

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

  
OCTOBER  
2017  
EDITION

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule ...

### October 1st — “On Genealogy”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

In my family, my grandmother was very interested in our genealogy and studied it assiduously. More recently, my father took on the task and started employing more modern techniques. How much is who we are determined but from whence we came?

### October 8th — “Detroit Today”

*Stephen Henderson, Guest Speaker*

Stephen Henderson is editorial page editor for the Detroit Free Press, hosts a daily radio show, “Detroit Today,” on WDET 101.9 FM, as well as weekly tv shows American Black Journal and MiWeek, both on Detroit Public Television. He will talk about his views on “Detroit Today.”

### October 15th — “Irma and La Tuna, Charlottesville and North Korea: The Voice Under the Voice, Still Unheard”

*Dr. Jim Perkinson, Guest Speaker*

The signs of our time shout! An entire planet raises an increasingly insistent voice, challenging our entire species in its conceit as supreme. Water is Earth’s prophet. Harvey and Irma mere punctuation. Nigeria and Bangladesh a deep warning and test. La Tuna and Eagle Creek the voice running silent and hot. We have hardly even begun to listen. Will we ever? The time is late.

### October 22nd — “Strings Attached: What Connects Us”

*Diane Shipley DeCillis, Guest Speaker*

Saudade is a Portuguese word that refers to a deep emotional state of melancholic longing for a person or thing that is absent. It can also apply to something that does not and cannot exist. This word contains an emotional thread of connection: Immigrants who become homesick upon seeing something that reminds them of motherland, the place where they’ve felt most at home even as they are overjoyed to be part of this new free country. Many accept this, but not without saudade. Inspired by the 7th principle of UUism, I look forward to discussing separation, attachment, and connection, which are salient themes in my poetry and stories.

### October 29th — “The Haunting Season”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

As we approach Halloween, I will explore the idea of ghosts and hauntings. Why do we find the idea of the supernatural to be so pervasive?



4605 Cass Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-9107

## Inside This Issue ...

HIGHLIGHTS: What a party: Rev. Murray’s installation + news from the Membership Committee: visitor and sermon discussion tables

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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)**

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



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 **Cass and Forest** for over a century ... our Universalist and Unitarian roots in **Detroit** go back over **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 [UUA-recognized](#) **Welcoming Congregation**

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



## First Unitarian- Universalist Church Organizational Chart 2017—2018

### OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT  
*Dan Hale*

VICE PRESIDENT  
*Nathan Strickland, Jr.*

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
*Kathe Stevens*

BOARD SECRETARY  
*Danny Rebb*

TREASURER  
*Bob Lauer*

### TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE:

*Maysel Brooks*  
*Joel Fortgang*  
*Dan Secrest*  
*Dan Wiest*

### STAFF:

MINISTER  
*The Rev. Dr. Stephen  
Butler Murray*

MUSIC DIRECTOR  
*Todd Ballou*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
*Nancy Shattuck*

CHILD CARE PROVIDER  
*Julia Cuneo*

SOCIAL HOUR COORDINATOR  
*Omar Davis*

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



**Black Lives Matter to Unitarian Universalists.**



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

**THANK YOU** to all who met, planned, worked, and celebrated the Service of Covenant and Installation for The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray as Settled Minister of The First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, on Saturday, September 23 • 11:30 A.M., in the Sanctuary at 4605 Cass Ave., Detroit

**Todd Ballou** and the **UU Detroit Choir**: for the inspiring and lively music

**Dessa Cosma**, for her gracious welcome; **Julie Brock**, for not only lighting the chalice but also refreshing our chalice history; **Deanna McGraw** and **Sharon Mills**, for calling us to celebrate with a reminder of how we got here; **Dan Hale**, for leading the congregation in the litany of installation; **Kathe Stevens**, for guiding us through the laying on of hands; **Nate Strickland**, for thoughtfully presenting the stole on behalf of the congregation; and **Nancy Owen Nelson**, for closing out our ceremony by extinguishing our chalice — all of you made the ceremony special

**Lencha Acker**: for the beautiful flowers and all your work to make the Social Hall a lovely setting

**Veronica Adams**: for muscles and talents to organize the social hall to be its most festive and for the hard job of cleanup on Saturday and Sunday

**Tim Bailey**: for everything — picking up wine and champagne, ordering the cake, hauling tables from the basement on an unseasonably warm day, setting up the Social Hall, coming to church (yet again) to open windows in the hall on Friday evening to cool it down, and other contributions too numerous to mention

**Dessa Cosma**: for agreeing to lead us — in a leap of faith — six months ago, and for everything from mailing invitations to being the last member of the cleanup crew standing in the heat of the social hall at the end of the day on Saturday

**Omar Davis** and **Austin Salazar**: for setup and cleanup and for keeping us well served during the luncheon

**Colleen Dolan-Greene**: for her expertise — and elbow grease — with setting tables and organizing the hall, and then being one of the last holdouts as part of the clean-up crew (also for the use of her personal collection of festive dinnerware and for the impromptu fundraiser on Sunday morning to dispose of the leftover wine and champagne)

