

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



AUGUST
2016
EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

August 7th — “Race, Class and Justice in America”

Abayomi Azikiwe

Racial and class divisions are growing inside the United States despite the rhetoric of eight years ago that the country was becoming a post-racial society. Both the Republicans and Democrats have fostered these divisions through partisan rhetoric as well as the legacy of mass incarceration and financial deregulation. I will outline my thoughts on these issues and make some suggestions for actions to be taken on a community level.

August 14th — “Ecumenism, Yesterday and Today”

Reverend Stephen Butler Murray

It is interesting that today, as individuals tend more toward quiet ecumenism rather than strict denominationalism, that the ecumenical movement itself is going through a considerable downsizing. In this sermon, I will talk about the history of how denominations decided to work together ecumenically through organizations such as the National Council of Churches, and how that intentional inter-denominational organization and activism has unraveled. In addition, I will speak about atheist views about participation in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue.

August 21st — “The Gospel of Bruce”

Joel Batterman

The rise of Donald Trump has focused attention on America's white working classes: their fears, pains and aspirations. For nearly half a century, however, few public figures have given those feelings more eloquent voice than Bruce Springsteen, the Jersey-born poet-rocker who gained international fame in the twilight of postwar U.S. prosperity. What lessons does Springsteen's deeply humane vision hold for us today, as we stare down the twin threats of homegrown fascism and an intolerable *status quo*?

August 28th — “Detroit Musings, 'Scrap Metal Mantra': a Love Song to Detroit”

Ken Meisel

Ken Meisel is a poet and psychologist from Detroit, a Kresge Arts fellow and Pushcart nominee. He will read from his poetry, which has been called a “poetic homage” to the working class, “tinged with mortality and transience, giving it an anguished intensity.”



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About Us ...

UU DETROIT IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS — WWW.UUA.ORG — IN THE MIDAMERICA REGION — 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 **radical hospitality**.



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 **Forest and Cass** for a century ... our Universalist and Unitarian **roots in Detroit** go back **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 proud **member** of the **Cass Corridor Commons**.

We are a UUA-recognized **Welcoming Congregation**.



LGBTQ
Welcoming Congregation

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2016-2017

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT
Kathe Stevens

VICE PRESIDENT
Dan Wiest

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Marsha Bruhn

BOARD SECRETARY
Danny Rebb

TREASURER
Bob Lauer

TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE:

Dan Hale
Sydney Schaaf
Nathan Strickland, Jr.
Dave Vaillencourt

STAFF:

INTERIM MINISTER
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Todd Ballou

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Alexis Mitchell

SOCIAL HOUR COORDINATOR
Alyssa Bond

WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM





Letter from the President ...

Greetings to the UU Detroit community!

Last month I had the honor of attending 2016 General Assembly in Columbus, OH with UU Detroiters **Joel Batterman, Linda Darga, Robert Johnson, Carolyn Ludwig, Mary Lou Malone, Glenn Maxwell, Sharon Mills, Marilyn Mitchell, Danny Rebb,** and **Jennifer Teed.**

As your elected delegates, Robert, Danny and I participated in a contentious vote at GA: whether to choose to study race or the corruption of American democracy for the next congregational study/action issue, which will be taken up by congregations from 2016 to 2020.

I voted to study the corruption of our democracy rather than to begin a national conversation on race. My vote was driven by my belief that we can't wait any longer to begin a national conversation on race and we certainly can't wait until 2020 to reach a national UU consensus. Conversation must begin now, action is needed. My vote was also influenced by my belief that racial justice work cannot be advanced if our leaders are undemocratic, or even corrupt.

Because I had to be back in Detroit, I missed the final session on Sunday. When I returned home and watched the video of the proceedings, I felt I had misplaced my vote. Fortunately, GA youth caucus leaders — supported by Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism — drafted a responsive resolution demanding a multiyear report on antiracism work from the Unitarian Universalist Association. The resolution passed unanimously, after the “reinforced Roberts Rules, rules-driven, we mean well” procedural system was abandoned and the youth and BLUU were invited to the stage for conversation. And they spoke.

