

**June  
2019  
Edition**



# Newsletter

## First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

### Upcoming Sermon Schedule

#### June 2nd — “On Democracy”

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

Unitarian Universalists place a high value on democracy, both in political process and in its own considerations. On this day, when in our church we hold an election for our next class of church officers, it is important to consider why this process is important and how representative government is essential to our understanding of ourselves and our society.

#### June 9th — “The Rights of Women”

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

In a time in which more women hold political office in the United States than ever before, we concurrently live in a time in which women's rights and liberty are more in jeopardy than they have been in the past fifty years. Today, we will examine what is happening in American politics that has brought us to this tremulous time and how we might engage our political system to avert this crisis.

#### June 16th — “Where in the World is God?”

*The Rev. Diane Baker, Guest Speaker*

In our world today, around every corner and on every news outlet, we are bombarded with reports about the worst that is going on in our communities, nations and environment. It's easy to get disheartened, despondent and even depressed. We could be convinced that we're on the slippery slope down into the abyss. However, we are reminded every day in many ways that God is in the mix, pulling us onto the path that brings health, healing and wholeness. We just need eyes to see.

#### June 23rd — “Where from Here?”

*Pastor Bill and Lydia Wylie-Kellermann*

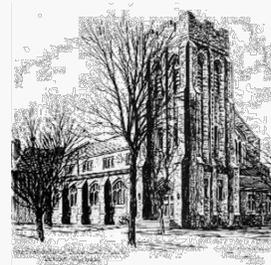
Eleven years ago, before it was legal in Michigan, Lydia Wylie-Kellermann and her partner Erinn Fahey were married at St Peter's Episcopal Detroit. In consequence, ecclesiastical charges were brought against her father, Bill Wylie-Kellermann, a United Methodist pastor. Now, the UMC is about to split over the full inclusion of LGBTQ members in the church. Lydia and Bill will share out of their experience in relation to the present moment.

#### June 30th — The Spiritual Lives of LGBTQ People

*Daniel Horrigan, Guest Speaker*

Social worker and storyteller Daniel Horrigan will present on the various religious experiences of LGBTQ people. This speech will examine barriers to faith practices for Queer folks and shine a light on successful models of welcoming churches. We will also use this opportunity to acknowledge ways in which we as UU's are successful in welcoming and including the LGBTQ community and discover ways in which we can do this better.

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, June 2nd — 12:30 PM — Social Hall**



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.

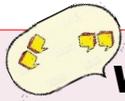
**Mission:** First Unitarian-Universalist Church strives to be an expanding transformative community whose mission is to liberate truth, radiate kindness, and love courageously.

**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

### ***Not So Black and White***

*Dorothy Roberts On the Myth of Race*

*Sun Magazine*, an independent, ad-free magazine, features an interview in each monthly edition, always provocative and challenging. Without comment on the content, but for discussion, we offer the introduction to the interview of Dorothy Roberts in the April edition:

“Law, Africana-studies, and sociology professor Dorothy Roberts describes race as a ‘political category that has been disguised as a biological one.’ It’s a hard concept for many to grasp. Physical features associated with race, such as skin and hair color, are inherited through our genes. So how is race not biological? The long answer is found in Roberts’s book [Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century](#), but the short answer is that there’s no clear biological basis to divide humanity into five or six or seven races, any more than there is to divide it into twenty or a hundred or a thousand. The lines are drawn by social and political imperatives, not nature.”

Read the [full interview](#) for more depth of discussion.



## Announcements

### **Annual Canvass Campaign**

If you haven’t yet pledged, feel free to contact **Dan Secret**, chair of our annual pledge drive, **Getting to Ye\$**. Thank you to all who have pledged for the July 2019 - June 2020 fiscal year. The canvass team will be reaching out to you soon.

You can use the [Pledge Brochure and Printable Pledge Form](#) (pdf) or send your name and the annual pledge amount, plus any additional comments, to [CanvassChair@1stuu.org](mailto:CanvassChair@1stuu.org).

### **Detroit Repertory Theater**

**Margaret Beck** has tickets to the Detroit Rep’s production of *Williston* on Saturday, **June 15th at 3:00 PM**. Tickets

are \$15 each, with the church getting \$5 of that. We’ll be going out to dinner after if you would like to join us. It’s a lot of fun and helps the church as well as the Detroit Rep. Margaret will have tickets to buy at coffee hour or you can call 313-882-7775 or email [margretbeck@comcast.net](mailto:margretbeck@comcast.net). Thanks ahead of time.



## Member News

### **Thank you, Nancy Owen Nelson**

We’re duplicating a letter from Rev. Murray to the Worship Committee, which speaks for itself:

*Dear Members of the Worship Committee,*

*As you know from our last Worship Committee meeting, Nancy Owen Nelson is stepping down from serving as chair of our committee, and we hoped for new leadership within our committee to step forward. I am delighted to say that two of our members, Jody Wise and Irene Brisson, have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Worship Committee going forward. I appreciate that Jody and Irene have quite different backgrounds and will complement one another well as they lead our committee for the next year. While our committee will need to hold a vote when we are next together to affirm Jody and Irene as our new co-chairs, I am grateful for the two of them for agreeing to this good work!*

*That said, let me also offer my profound thanks to Nancy for her tenure as our Worship Committee chair. From what often felt like a formerly "ordered chaos" (my term) approach to worship planning, and with you as partners, Nancy created real structure, including new processes and easily accessible calendars by which we reliably plan our worship services. Nancy has brought her love of poetry and literature more to our pulpit than had been the case previously, and as someone who thinks that social justice AND the arts need to go hand in hand for the spiritual-secular ongoing conversation of our tradition, I am thankful that Nancy has aligned us in that direction during her time as chair.*

*Sincerely yours, Stephen*



## Child Dedication

**Tim Bailey** and **Joan Smykowski** with proud parents, Theresa and Nathan Weidner, and big sister, Bernice, were happy to present their grandson, **Gabriel Wayne Weidner**, for dedication at UU Detroit on May 19 in a service of family and friends: Gabriel's aunt and uncle, Beth Bailey and Brandon Beauvais, were witnesses joined by.