**Matt Friedrichs**: for getting invitations mailed

**Trey Greene**: for hard work as a member of the cleanup crew both Saturday and Sunday

**Glenn Maxwell**: for partnering with Tim Bailey to make sure we had appropriate toasting and celebrating beverages and to get the hall set up and cooled down, and for other tasks too numerous to mention (or remember)

**Aletha Oberdier**: for her creative graphic design

**Nancy Owen Nelson**: for ordering linens, plates, glasses, utensils, etc. so we could celebrate in style

**Danny Rebb**: for sharing his photography equipment and talents

**Dan Secrest** and **Steve Curtin**: for recording the ceremony

**Nancy Shattuck**: for keeping track of who's coming and going

**Joan Smykowski**: for creating a colorful and festive design for the cake

**Dan Wiest**: for being everywhere, as usual (especially for writing checks and taking care of other money matters)

**Roger Zeigler**: for hauling dishes, etc. to and from church and generally (and generously) supporting Nancy Owen Nelson's endeavors

*cont'd next page ...*



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ... cont'd

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Soloist [Sky Covington](#) — and her accompanist, Jimmy Blues — and Sky's biggest fan, **Elayne Sikelianos**

Taher Jaber and one of our neighborhood favorites, [Harmonie Garden Café](#), for preparing, delivering, setting up, and helping to serve great food

[Kit's Karma Creations](#) for her artistry in creating the stole we presented to Rev. Murray

The Settled Minister Search Committee: Deanna McGraw (Chair), Lencha Acker, **Bill McKnight**, Sharon Mills, Joan Smykowski, and Nate Strickland, whose hard work got us here

The **members and friends** celebrating with us, who generously contributed \$478 to the Offering on behalf of the UU Ministers Fund of The Living Tradition

### AND

**Cynthia Dawdy** and **Hunter Murray**: for your gigantic smiles and enthusiastic presence and for loving Rev. Murray as much as we do

*Gratefully,*

**The Installation Committee:**

**Dessa Cosma (Chair),**

**Tim Bailey,**

**Colleen Dolan-Greene,**

**Nancy Owen Nelson,**

**Kathe Stevens,**

**and, of course,**

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

**(Ex Officio)**





## Committee and Member News ...

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

If you are interested in helping to drive social justice in our congregation, please contact chair **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**, [vicepresident@1stuu.org](mailto:vicepresident@1stuu.org), or join us on the **first Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:00 PM** in the Parlor.

### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA EMAIL

**Anita "Ruby" Jones** compiles church-related announcements into a weekly email digest, which she sends each Friday via the church email group, so the announcements will be fresh in our minds for Sunday activities and discussion. Send your announcements to [announcements@1stuu.org](mailto:announcements@1stuu.org).



### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**VISION:** UU Detroit will be a healthy and active community, featuring efficient, respectful, interesting, and consistent electronic communication throughout the week. Electronic communication will support our face-to-face gatherings, and vice versa. We will be a caring community with well-coordinated means of keeping people without computers and smartphones in the loop. Smaller groups will prosper within our larger community, with many using niche communication technologies, yet also staying connected with the mother ship. With regard to the larger community, we will be accessible and well organized in collaborating on larger goals and in sharing experiences and ideas.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit our web page: [Communications Committee](#)

**TO VOLUNTEER:** Speak to chairperson, **Dan Secrest**, at 313-580-7082 or send an email to [communications@1stuu.org](mailto:communications@1stuu.org).

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is excited to host a "Visitor Table" during Social Hour. They invite you to join with members of the committee to both meet visitors to our church and also to talk about the Sunday sermon. Look for the table with the sign "Visitor Table" and one of our friendly Membership Committee members: **Maysel Brooks, Joel Fortgang, Deanna McGraw** or **Sharon Mills**.

Contact chair **Dessa Cosma**, [dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com), for more information.

See [p. 6](#) for details on the next "Intro to UU Detroit" class which is scheduled for **October 15**.

### JERRY WILLIAMS DEATH NOTICE

A [death notice](#) for longtime member **Jerry Williams** ran in the *Detroit Free Press* and *Detroit News* on September 24, 2017.



## Activities ...

### 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.

### 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>.

### Committee Meetings

Many committee meetings are scheduled for Wednesday nights. Check for dates under *Committee & Member News*, [p. 5](#).

WEDNESDAYS AT  
UU DETROIT

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 **October 12** and **November 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

#### “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! Classes are scheduled for **October 15**.

#### Welcoming New Members

Do you wish to come forward as a new member, present yourself 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 Membership Committee Chair, **Dessa Cosma**, know you're interested so we may welcome you properly! [dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com).

