

**December
2018
Edition**



Newsletter
**First Unitarian-Universalist Church
of Detroit**

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

December 2nd — “*The Detroit River Walk: Welcoming to All with Benefits to All*”

John Hartig, Guest Speaker

Waterfront Porch is the story of how Detroit is building a new front door to the Detroit River called the Detroit River Walk as part of a strategy to reconnect people with nature, help revitalize the city and region, and help foster a more sustainable future. Detroit was the epicenter of the Fur Trade Era, an unparalleled leader of ship building for 100 years, the “Silicon Valley” of the industrial age, and the unquestioned leader of the Arsenal of Democracy. Today, Detroit is once again demonstrating its creativity, innovation, and work ethic in building the Detroit River Walk, one of the largest, by scale, waterfront redevelopment projects in the United States, that is welcoming to all with benefits to all.

December 9th — “*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

We celebrate the 70th anniversary of this historic document, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its third session on December 10, 1948 as Resolution 217 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France. The Declaration consists of 30 articles affirming an individual’s rights which, although not legally binding in themselves, have been elaborated in subsequent international treaties, economic transfers, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions, and other laws. The Declaration was the first step in the process of formulating the International Bill of Human Rights, which was completed in 1966, and came into force in 1976.

December 16th — “*On Ableism*”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

This week, we will discuss the pervasiveness of ableism, a set of beliefs or practices that devalue and discriminate against people with physical, intellectual, or psychiatric characteristics which often are interpreted by majority culture as difference.

December 23rd — “*The Meaning of Advent*”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

Advent is the season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the nativity of Jesus in the Christian traditions. The name derives from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “Coming.” Marked over the course of the four Sundays before Christmas, Advent is traditionally celebrated with an advent wreath: a ring of evergreen with 3 purple candles and one pink one that represent Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

December 24th — **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

December 30th — “*We are Not Born Equal!*”

Sally Borden, Guest Speaker

In the U. S., we may say we are all born equal from a philosophical, standpoint, but we are in fact all born quite unequal. What produces this inequality and what can we do about it? And what resolutions can we make today to mitigate this fact of life? For the second half of the service, congregants will share resolutions.



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

We are a [Welcoming
Congregation](#)

We believe [Black Lives Matter](#)

We stand in [solidarity with Muslim
communities](#)

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

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 **Member** of the [Unitarian-Universalist Association of Congregations](#) —
— in the [MidAmerica Region](#)

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Board President: Dan Hale

Music Director: Todd Ballou



Words to live by

New Feature!!!!

WE WANT TO GET YOUR HEART PUMPING AND BRAIN SPINNING WITH INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES EACH MONTH. IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE QUOTE, PLEASE SEND IT TO [NEWSLETTER@1STUU.ORG!](mailto:NEWSLETTER@1STUU.ORG)

For the debut of words to live by, we offer “Sunbeams” from the [April 2017 issue](#) of [The Sun Magazine](#), with quotes on the topic that our congregation will be focusing on in the coming year(s) — IMMIGRATION. Some are painful, some deflect pain with humor, all are thoughtful, and it was too hard to pick just one.

All the problems we face in the United States today can be traced to an unenlightened immigration policy on the part of the American Indian. — [Pat Paulsen](#)

America has nothing to fear from today's immigrants. They have come here for the same reason that families have always come here — for the hope that, in America, they could build a better life for themselves and their families. — [Barack Obama](#)

My family came to this country to take advantage of opportunity, not to take advantage of America. — [Jake Danishevsky](#)

I didn't want to be an immigrant. I was forced to be an immigrant. Alexis de Tocqueville, the French writer, said that the powerful and the happy never go into exile. He was right. — [Jorge Ramos](#)

People come here penniless but not cultureless. They bring us gifts. We can synthesize the best of our traditions with the best of theirs. We can teach and learn from each other to produce a better America. — [Mary Pipher](#)

