

**August
2019
Edition**



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

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

August 4th — “Swimming and Spirituality”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

Today, the Minister will offer his spiritual autobiography about the importance of swimming and water to his life. Many cultures see bodies of water and flowing water as holy places, even as gods, and he will ruminate on this as part of his sermonic meditation.

August 11th — “Religion and Higher Education”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

One of the most indelible legacies that religious traditions have made in the United States is the founding of many of our most important colleges and universities. We will focus on what draws people of faith to want to invest in education, and the waning influence that religion has on the landscape of American higher education today.

August 18th — “The Power of We”

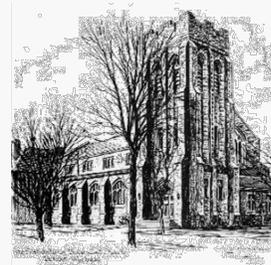
Martha Bogner, Guest Speaker

Who are we: as individuals, as a community, as part of a larger whole? How does that inform the way we're called to be with each other and in the wider world? Martha Bogner is a member of UU Detroit, a seminarian at Meadville Lombard, and many other things as well. She offers some reflections on this theme of the 2019 UUA General Assembly through the lens of her recent experience in Spokane, WA.

August 25th — “Humanism and Religious Dialogue”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

When our Minister was on the Board of Chaplains at Harvard University, one of his most important colleagues was Greg Epstein, the Humanist Chaplain to Harvard University. Today, we will explore important concepts advanced by Epstein about the importance of humanists being involved in inter-religious dialogue.



4605 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313-833-9107
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 Secret

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



Words to live by

“I don’t see anything wrong with a perfectly good revolution.”

**Clara Vincent
(1895-1991)
suffragist,
civil rights activist,
international peace activist,
member,
First Universalist
Church
of Farmington, Michigan**

— Posted June 29, 2019 on the *Inspirational Quotes by Unitarians, Universalists, & UUs* [Facebook](#) page.

Splinters from the Board

Someone at UU Detroit, a past Board Moderator I think, used to write a regular column with this title. Fortunately, nobody remembers that so I can reuse the catchy phrase.

The Board met this past Sunday and we went around the table and shared what we'd like to over the next year. There is an important difference between what *should* the church do, and what do we as individuals want to do. In terms of what the church should do, we discussed our roles as Board members in adhering to and improving the bylaws, policies, and procedures.

To do this, we need to be aware of the relevant documents, and share information with the congregation as appropriate.

In this spirit, let me remind everyone that these documents, reflecting past covenants and community activity, are available [on our website](#):

- [Constitution](#) and [By-Laws](#)
- [Mission Statement](#)
- [Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Board Members and Committee Chairs](#) (with contact information)
- [Minutes of Board Meetings and Congregational Meetings](#) (last 5 years)
- [Worship Procedures, Guidelines, Signup Sheets, Folders](#)
- [Communications Guidelines and Resources](#)
- [Financial, Pledging, and Donation](#) Information
- [Strategic Plans, Annual Reports, Committee Chair Job Descriptions](#)
- [Church Calendar](#)
- and much more

If you are reading this on paper and would like help getting access to paper versions of these documents, please let me know (**Dan Secret — 313-580-7082**).

With regard to what we as individuals would like to do with the church, I would hope and expect that there is room for a wide variety of interests. A few of the interests that came up at our Board meeting are:

- Get out of our comfort zones and find new ways of doing things.
- Make creative use of social media.
- Build on our social justice program from last year, possibly by continuing our focus on immigration.
- Improve our building / facility resources and reliability.
- Work more closely with EMEAC.
- Be more active with the community outside the church.
- Renew our [Welcoming Congregation](#) status.
- Continue our good work in worship and music.
- Start a children’s religious education program.

Every year, usually in October, the church leadership holds a planning retreat, and we'll do that again this year. The goal is to find areas of common interest and bring people together who share interests. I'm sure I speak for all the Board members, including Reverend Stephen, when I say that we'd like to hear from you regarding your personal interests.



Looking forward to our time together,

Dan Secrest
UU Detroit Board President

Announcements

Wedding Bells!

