubled that this nascent site has no mention of issues outlining issues of basic human justice. A search of the [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) website for "LGBT rights" and "climate change" yields "no results found." Ditto searches for "civil rights policies" and "voting rights policies." A search for "healthcare" turns up only the 1/20/2017 [Executive Order](#) gutting the Affordable Care Act.

What is fleshed out is the "[America First Energy](#)" page, which states: "For too long, we've been held back by burdensome regulations on our energy industry." We learn the new administration "is committed to eliminating harmful and unnecessary policies" and references current policies to combat the causes of global warming. Listen to this: "Sound energy policy begins with the recognition that we have vast untapped domestic energy reserves right here in America" followed by a call for a revival of America's coal industry. Can you say DAPL three times, fast?

Unbelievable? Explore the new website further. The "[Standing Up For Our Law Enforcement Community](#)" page asserts a new "law-and-order administration," promising that the new administration will end the "dangerous anti-police atmosphere in America" and casts dissenters as "rioters," "looters," and "violent disruptors." This page pledges to end sanctuary cities, and to stem the "tide of lawlessness associated with illegal immigration." An 1/25/2017 [Executive Order](#) provides authority to take "all appropriate steps to immediately plan, design, and construct a physical wall along the southern border" and to set up detention facilities. As I submit this newsletter for publication, I see reports of an [anti-immigration Executive Order](#) banning immigrants from Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, Iraq, and Sudan — all majority Muslim countries. (I couldn't find the actual text of this Executive Order on [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) so I've included an [external link](#) from a source which I believe can be trusted to factually reproduce the Executive Order.)

Are you heartsick? We will resist. You know neighbors, friends, and family who are resisting. Invite them to join us. Already, our members have participated in the marches in D.C. and Lansing. The Social Justice Committee is reorganizing. Speakers from our pulpit, including our own Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, are calling for bravery, resistance, and compassion. We have a legacy of defending the oppressed. We are arising.

Whether you come to UU Detroit to start your week off with introspection, music, and camaraderie, or you come to find others of like mind to invest in social justice work – or both – I'm glad to share a pew with you.

best ... Kathe



# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously



Dessa Cosma Membership Committee Chair

Dear Members,

Our [Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches](#) and the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) have issued a joint Declaration of Conscience, which they have [asked all UUs](#) to sign. I'll repeat the invitation wording in full here:

*"Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,*

*We're writing with what we expect is the same urgent sense of concern you're feeling about the results of the presidential election and what will follow. Based on the many conversations we've had with each other, people of our communities, our partners, and those most likely to face looming threats, we've concluded that in these extraordinary times we must be united in purpose to protect the values of our democracy and those vulnerable populations among us.*

*To that end we have undertaken an unprecedented degree of coordination between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. There is a sense of urgency, and a need for vigilance. And there is clarity that we must act, not alone, but together. We need everyone—including you, your congregation, your friends, and your colleagues.*

*As a first step, we have prepared a [Declaration of Conscience](#) stating in the strongest possible terms our commitment in these troubling times. By signing the declaration, individuals and congregations will be affirming our core values and declaring our willingness to put them into action. Please read it and, with your signature, join us in standing on the side of love, protecting the most vulnerable among us, and defending core values that are under attack.*

*We will be vigilant of administration actions, policies and verbal assaults that undermine the principles of our declaration or disparage, threaten or attack innocent people. We will respond by speaking truth to power and mobilizing support for those who are under siege. To be*

*successful, your support and that of your congregants will be critical.*

*This is not about partisan politics. It is a principled response to the potential targeting of people not for what they have done, but for who they are. It is a commitment to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. We will keep you informed of the progress of this effort and of further opportunities to advance our cause together in the coming weeks and months.*

*We cannot predict what the future will bring, and we do not pretend to have all the answers, but we can and will be ready for the struggle ahead of us. If you feel the same, please join us. Join us in transforming faith into action, sign the [Declaration of Conscience](#) today, share it with your own networks and please encourage others to sign as well.*

*Thank you for your concern, vigilance, and willingness to act.*

*In Faith and Solidarity,*

*The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

*Hon. Thomas Andrews, president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee"*

The UUSC is forming a [Resistance Resource Network](#) to provide information and support to organizations and to citizens seeking to actively oppose recently announced executive orders. You may follow UUSC on [Facebook](#) or sign up for [email alerts](#).

— Dessa

### "Intro to UU Detroit"

To learn more about the history and philosophy of UU Detroit, please join us February 5th at 12:30 PM.