I heard youth caucus leaders talk about their sense of betrayal because my vote meant I chose to fight a corrupt democracy but used a corrupt democratic process to do it; that not voting for conversation on race was a missed chance to make a public statement of support; that I voted to fight the system but I am the system — that the youth should not have had to write the resolution. The question posed was: what are you going to do, not what are you going to say?

I can't change my vote but I've been educated and informed for future action. I welcome your thoughts; catch up with me any time to talk.

After returning from GA, **Marsha Bruhn,** Glenn Maxwell, Joel Batterman, Linda Darga and I attended the [Viola Liuzzo Park dedication](#) on July 12, representing UU Detroit. Very shortly into his opening remarks, Viola's grandson, Joshua Liuzzo, affirmed that Viola was a “dedicated member of the Unitarian church.” Viola is part of our legacy; she died fighting for civil rights. As we wake up each day horrified to hear of more and more murdered Blacks, I hope that we can live up to this legacy.

As UUs and as a congregation we come together to inspire, console, and hold up one another. Thank you for continuing to do so in these turbulent times. I am keeping our second principle, *justice, equity and compassion in human relations*, close to my heart and mind.

best ... Kathe



Quarterly Finances ...

Quarterly Report from the Finance Committee

The Church fiscal year which ended June 30, 2016 was unusual for our congregation in that we ended the year with a large surplus of revenue over expenses. Our revenues were just a little lower than the previous year as donations were about \$5,000 less but this was mostly offset by higher parking lot income which brought in \$15,600 this year compared to only \$11,750 the year before.

The main reason for the improved financial position was the reduction in expenses from the prior year. Total expenses for the year just ended were only \$80,287 which is down from the \$112,557 from the year before including payoffs or prior period liabilities. The big savings came from lower payroll costs due to the current contract for a part-time minister and elimination of employee positions.

This year's expenditures include having paid down another \$11,688 from old liabilities. We will complete paying off all old liabilities within the next few months pending calculation and agreement on the final payoff numbers.

While we did well financially we must keep in mind that a settled minister, even a part-time settled minister, is going to push expenses back up in the future. We also need to keep in mind that because our income is donor based, we cannot ensure the amount of future income. So while we did well we must be prudent in our spending commitments for the future. — **Bob Lauer, Treasurer**

Income

Donations	\$ 89,447	
Social hour and Events	5,731	
Parking rent	15,600	
Trust Income	4,212	
all other	<u>460</u>	
Total Income		\$115,450

Expense

Staff, Worship Committee, and Music	53,060	
Other Committees	924	
UUA and Mid America	1,200	
EMEAC	1,200	
Social hour and Events	4,242	
Administrative and Insurance	6,381	
Bldg maintenance and phone	559	
Prior Period liabilities	11,688	
all other	<u>1,033</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$80,287</u>

Current Year Margin of Safety **\$35,163**

**First Unitarian-
Universalist Church
Statement of
Operations for the
Church Year ended
June 30, 2016**

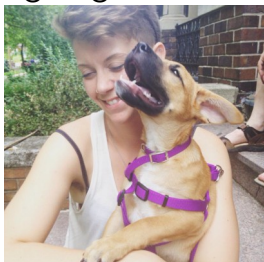


Settled Minister Search Committee Updates ...

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At its meeting on July 13, your Board of Trustees was pleased to appoint two new members to the Settled Minister Search Committee:

Chloe Lundine is one of UU Detroit's newest members but she's been involved with the Young Adult Group since she began attending services in 2015. She made it official by signing the membership book in January 2016. Chloe serves the important role of Greeter on Sunday mornings, was an organizer of the 2016 regional UU picnic, was elected to the Nominating Committee in May 2016, and recently joined the Worship Committee. Chloe was raised in the UU Church of Fresno, California and of Jackson, Michigan. A recent Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies graduate of WSU, she now works for Planned Parenthood in Detroit. Chloe loves long walks on the beach with her dog, Walter.