Every year **Dan Carr**, long-time (20 years!) partner of our music director, **Todd Ballou**, visits the [Kentucky Horse Park](#) in Lexington, KY so that Dan can reinvigorate his love of horses. Todd usually stays home to care for their furry friends. This year was Todd's first visit to the Park, and it featured yet another kind of love — Dan's and Todd's wedding! They were joined by their "children," Pop and Jazz, and a few guests. Congratulations to Todd and Dan, who were married on June 28th at the Park. Todd muses that he'll probably be going every year now, since it's their wedding anniversary. We wish you all the best.



L-R: Pop, Todd, Dan, and Jazz

Member News

Well wishes

It was nice to see **Marilyn Mitchell** in church on July 7th, although we were sorry to see her sporting a cast on her right hand. Hope your finger heals soon!

Mary Lou Malone is still at Genesis House recuperating from back surgery and would love to hear from her UU Detroit friends. You can visit her at Genesis, 29140 Murray Crescent Dr in Southfield — but call the Genesis main number first to make arrangements with Mary Lou: 248-595-8961.

Welcome new baby Oberdier!

On July 10 at 10:33 PM, **Maxwell Bernard Oberdier** was born, 7 lbs., 15 oz., 21.5 inches, at Hutzel Women's Hospital. Max arrived about 5-10 minutes after check-in at the labor and delivery room — it seems like he didn't want to waste any time joining his sister, **Beatrice**, and proud parents **Matt** (l) and **Aletha** (r) **Oberdier**. Congratulations!



UU Detroit's got talent

The [Spring 2019 issue](#) of *The MacGuffin* includes "Hair," a poem by our own **Nancy Owen Nelson**. *The MacGuffin*, a [national literary magazine](#) from Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan, is a collection of the best poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction.

Earlier this year, Nancy's poem "Yggdrasil," inspired by a **Danny Rebb** photo, was published in [Oberon Poetry Magazine](#).

"Yggdrasil" is in Nancy's latest poetry book, *Portals: A Memoir in Verse*, now available from publisher [Kelsay Books](#) as well as amazon.com. **Danny Rebb's** photographic art is on the cover of *Portals*.

Summer flowers

Susan Matthews is an avid gardener who has provided beautiful flower arrangements in the past for our holiday celebrations and church services. Now Susan has lent her green thumb and artistic eye to the plot of dirt running along the ramp in the Forest Parking lot. Thank you,



Susan, for perking up the parking lot. We appreciate you — and summer!

Board & Committee News

Aid for the Homeless Guidelines

Our church and our principles require that we provide aid, comfort, and sanctuary to those in need whenever and wherever possible. However, given our limited resources, we must consider what we as a church can realistically do to support the homeless when they enter our church.

In June the Board accepted guidelines and a referral list, which are now posted in the Narthex and church office, as well as on [our website](#).

Please become familiar with the guidelines so all members can aid those in need.

Community

Ron Allen

The third floor of the house which now serves as EMEAC offices was once the home of **Ron Allen** (1947-2010). Ron lived on the third floor — where the *Summer in Detroit* students now live — and he served as Cultural Coordinator for UU Detroit.

Ron was a poet, teacher, mentor, cultural activist, Buddhist monk, and co-founder of the city's longest-running poetry series, *Horizons in Poetry*. He published in scores of Detroit literary and cultural forums; guest-lectured at what was then the Center for Creative Studies, adjudicated for the Detroit Council of the Arts, locally organized for Ishmael Reed's national boycott of network news, and published and edited a cultural journal he created called *Eye to the Ground*. Ron was also a playwright, "The Last Church at the End of the 20th Century" was performed during one of our worship services. These are just a few of Ron's many artistic talents and accomplishments.

UU Detroit member **Anita Jones** a/k/a Ruby Woods is endeavoring to get Ron's life on film. She's created a Facebook group: [The Ron Allen Project](#). Ruby was interviewed recently on [Sheila and the Gig](#), it's a great listen to learn more about the project, and Ron.

If you'd like more information about Ron, some sources are Wikipedia: [Ron Allen, playwright](#); and two *Metro Times* articles, one by Rayfield A. Waller, "[The Last Poet](#)," and another by W. Kim Heron, "[Remembering Ron Allen](#)."