## Board & Committee News!

### Social Justice meeting June 23rd speaker

Rachel Schwarzentraub will present at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Social Justice Committee meeting on the fostering of teenage asylum and refugee seekers in our area. Rachel serves as a Refugee Foster Family recruiter for Bethany Christian Services, working to find families willing to care for

unaccompanied refugee and immigrant youth resettling in the US without their families. The meeting will take place in the Parlor. Hopefully this meeting will lead to a child being fostered.

## May 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Our congregation met on Sunday, **May 19**, immediately after the service. **Martha Bogner** and **Elizabeth Lehto** were elected as UU Detroit's General Assembly delegates. The meeting was then adjourned to Sunday, **June 2**, in the Social Hall. We'll see you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue the business of our church!

## Community



### UU Detroit birthdays!

6/4	John Angry
6/4	Margaret Beck
6/5	Glenn Maxwell
6/14	Nancy Owen Nelson
6/16	Ann Harvey
6/16	Anarosa Delarosa
6/18	Joey Thomas
6/23	Rebecca Cooke
6/26	Carolyn Ludwig
6/29	Daniel Secrest
6/29	Tim Bailey

### Motor City Pride parade

UU Detroit will be once again participating in the [Motor City Pride](#) parade on Sunday, **June 9**. The parade starts at noon. Last year's event proved to be fun and inspiring. This year it will be commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall revolt. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit is proud to be recognized as a Welcoming Congregation to the LGBTQ community. *All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.* We are dedicating our presence to the memory of **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**, a stalwart of our church and the community at large, who passed earlier this year. It has been suggested that marchers wear t-shirts with Nathan's picture. If you would like a t-shirt email **Dan Wiest** ([dfwiest@comcast.net](mailto:dfwiest@comcast.net)) and



include the size desired. Dan will also have information on where to meet.

## Vespers

May vespers featured Dwight “Skip” Stackhouse, who presented some of his own poetry on subjects such as family, romance, and nature, interspersed with musical selections. Skip, a 2018 Kresge Arts Fellow, is a storyteller who has performed live on stage at several venues throughout the greater Detroit area. He is the author of two self-published books, a novel, “Mother’s Milk,” and a book of romantic poetry, “Forever My Heart Desires.”

The next monthly vespers is **June 26th** 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](#).

## Share the Plate

Our *Share the Plate* recipient on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, was **Siwatu-Salama Ra**, a mother, environmental activist, and community leader in Detroit and a co-director at EMEAC. Unjustly imprisoned and pregnant, Siwatu gave birth in prison. She was finally released on November 14, 2018 after 258 days in state prison. After successfully securing bond pending appeal, Siwatu’s legal team is pursuing various tactics, including reversal of the conviction and a commutation and/or pardon.

## Memorial Garden Flower Donations

[Spirit Farm](#) is looking for donations of black flowers of any kind — although perennials are preferred — for its *David Blair Memorial Garden*. The farm works for food security and social justice in the city of Detroit. The black box studio in the lower level of the Commons is dedicated to [David Blair](#), a musician and poet from Detroit. Contact Tuka Rivers at (313) 964-3113.

## Disability Awareness

by Rhonda Rodgers and Sherry A. Wells

To follow-up Rev. Murray’s sermon about disability, if you are not “disabled,” then you are merely a “temporarily able-bodied” person, or a TAB. Count your blessings.

Rule #1, before helping another person, ASK! Sherry saw a startled expression on Rhonda’s face as she was getting up from the sturdy armed chair she needs to use during social hour. With all good intentions, two women visiting with a group had rushed up behind her to help her up. Rhonda didn’t know what was happening.

On the other hand, Rhonda has learned a better answer than “I’m fine,” to someone who does ask if she needs help. Once, seconds later, her foot found the only bit of ice and down she went! So now she’ll say, “I’m not sure yet.”

A blind person may accept a helping arm, but Sherry learned that s/he needs to grasp my arm and not the other way around. Those who use wheelchairs will tell you, when you ask, whether or not they need a push.

Enjoy your TABness while you have it.

## Denominational News



### Critical Moment for Migrant Justice

The UUA has joined the [Shut Down Homestead Child Detention Center](#) for a *National Week of Action June 9-16*. [Sign the Petition](#) to close down the Homestead Child Detention Center. The goal is to get to 100,000 signatures and deliver them to the U.S. Health and Human Services Department which has the power to shut Homestead down. The petitions will be delivered to Members of Congress.

## 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



**Continuation of Annual Congregational Meeting:** Sun.,  
June 2, 12:30 PM — Social Hall (Dan Hale)

**Potluck:** Sun., June 9, 12:00-1:00 PM — Social Hall (Tim  
Bailey)

**Motor City Pride:** Sun., June 9, 12: 0 PM — Hart Plaza  
(Dan Wiest)

**Worship Committee Meeting:** Sun., June 9, 12:40-2:40  
PM — Parlor (Jody Wise/Irene Brisson)

**UU Detroit Board Meeting:** Sun, June 16, 12:30 PM –  
2:30 PM — Parlor (Dan Hale)

**Amnesty International meeting:** Mon., June 17, 7:30-  
9:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

**Social Justice Committee meeting:** Sun. June 23,  
12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

**Vespers:** Wed., June. 26, 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](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**

**July newsletter deadline**

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