People who traveled for so many miles through such horrific conditions in order to find work cannot accurately be portrayed as lazy benefit-scroungers. — [Patrick Kingsley](#)

Whenever people talk in the abstract about the pros and cons of immigration, one should not forget that immigrants are individual human beings whose lives happen not to fit

neatly within national borders — and that, like all human beings, they are all different. — [Philippe Legrain](#)

Recognize yourself in he and she who are not like you and me. — [Carlos Fuentes](#)

My theory is that everyone, at one time or another, has been at the fringe of society in some way: an outcast in high school, a stranger in a foreign country, the best at something, the worst at something, the one who's different. Being an outsider is the one thing we all have in common. — [Alice Hoffman](#)



Announcements

46th annual Noel Night

Beginning at 5 PM on **Saturday, December 1** in the Sanctuary, the Cass Corridor Commons will continue a long tradition as host of [Noel Night](#). Student musicians and performance ensembles will offer musical selections, leading up to headlining act, the dynamic jazz legend, Thornetta Davis.

Quarterly Interactive Meeting

The Board invites you to our next quarterly interactive board and congregation meeting in the Social Hall on **Sunday, December 2**, after the service.

Annual "Human Rights Day" Service with Amnesty

December 9 is our annual *Human Rights Day* joint service with [Amnesty International](#), followed by a potluck with Amnesty and [Freedom House](#). **Please be extra generous with your potluck contributions — we'll have lots of guests and we want to treat them to a UU Detroit feast.**

Petitions and letters will be available to sign and write during our social hour/potluck. We'll get to meet members of Freedom House and hear their stories. There will be fair trade chocolate, Amnesty Rocks, UU Rocks, and other tchotchkes. Please join us!



Member News

UU Detroit's got talent

Nancy Owen Nelson's poetry chapbook, [*My Heart Wears No Colors*](#), is available for pre-order on amazon.com. The paperback was published on November 5. Note the review by Rev. Murray!

Nancy Shattuck launched two novels in [*The Watertown Chronicles*](#) historical fiction series about Puritan Colonial America. Both print and kindle versions are available on amazon.com with audiobooks to follow in January.

Vercina Hollis and her bass guitar have been reunited and our Sunday services are enriched by it. We're honored to have you play, Vercina.

Great BIG HURRAH for volunteers

As we all know, our church runs smoothly because of our many volunteers. Lencha and Al Acker have been prolific volunteers since joining UU Detroit in 1978.

Lencha has donned many hats, from ministerial search committee to Sunday child care support. You may thank her for providing our lovely chancel flowers each week. Lencha lately served as the UU Detroit Board liaison to the EMEAC Board.

In the past 40 years, Al has served in dozens of leadership roles, including Board president. Al most recently served as co-chair of the Welcoming Task Force, which led the Congregation in renewing its "Welcoming Congregation" status.

A great BIG HURRAH for both of you and thanks from your church community.

Board & Committee News

Finance Committee

At September 30th we finished the first quarter of our new fiscal year. While this is too early in the year to make a reasonable projection for the whole fiscal year, the Finance Committee can report on progress thus far. Pledged donations, in fact all donations, were just a little higher than expected. This is fine but it doesn't shed much light on

where we will be at year end as many people front load their pledges, giving a large disproportionate amount in the early part of the year. Non-donation income is running just as expected. Overall, monies coming in show no problems at this time.

Expenses continue to be under budget. At September 30th, expenses were a little more than \$2,000 under budget for the three-month period. At this point, Worship, Planning, and Building Maintenance committees are running under budget and account for most of the favorable expense variance.

In summary, for now we are well positioned to meet our Congregation's expected expenses as they arise. We continue to have margin of safety for the time being.

Thank you all for your pledges and donations.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to offer "Intro to UU Detroit" on Sunday, **December 16**. Join **Sally Borden** in the Narthex at **12:30 PM** to learn more about Unitarian Universalist tradition and the history of UU Detroit.