Nathan Strickland, Jr. joined UU Detroit in January 2015 and in March was appointed to the Interim Minister Search Committee which brought in our current interim minister. Nate is one of our friendly Greeters, is a Child Care volunteer, a member of the Care Committee, was elected to the Board of Trustees in May 2016, and is a co-founder of the UU Detroit Interweave Chapter. He recently achieved a Master of Arts in Community Counseling and works at Community Health Awareness Group. Nate is a graduate of LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy and recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award at the BME Leaders Award Ceremony at the White House for his work with LGBT Detroit. He coaches wrestling at his high school *alma mater*.



ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT PROCESS

Following careful consideration, lengthy discussion, and consultation with knowledgeable people, the UU Detroit Settled Minister Search Committee has decided to begin our search outside the traditional UUA process. We are seeking a minister whose spirit and aspirations match UU Detroit and who can appreciate and embrace both the challenges and the opportunities of a ministry in Detroit. We believe casting a wider net than prescribed by the UUA policies and process will provide more potential candidates who have the vision and leadership to help us achieve our mission.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Settled Minister Search Committee with any questions you may have: **Lencha Acker**, **Chloe Lundine**, **Deanna McGraw** (Chair), **Bill McKnight**, **Sharon Mills**, **Joan Smykowski** and **Nate Strickland, Jr.**

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Settled Minister Search Committee Updates ... cont'd

THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH SURVEY IS COMING IN SEPTEMBER

A key part of the search process for a new minister to join us in September 2017 is a **survey of our congregation**: what do you think about ministers and church in general? Your Settled Minister Search Committee needs to know your views on these important matters. We need to know whether a significant majority feels a certain way on various questions. Or whether only a few hold a particular opinion.

The **survey will be emailed in early September** to friends and members who normally receive newsletters digitally. It will take about 15 minutes to answer, using Google Form survey software. If there are two members/friends sharing one digital newsletter, we ask that each complete the survey separately. Members without personal email access will be able to complete the survey on computers available during the social hour, on Sundays: September. And **surveys will also be available in a paper mail-in format**.

If you have questions about your confidentiality, your survey answers will be anonymous. We won't know who is completing any individual survey.

The Settled Minister Search Committee hopes you willingly ... even eagerly ... will take part in this exercise. Seriously, it's important for a successful ministerial search.

The Committee: **Lencha Acker, Chloe Lundine, Deanna McGraw** (Chair), **Bill McKnight, Sharon Mills, Joan Smykowski** and **Nate Strickland, Jr.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; 	<p>Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; 		<p>FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT – AT THE CORNER OF CASS & FOREST</p>



Can Interfaith Couples Find a Home at UU Detroit?

Yes, Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal religion. We do not require our members to adhere to a particular statement of belief. We place strong emphasis on freedom of belief and the right of each individual to pursue his or her own path in search for ultimate truth.

Can Both of Us Be Accepted Equally Within Unitarian Universalism?

Yes, Unitarian Universalist congregations are open to all people of all backgrounds. We welcome each of you, no matter what your religious background is.

Do I Have to Convert to Become a Unitarian Universalist?

Religious conversion means giving up one faith to take on another. If you become part of UU Detroit, we do not ask you to give up the religious convictions of your heritage.

To learn more, please attend an "Introduction to UU Detroit" the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM, in the Church narthex.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

We Are Unitarian Universalists

We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of standing on the side of love, justice, and peace.

We have radical roots and a history as self-motivated spiritual people: we think for ourselves and recognize that life experience influences our beliefs more than anything.

We need not think alike to love alike. We are people of many beliefs and backgrounds: people with a religious background, people with none, people who believe in a God, people who don't, and people who let the mystery be.

We are Unitarian Universalist and Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, atheist and agnostic, believers in God, and more.

On the forefront of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion for more than 40 years, we are people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We seek to welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith. Get involved!