Turning out

UU Detroiters represented at the recent unveiling of the **Viola Liuzzo** statue, reporting that the celebration was very moving. The July 23rd event was covered by [The Detroit News](#) and the [Detroit Free Press](#). Viola was [attending services at UU Detroit](#) before her death in Selma, AL during voting rights demonstrations. Our favorite photo of the new statue was Viola, in bare feet — as she appeared in a contemporary newspaper photo — trodding on a KKK hood. Viola was murdered by the Klan. It's easy to imagine that Viola would have been a huge supporter of sculptor [Austen Brantley](#), a black self-taught artist who was born in Detroit.



Sally Liuzzo, in blue and white dress, with the newly unveiled statue of her late mother, Viola Liuzzo

Landscaping help

Have you noticed how nice the Cass Street lawn is looking? **Paul Free**, who has been attending UU Detroit services for a while, began helping **Tim Bailey** with



lawnmowing. Instead of relying on Paul's continuing generosity, we have hired him to mow and edge the lawn, trim the shrubs, and remove vines. Paul is also dismantling the structure between the house and the sanctuary. Thank you, Paul!

Vespers

July vespers at [Henry Ford Village](#) featured poet Dawn McDuffie presenting "Voices of Summer." Dawn read some of her original poetry complemented by musical selections *Coo-ee/Sea Cruise King Yellow Man*; *Sloop John B*; *Florida Suite, second section, Delius*; *Le Rossignol, The Nightingale, a duet for two guitars*; *Come Get Your Ice Cold Nu-Grape* sung by the Nu Grape Twins. Doesn't that sound like fun!

The next monthly vespers is Wed. **August 28th** at [15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn](#), 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](#).

UU Detroit birthdays!

8/2	Mark Schwing
8/15	Maysel Brooks
8/15	Rhonda Rogers
8/15	Irene Brisson
8/16	Dan Wiest
8/24	Sharlene Gage
8/25	CR Wayne
8/26	Patricia Pilafian
8/31	Rev. Stephen Butler Murray

Denominational News

Support for LGBTQ prom

The **Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church** in Jacksonville FL stepped in to hold a [Storybook Pride Prom](#) for LGBT teens when a library in Jacksonville was forced to cancel the event after conservative backlash.

Grace Repass, the church's past president, said "We see our church as a safe place for people who are figuring out

who they are ... Our Unitarian Universalist values call us to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. So, it's a matter of integrity — to act in alignment with who we say we are."

Summer reads for reflection

Summer can often be a time of reflection and restoration — a time to slow down and to reinvest in our goals and dreams, for ourselves and for the wider world. The [UUA Bookstore](#) recommends the following reads to encourage reflection and inspiration.

[Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good](#) by adrienne maree brown

[Leading with Love: Inspiration for Spiritual Activists](#) edited by Hisae Matsuda and illustrated by Maude White

[Start Where You Are: A Journal for Self-Exploration](#) by Meera Lee Patel

Church Life

Communicate:

Send an email:

[Choir](#) (Todd Ballou)

[Email listserv signup](#) (Webmaster Dan Secret)

[Minister](#) (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)

[Newsletter](#) (Newsletter Editors Kathe Stevens & Nancy Shattuck)

[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 childcare](#) (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

Potluck: Sun., **August 11**, 12:00-2:00 PM — Social Hall
(Tim Bailey)

Worship Committee meeting: Sun., **August 11**, 12:40-
2:00 PM — Parlor (Irene Brisson / Jody Wise)

UU Detroit Board meeting: Sun, **August 18**, 12:30 PM-
2:30 PM — Parlor (Dan Secret)

Amnesty International meeting: Mon., **August 19**, 7:30-
9:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

Social Justice Committee meeting: Sun. **August 25**,
12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

Women's Equality Day: Mon., **August 26** — celebrating
the anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment
to the United States' Constitution in 1920

Vespers: Wed., **August 28**, 6:00-7:00 PM — Henry Ford
Village, 15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn (Dan Secret)

Weekly Sunday order of service deadline

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

August newsletter deadline

Send items to newsletter@1stuu.org by Tues., **August 20**
— the next issue covers September 1-30 — no
submissions 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,

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, 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; progressive politicians; icons of women's movements; promoters of workers' rights; LGBTQ pioneers; peace activists and martyrs; environmental champions; immigration reformists; trailblazing authors, poets, educators, scientists, architects, and musicians.

Seeking solace in community and a vision of how to put faith into action — from 19th century abolitionists to 20th century suffragettes to 21st century water warriors — we have lived out and continue to live out our Principles.

OUR SEVEN PRINCIPLES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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