### Membership Book Signings

If you have made the decision to become a member of UU Detroit, please contact Dessa so we may schedule a signing on an upcoming second Sunday:

[dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com)



## Committee and Member News ...

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING—FEBRUARY 1

The Social Justice Committee is reorganizing and preparing to face escalating social justice challenges. Be part of the reorganization and resistance! Join their next meeting on **February 1, at 7:00 PM**; the committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. Everyone is invited, and encouraged, to attend.

### BOOK DISCUSSION—MARCH 12

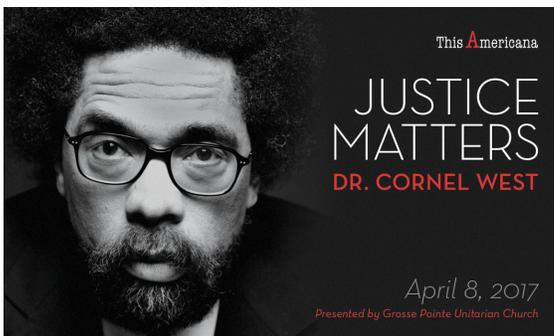
Please join us on **Sunday, March 12, at 12:30 PM**, in the Parlor, for a discussion of "March: Book One," the first book in a graphic novel trilogy authored by Congressman John Lewis, in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell (winner of the Eisner Award and LA Times Book Prize finalist for *Swallow Me Whole*). The book is available in bookstores, including our neighborhood bookstore, [Source Booksellers](#), or online.

### FAYE JUNE COLLING (1/24/1920—12/22/2016)

Condolences to the family of long-time member Faye Colling, who passed away on December 22, 2016 in Sun City West, AZ, where she had retired. Faye, who was born on January 24, 1920, returned every year to visit her beloved UU Detroit community, until she became unable to travel. A committed and very active member of UU Detroit for over 60 years, Faye continued to keep in touch with us via notes and email and will be remembered for her avid devotion to the church rummage sale which had been held annually, and to chili suppers.

Faye's son, Norm Colling, is planning a memorial service at the church in the next couple of months. When a date has been confirmed it will be circulated.

## Announcements & Events ...



**GROSSE POINTE UNITARIAN CHURCH is excited to announce that Dr. Cornel West will be our special guest** at The War Memorial in Grosse Pointe on Saturday, April 8, 2017. Dr. West will be speaking on the theme, "Justice Matters," at 2:00 PM, preceded by a V.I.P. reception at 12:30 PM. Tickets may be purchased on [The War Memorial website](#). General admission is \$35.00; the V.I.P. meet & greet prior to the event is \$125.00.

Cornel West is a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual. He is a Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice at Union Theological Seminary and Professor *Emeritus* at Princeton University. He has also taught at Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris. Cornel West graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Harvard in three years and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy at Princeton. He has written over 20 books and has edited 13. Though he is best known for his classics, *Race Matters* and *Democracy Matters*, and for his memoir, *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud*, his most recent releases, *Black Prophetic Fire* and *Radical King*, were received with critical acclaim.



**TRAINING IN SOCIAL HALL:** East Michigan Environmental Action Council will be training in the social hall from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Sunday February 5th. We'll use the Parlor for our coffee hour.

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## Policies and Procedures ...

### SO, YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT UU DETROIT'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES?

*Featured policy and procedure of the month: [Civility In All Church Meetings](#)*

In June 2016, your Board of Trustees approved a [Policies and Procedures Manual](#). The need for a manual became apparent from several different sources as diverse as the Planning Committee to our staff, from individual congregants to the Board itself. The P&P may be found on the first page of our website, 1stuu.org. Click on any title in the Table of Contents in the manual to go directly to that policy.

We're going to feature a summary of a P&P every month in the newsletter so you may get to know how UU Detroit operates!

— **Planning Committee**

*POLICY STATEMENT: In order to allow all voices to be heard respectfully, to ensure that meetings have an orderly flow, and that there are mechanisms in place to lessen conflict or to deal with any conflict which should happen to arise, all members shall behave in a respectful and polite manner at all Congregational meetings.*

Recognizing that to live out our principle of believing in the inherent worth and dignity of every person we must maintain a civil manner, the Board of Trustees adopted this policy in order to promote respect for each other and order during all types of Congregational meetings.

The Board defined conflict as manifesting through argumentative statements, not allowing persons to speak who are recognized by the chair, the chair not allowing reasonable presentation of facts or opinions, or making derogatory statements about others.

The Board then went on to formulate guidelines for personal conduct during UU Detroit meetings. These guidelines make up the rest of the policies.

You may have noticed we've been reading a covenant before our Congregational meetings. That is because at the end of this policy, a suggested pledge of civil behavior is recommended:

"We pledge to work together in honesty, kindness and respect for each other as we carry out our intention to do the business of this Church to the best of our abilities. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."

