

**April  
2019  
Edition**



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

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

**April 7th — “Getting to YE\$”**

*Dan Secrest, Guest Speaker*

We will kick off our annual pledge campaign with a rousing discussion of where we stand as a church, and how we can progress together.

**April 14th — “Ostara, Revisited”**

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

The Spring Equinox (remember that, back in March?) is significant because it is the time when night and day are of equal length, and a time to celebrate balance in all things. Our Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Germanic ancestors would celebrate Spring’s arrival many different ways. Today, as much of Christendom gears up to celebrate Easter in a week, we reflect on Ostara, which would seem to be an origin for modern Christianity’s celebration of Easter.

**April 21st — “Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders in Today’s American Society”**

*Dr. Russell Kavalhuna, Guest Speaker*

Henry Ford College President Russell Kavalhuna will discuss what leadership means for our young people today. Current leaders were influenced by a very different sphere of influences than that of young adults today.

**April 28th — “On Doubt”**

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

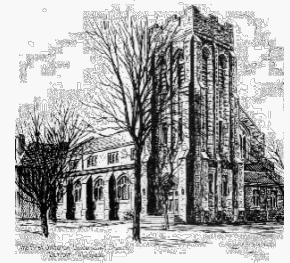
Last Sunday, many churches around us celebrated Easter. The Sunday after, Christians often tell the story of “Doubting Thomas,” the disciple who did not believe in Jesus’ resurrection. Rev. Murray will talk about the history of the tradition of Thomas in the early Christian church, and further explore the importance of doubt in any life of faith.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 19th — 12:30 PM — Social Hall**

Pursuant to Article IV, §2(A) of our by-laws, the annual meeting of the congregation of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit has been called for Sunday, May 19, 2019, 12:30 PM, in the Social Hall.

The purpose of the annual business meeting is to hold elections; approve a budget for the next fiscal year; receive committee reports; and conduct any other business of the church as necessary.



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

Our congregation-wide focus is  
[Immigration](#)

We are a [Welcoming Congregation](#)

We believe [Black Lives Matter](#)

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

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

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

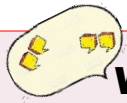
**Mission:** First Unitarian-Universalist Church strives to be an expanding transformative community whose mission is to liberate truth, radiate kindness, and love courageously.

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

**Music Director:** Todd Ballou

**Board President:** Dan Hale

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote [seven Principles](#).



## Words to live by

### Generosity As A Practice

With our Canvass Campaign kickoff looming on April 7<sup>th</sup>, we offer the words of Mark V. Ewert, from his book, *The Generosity Path: Finding the Richness in Giving*. The selection is from Chapter 4, "Generosity As A Practice":

"We all know people we would consider generous. The term itself sounds complete and static, like something fully realized. Yet the character of generosity varies from one person to the next, one situation to the next, and tends to keep evolving as people change. For acts to truly be generous and to have the greatest benefit, they must originate from altruism. These actions are unique to every situation; for each person's circumstance, being generous means something different.

There is no such thing as perfect generosity, no ultimate measure of success. Knowing this can liberate us from absolutist expectations. Yet it also makes generosity hard to define or chart. Many people who others consider to be generous may not think of themselves as such because they do not have an objective measure with which they can compare their actions. Meanwhile, there are others who may appear to exhibit generosity but do not actually put themselves out much at all. For all these reasons, it helps to think of generosity as an internal approach that develops and manifests itself in the world through action. In this it is much like meditation, prayer, worship, or other religious practice. In fact, I consider my practice of generosity to be intimately related to my spiritual life; for me, it is a religious practice.

That is why this book is called *The Generosity Path*. As a practice, it is a way of thinking and conduct, a way of life. And as a metaphor it is a path to follow on a journey—it may have crossroads, places to rest, and perhaps some challenging uphill sections."

*The Generosity Path* was published by Skinner House in 2014. It's helpful as a stewardship guide.



## Announcements

### Annual Canvass Campaign

**Yearly pledges are the financial backbone of our church.** Each year the Board's goal during the annual Canvass Campaign is to collect as many pledges of monetary support as we can before our annual meeting in May, so we can have a reliable estimate with which to create a proposed budget to vote on at the annual meeting.

Our annual Canvass Campaign will kick off on Sun., **April 7**, with a service led by Canvass Committee Chair **Dan Secret** and a presentation immediately following the service during the Social Hour. The theme this year is **Getting to Ye\$**.

We hope to see you on April 7<sup>th</sup>!

## Member News



### Martha Bogner

Rev. Murray delightfully announced that our own **Martha Bogner** has been accepted at Meadville Lombard Theological School! At its March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, your Board unanimously approved a motion to sponsor Martha as she begins the credentialing process to become a UU minister. **Congratulations, Martha!** We're so proud of you! (We're getting a little ahead of ourselves, but UU Detroit has already ordained six women, a seventh would be grand — hint, hint.)

### Dr. Ivan Louis Cotman, Sr.

We're sorry to announce the passing of longtime member **Dr. Ivan Louis Cotman, Sr.** Ivan's memorial service was held on Saturday, March 16, at UU Detroit. Ivan's fraternity brothers and colleagues provided a moving tribute during the service. Sincere condolences to his wife, Jeanetta, and sons, Ivan Jr., Arthur, and Amir, and to his grandchildren. Ivan's [obituary](#) outlines his many accomplishments and contributions.