#### SECOND Sundays: Potluck

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it 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. Contact **Ruby Jones** ([racedancer@hotmail.com](mailto:racedancer@hotmail.com)) for more details.



## Activities ... cont'd

### 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 with our child care provider, **Julia Cuneo**, in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. Volunteers are urged to step up to help with child care. See Child Care Committee Co-Chairs, **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 webmaster Dan Secrest, office administrator Nancy Shattuck, or newsletter editor Kathe Stevens will get your room scheduled and 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, **Nancy Shattuck**, 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 on your newsfeed! Help get the word out about what's going on 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 .



## Policies and Procedures ...

### So, You've Been Wondering About UU Detroit's Policies and Procedures?

Featured policy and procedure of the month: [Executive Sessions of the Board of Trustees](#)

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: It shall be at the discretion of the Board President or a motion by the Board to hold a private confidential executive session whenever appropriate to maintain a confidential discussion."

"RATIONALE OR BACKGROUND: It is sometimes important for the Board to have a confidential conversation which allows members to speak more openly and frankly about sensitive issues."

Moving a meeting to Executive Session is a common business practice and your board has utilized it to discuss, for instance, employee matters.

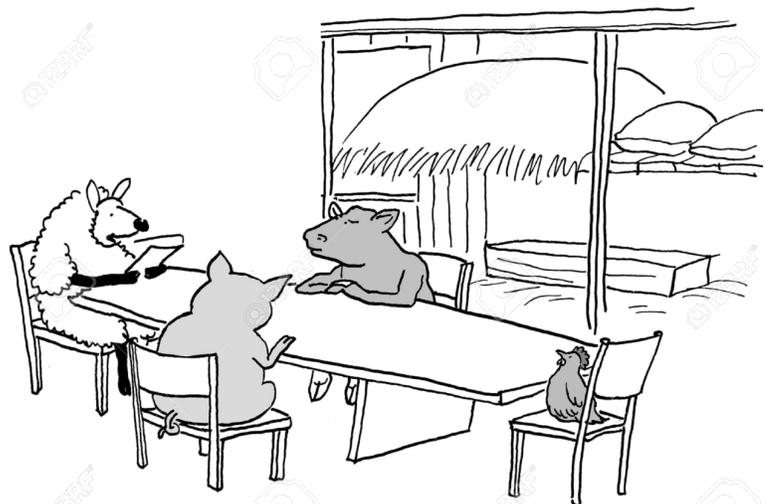
The procedures follow *Robert's Rules of Order*. Our bylaws state in Article IV, §2, ¶G, that all meetings are to be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order* so

this policy is a bit redundant, but since our meetings are open to all members, the Board wanted to be clear that sensitive matters will be handled in a confidential manner.

To maintain the transparency of board meetings, the minutes of any meeting in which the board goes into Executive Session will reflect details of the motion and vote to enter into Executive Session and will record any official report arising out of that Executive Session. Decisions made as a result of any Executive Session will be formally reported in the minutes.

Your board strives to represent the congregation as effectively and conscientiously as is possible. Hence it begins each board meeting by reciting aloud: "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."

And, once again, a bit of levity is always in order ... this cartoon is not a reflection on, or of, our current board (of which your newsletter editor is a member).



"The cow mooed, the pig oinked, the chicken clucked, I baaed and then we adjourned."

[Click to return to first page](#)



## Calendar ...

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

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

### Sunday, October 1

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel  
11:00 AM: Worship Service "On  
Genealogy" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler  
Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary

### Wednesday, October 4

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall  
7:00 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting  
— Parlor

### Sunday, October 8

9:00 PM: Choir Practice — Chancel  
11:00 AM: Worship Service "Detroit  
Today" (Stephen Henderson,  
Guest Speaker) — Sanctuary  
12:00 PM: Potluck — Social Hall



### Wednesday, October 11

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Thursday, October 12

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

### Sunday, October 15

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel  
11:00 AM: EJAM training — Social Hall  
11:00 AM: Worship Service "The  
Voice Under the Voice" (Dr. Jim  
Perkinson, Guest Speaker) —  
Sanctuary  
12:30 PM: "Intro to UU Detroit" class —  
Narthex



### Monday, October 16

7:30 PM: Amnesty International — Parlor

### Wednesday, October 18

7:00 PM: Worship Committee — Parlor  
7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Sunday, October 22

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Strings  
Attached: What Connects  
Us" (Diane Shipley DeCillis,  
Guest Speaker) — Sanctuary  
12:30 PM: Membership Committee meeting  
— Parlor



### Wednesday, October 25

6:00 PM: Vespers — Parlor  
7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Sunday, October 29

11:00 AM: Worship Service "The Haunting  
Season" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler  
Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary



The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray



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 [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org).

## 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 [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

### Newsletter Deadline

#### Friday, October 20th

Next issue covers November 1 — November 30, 2017

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

### Office Administrator Work Schedule

**Nancy Shattuck** works every Sunday from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.