Worship Committee

Christmas Bells Are Ringing!!!!

The Worship Committee and Rev. Murray invite you to our annual *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* on **Monday, December 24 @7 PM**. Let's make the holiday social hour afterwards both bountiful *and* beautiful; please bring a holiday treat to share. (**Kathe Stevens** is bringing [egg nog from Calder Dairy!](#))

Community



Human rights observances

The United Nations has set aside days to reflect on human rights.

- [*Human Rights Day*](#) — **December 10**: calls for people to know and push for their rights no matter where they are in the world



- [International Migrants Day](#) — **December 18:** recognizes the efforts, contributions, and rights of migrants worldwide
- [International Human Solidarity Day](#) — **December 20:** celebrates unity in diversity and reminds people on the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty.

Join UU Detroit on December 9 for our annual *Human Rights Day* service with Amnesty International and Freedom House. See [“Announcements.”](#)

Thank you, New Center Pilates

Lyn Scharret of [New Center Pilates](#) usually may be found on the second floor teaching classes. But her presence is felt throughout our community in the loving details she adds, from flower pots to paint. Now Lyn has scrubbed the unisex/ADA bathroom off the hallway outside the social hall and added personal touches. Thank you, Lyn!



“Share the Plate” Sunday

Our November 18th *Share the Plate* recipient was the Cass Community Social Services, a Detroit-based agency dedicated to providing food, housing, health services, and job programs <https://casscommunity.org/>. CCSS prepares and serves 700,000 meals a year. It provides a warming center in winter, an emergency shelter for women and children, coordinates rotating shelters with local organization and permanent supported housing. The agency created Green Industries to link employment with sustainability and to use sales to pay for the new positions. Currently 85 adults have jobs with

Green Industries. The Cass Free Medical Clinic offers health screenings, providing simple medications and procedures. During the weekdays, the Cass Activity Center is used by 125 adults with developmental disabilities where program members decide on personal goals—social, educational, vocational, and recreational.

November vespers

Our November 28th vespers featured our very own Nancy Shattuck reading Adrienne Rich's poems of activism from the sixties and seventies, accompanied by the music of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. Nancy is our church's Office Administrator, so this was a good opportunity to see another side of her.

UU Detroit birthdays!

12/9	Robert Neale
12/10	Emirene Mendoza
12/11	Marilyn Mitchell
12/20	Marsha Bruhn
12/21	Lee Thume
12/24	Emma Estela Velasquez



Denominational News

2019 assemblies

Our regional and national assemblies are a great chance to meet other UUs. Regional assembly is held annually in the spring, national assembly is held annually in June. **Will you consider going, and representing UU Detroit as a delegate?**

First up is 2019 MidAmerica [Regional Assembly](#), April 5-7 in St. Louis, MO. [Early bird registration](#) ends **February 28**. Early registration is at discounted rates and helps ensure that you can reserve a room at the conference hotels.

The theme is “Intersectionalities” — how we live, work, and relate, as well as share, withhold, and leverage power in our world. Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality, and tools and skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general “nuts and bolts” of congregational life, such as



leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education.

The Keynote Presenter for 2019 regional assembly will be UUA President, [Susan Frederick-Gray](#).

Nathan Strickland, Jr. is our 2019 regional assembly delegate, but we encourage two more people to volunteer to join Nathan.

[General Assembly](#) is **June 19-23, 2019** in Spokane, WA. The Board is looking for three UU Detroiters to be delegates at general assembly.

If you're interested in being a delegate for regional assembly or national assembly — or both! — contact **Dan Hale**: president@1stuu.org.