## Board & Committee News

### Meeting dates

Due to scheduling conflicts, the regularly scheduled **board meeting** of April 21 has been moved to **April 28**.

Article IV, §2(A) of our bylaws requires our congregation's annual business meeting to be held in the month of May. We need a quorum of the voting membership to conduct the business of the meeting. This year, the timing of Mother's Day and Memorial Day, with traditionally low attendance, created a scheduling challenge.

The board's solution, to meet bylaw requirements, is to call the **annual meeting** for **May 19<sup>th</sup>** and then offer a motion immediately to **adjourn the annual meeting to June 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

More information about both the May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting dates will be provided in future emails, newsletters, orders of service, and pulpit announcements.

Please note we'll **need a quorum in order to vote to adjourn**. We'll appreciate your attendance on both May 19<sup>th</sup>. And we need you back on June 2<sup>nd</sup>!

We'll continue our regular schedule with our **June 16<sup>th</sup>** board meeting.

## Community

### UU Detroit birthdays!

4/11	Jennifer Teed
4/14	Gerhard Krabbe
4 /16	Sally Borden
4/20	Lily Secret
4/23	Steve Curtin
4/24	Bill McKnight

### Vespers

March vespers featured guest speaker **Elayne Sikelianos** presenting, in honor of Women's History Month, *Hysterical Women i Have Not Known*: Sappho, Native American women poets, some Rembetiko Women, Maya Angelou and others, along with appropriately themed music.

The next monthly vespers is **April 24<sup>th</sup>** at [Henry Ford Village](#) at [15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn, MI](#), from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Library Reading Room, which is accessible from the Great Lakes entrance. The library is labeled 13 on this [campus map](#).

### "Walls No More"

"Muros No Más (Walls No More): Our Journey to the Border," will be presented on Tue, **April 9<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30-8:00 PM at **Sacred Heart Church** (1000 Elliot, Detroit, Mich. 48207). This presentation is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Info at <https://sistershvm.org/events/>.

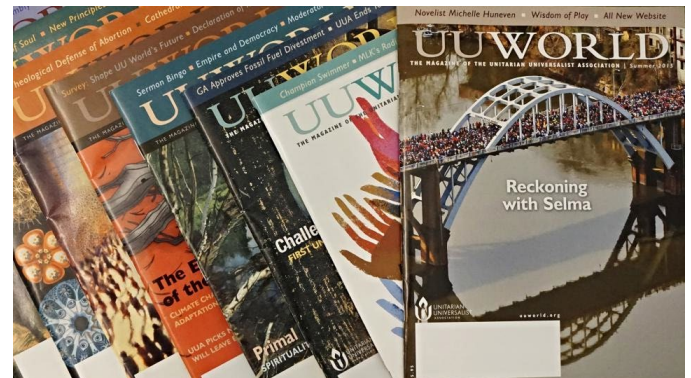
## Denominational News

The UUA publishes a quarterly digital magazine, and the MidAmerica Region — our region — publishes a monthly online newsletter.

The MidAmerica Region's March 2019 newsletter features a link to a video, "[Getting Called Out: How to Apologize](#)." The video is described as a message for those committed to a level of higher awareness and sensitivity around inclusion.

Your membership at UU Detroit entitles to you a quarterly print version of *UU World*, which you can read online at <https://www.uuworld.org/>.

History lover, *UU World* magazine descends from the *Universalist Magazine*, first published in 1819, and the Unitarian newspaper, *Christian Register*, first published in 1821. More details at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uu-publishing-roots-grow-deep>.





## 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](#)
- [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:

Send an email:

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

## Dates and Deadlines



**Events located off premises are in SMALL CAPS; non-church events are in italics**

- UU/A REGIONAL ASSEMBLY: APR. 5-7** — ST. LOUIS, MO
- Canvass Campaign Kickoff: Sun., Apr 7, 12:30-1:30 PM**  
— Social Hall (Dan Secret)
- Potluck: Sun., Apr. 14, 12:00-1:00 PM** — Social Hall  
(Omar Davis)
- Worship Committee Meeting: Sun., Apr. 14, 12:40-2:40 PM** — Parlor (Nancy Owen Nelson)
- Amnesty International meeting: Mon., Apr. 15, 7:30-9:00 PM*** — Social Hall (Dan Wiest)
- VESPERS: WED., APR. 24, 6:00-7:00 PM** — HENRY FORD VILLAGE, 15101 FORD RD, DEARBORN (DAN SECREST)
- Board meeting: Sun., Apr. 28, 12:30 — 2:30 PM** — Parlor (Dan Hale)
- Social Justice Committee meeting: Sun. Apr. 28, 12:30-2:00 PM** — Chancel (Dan Wiest)

### Weekly Sunday order of service deadline

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

### April newsletter deadline

Send items to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@1stuu.org) by Wed., **April 20<sup>th</sup>** — the next issue covers May 1-31 — no submissions accepted after the deadline

## 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](http://www.1stuu.org),

email us at [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto: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, 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 ground-breaking African-Americans; civil rights crusaders and martyrs; progressive politicians; icons of women's movements; promoters of worker's rights; LGBTQ pioneers; peace activists and martyrs; environmental champions; immigration reformists; trailblazing authors, poets, educators, scientists, architects, and musicians.

Ordinary people seeking solace and a vision of how to put faith into action — from 19<sup>th</sup> century abolitionists to 20<sup>th</sup> century suffragettes to 21<sup>st</sup> century water warriors — 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