There are other policies for conflict resolution and disruptive behavior, should those situations develop despite the use of our civility policy.

This civility policy dates from 2010, so UU Detroit has been long committed to a culture of civility at meetings. UU Detroit is a warm, friendly — and civil — community. Let us remember, in the stressful and anxious political climate in which we find ourselves, to be civil, even tender, with each other at all times.

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## What We're Doing ...

### SINGING CIRCLE

Singing Circle is held every Wednesday at **7:00 PM**; open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at [bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com](mailto:bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com) for more details.

WEDNESDAYS AT  
UU DETROIT

### VESPERS

Vespers runs from **6:00 - 7:00 PM** on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Parlor. See our website for more information: <http://1stuu.org/Worship/vespers/.vespers.php>.

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).

MESSAGE  
TOPICS

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce on Sunday, 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 as part of our closing circle. Please note that announcements about meetings are more appropriate for coffee hour.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM**, on the second Thursday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are **February 9** and **March 9**. 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**, Secretary to the Board, at [secretary@1stuu.org](mailto:secretary@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 service is scheduled when Membership Chair Dessa Cosma is notified that we have a new member who wishes 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. Let Dessa know you're interested so we may welcome you properly!

#### 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.



#### SECOND SUNDAYS: NETWORKING

All congregants are invited to bring and share your personal business cards for distribution on the second Sunday of the month. Many of us would certainly like to be able to support businesses of fellow church members and if you feel the same, here is an opportunity to do just that.



## What Else Is Going On? ...

### 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](mailto: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 [nelnan@aol.com](mailto:nelnan@aol.com) to provide a network for communication and support. Other Care Committee 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

Visit the UU Detroit Young Adults Group Facebook page to learn about activities, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/>, or contact **Aletha Oberdier** at [alethafaye@gmail.com](mailto:alethafaye@gmail.com) to join our Google Group.

### CHECK THE CHURCH CALENDAR!

There are so many interesting things going on at UU Detroit! Please be sure to check the church calendar before you schedule an event. You may access it online at <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar>. If the day looks free for your event, you may reserve a room by sending an email to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@1stuu.org). Either Dan Secrest, Alexis Mitchell, or Kathe Stevens will get your room scheduled and Alexis will get information about your event into the newsletter.

### 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](mailto:webmaster@1stuu.org)!



### SHARE OUR FACEBOOK POSTS!

Facebook events are being created on our [Facebook group](#) for sermons, Vespers, Membership activities, and other events. When you see a Facebook event about church activities, **please share it!** Help get the word out about what we're doing at UU Detroit.

### DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT EMEAC EVENTS?

You can find out what's going on with East Michigan Environmental Action Council, the owner of our building and manager of the Cass Corridor Commons, by clicking on the [Latest News](#) tab at [www.emeac.org](http://www.emeac.org).

### CASS CORRIDOR COMMONS NEWS

UU Detroit is part of the [Cass Corridor Commons](#), a multi-use nonprofit green space and community hub that embodies principles of shared space, environmental justice and social justice principles. The Commons' [Facebook page](#) has up-to-date information .



## Calendar ...

**All events take place at UU Detroit, 4605 Cass, unless otherwise indicated**

View the UU Detroit calendar at <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar>

### Wednesday, February 1

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

7:00 PM: *Social Justice Committee meeting*  
— Parlor

### Sunday, February 5

9:00 AM–5:00 PM: *EMEAC training in Social Hall* — Coffee Hour will be in the Parlor

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Mapping the Water Crisis"* (Monica Lewis-Patrick) — Sanctuary

12:30 PM: *Intro to UU Detroit class* — Parlor

### Wednesday, February 8

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

### Thursday, February 9

7:00 PM: *Board Meeting* — Whole Foods Market Community Room, 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit

### Sunday, February 12

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "A New America?"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

12:00 PM: *New Member Sunday* — Sanctuary

12:00 PM: *Potluck* — Social Hall

### Wednesday, February 15

7:00 PM: *Worship Committee* — Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

### Sunday, February 19

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "On James Baldwin"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

### Monday, February 20

7:00 PM: *Amnesty International* — Parlor

### Wednesday, February 22

6:00 PM: *Vespers* — Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

### Sunday, February 26

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Conscience and Democracy"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary





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](http://www.1stuu.org),  
email us at [info@1stuu.org](mailto:info@1stuu.org), 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](mailto:office@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

### MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

#### Monday, February 20th

Next issue covers March 1 — March 31, 2017

No submissions accepted after the deadline — send items to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@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

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