[History](#)
[Parking](#)
[Website](#)

Participate:

Send an email:
[Help with Sunday child care](#) (Sally Borden)
Go to a link:
[Flower Donation Signup Sheet](#)
[Greeter Signup Sheet](#)
[Visitor Table Signup Sheet](#)

Reserve a room:

[Sunday morning/afternoon or Wednesday evening](#)
(Newsletter Editors)
[Other days](#) (Dee Collins — 313-556-1702)



Church Life



Communicate:

Send an email:
[Choir](#) (Todd Ballou)
[Email listserv signup](#) (Webmaster)
[Minister](#) (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)
[Newsletter](#) (Newsletter Editors)
[Office administrator](#) (Nancy Shattuck)
[Webmaster](#) (Dan Secret)
[Weekly email digest](#) (Ruby Jones)

Go to a link:
[Board Members & Committee Chairs](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Facebook group](#)

Community:

Send an email:
[Amnesty International](#) (Dan Wiest)
[Share personal business cards](#) (Ruby Jones)
[Sign the Membership Book](#) (Deanna McGraw)
[Suggest sermon topics](#) (Worship Committee)

Learn about us:

Send an email:
["Intro to UU Detroit"](#) (Sally Borden)
Go to a link:
[Facebook page](#)

Dates and Deadlines

The year closes with many celebrations: the Jewish observance of [Chanukah](#), Christian holy days leading up to [Christmas](#), [Pagan solstice](#), Afro-centric [Kwanzaa](#) begins — December even has [World Arabic Language Day](#). Maybe there are more that you observe! Here are important dates at UU Detroit as we end 2018:

- 46th Annual Noel Night:** Sat., Dec. 1, performances start @5 PM — Sanctuary
- Interactive Board/Congregation meeting:** Sun., Dec. 2 @12:30 PM — Social Hall
- Human Rights Day joint service with Amnesty Int'l:** Sun., Dec. 9 @11 AM — Sanctuary
- Potluck and petition signing with Amnesty Int'l and Freedom House:** Sun., Dec. 9 @12 PM — Social Hall
- Worship Committee meeting:** Sun., Dec. 9 @12:40 PM — Parlor
- Board meeting:** Sun., Dec. 16 @12:30 PM — Parlor
- "Intro to UU Detroit":** Sun., Dec. 16 @12:30 PM — Narthex
- Christmas Eve candlelight service:** Mon., Dec. 24 @7 PM — Sanctuary
- Christmas Eve holiday potluck:** Mon., Dec. 24 @8 PM — Social Hall



Order of service deadline

Send your item/event to be included in our Sunday order of service to officeadmin@1stuu.org by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

Newsletter deadline

December 20th — send items to newsletter@1stuu.org

Next issue covers December 1 - 31, 2018

No submissions accepted after the deadline

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

We, the member congregations
of the Unitarian Universalist
Association, covenant to affirm
and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity
of every person

Justice, equity, and compassion in
human relations

Acceptance of one another and
encouragement to spiritual growth in
our congregations

A free and responsible search
for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use
of the democratic process within our
congregations and in society at large

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

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Ave at the corner of Forest Ave

... in the [Cass Corridor Commons](#) ...

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

Our history of fighting for civil liberties in the world and advocating for Detroit at home is long and strong. Our roots in Detroit go back over 185 years: Universalists first worshiped in Detroit in 1831, Unitarians in 1833. One hundred years later, an experimental union of the two congregations led to an official merger in 1934, preceding the national merger of the two denominations (in 1961) by 27 years.

Radical thinkers who worshipped, spoke, met, and organized within our congregations include groundbreaking African-Americans; civil rights crusaders and martyrs; progressive politicians; icons of women's movements, including trailblazing women lawyers and doctors; promoters of worker's rights; LGBTQ pioneers; peace activists and martyrs; environmental champions; immigration reformists; and authors, poets, educators, scientists, architects, and musicians.

From 19th century abolitionists to 20th century suffragettes to 21st century water warriors — and ordinary people seeking solace and a vision of how to put faith into action — we have lived out and continue to live out our Sixth Principle: *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*



**SIDE WITH
LOVE**

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201