Our next "Introduction to UU Detroit" will be Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 12:30 pm. For more information, please contact Regina Weiss at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com.

Welcome To Our Newest Member

Bill Dickenson of Detroit

We hope UU Detroit remains your spiritual home in your quest for truth and meaning for many years.



Usher and Greeters Needed as Our Practice of Radical Hospitality Grows

With a record number of visitors now visiting UU Detroit, the role of our Greeters and Ushers is vital to our growth and success in the community. To volunteer, please let Glenn Maxwell know during Social Hour or visit our website and sign up on our [Greeter Sign-Up Sheet](#).

Glenn may be reached at detroitglenn@gmail.com.

Please volunteer for one or more Sundays!

Thank You to Our August 2016 Greeters and Ushers

Thank you to the women and men who have volunteered as greeters and ushers for August 2016! Our wonderful volunteers who have signed up so far are.

Marsha Bruhn
Bill Dickinson
Chloe Lundine
Bill McKnight
Aletha Oberdier
Mark Schwing
Dave Vaillencourt
Roger Zeigler

The Requirements for Becoming a Member of UU Detroit

As a Unitarian Universalist, we ask you, based on your individual beliefs and search for truth, to incorporate the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and use of the democratic process
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

As a member of UU Detroit, we have 2 requirements to becoming a member:

1. Sign the Membership Book,
2. Make a financial pledge to the Church and/or make a financial donation of record to the Church.

Please contact Regina Weiss for more information at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP DATES

- ◆ **"Intro to UU Detroit" sessions**, after the service (choose one): August 7, or September 4, or October 2 at 12:30 PM, in the Church Narthex
- ◆ **Membership Book signings**, during the service, just before the closing circle (choose one): August 14, or September 11, 2016, or October 9. Please let Regina Weiss if you're signing and have your forms completed!



Standing Church Announcements and Events

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM** on the second Wednesday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are **July 13** and **August 10**.

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**, Board Secretary, at dfrebb@aol.com.

SINGING CIRCLE

7:00 PM — Singing Circle at the Church. Open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com for more details.

VESPERS

Vespers runs from **6:00 - 7:00 PM** on the fourth Wednesday of each month

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.

MESSAGE TOPICS

SUNDAYS AT UU DETROIT

FIRST SUNDAYS: "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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

This is a regular service, but we also include a time to invite our new members to come forward, present themselves 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. Make them feel welcome among us!

SECOND SUNDAYS: POTLUCK

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to Church 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.



Standing Church Announcements and Events ... cont'd

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce during a worship service, 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 with the Congregation as part of our closing circle.

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 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 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 in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. See **Sally Borden** or **Richard Hillier** for details.

YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES

The UU Detroit Young Adults Group participates in two activities per month. To learn about upcoming Young Adults activities, visit us on

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/> or contact **Aletha Oberdier** at alethafaye@gmail.com to join our Google Group.

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, **Alexis Mitchell**, after the service, or send an email to webmaster@1stuu.org!



LOST & FOUND

We have a Lost & Found box in the office on the shelf to your right as you enter the office. If you find something, please take it to the office and put it in the Lost & Found box. If you have lost something, please check the box. — **Greeter Team**

SHARE OUR FACEBOOK POSTS!

Facebook events are being created for all sermons, Vespers, Membership activities, and other events. When you see a Facebook event about church activities, **please share it!** Help get the word out about what we're doing at UU Detroit on Sundays and Wednesdays.



Special Church Announcements and Events

PARLOR UNAVAILABLE DUE TO EVENT—AUGUST 7

EMEAC co-director Siwatu-Salama Ra is hosting a group in the Parlor from 1:00 - 3:00 PM on Sunday, August 7. The Parlor will be unavailable for UU Detroit use.

SOCIAL HOUR IN PARLOR—AUGUST 21

UU Detroit's coffee hour will be held in the Parlor on August 21 as the Center for Progressive Leadership holds its monthly training in the Social Hall.

PEACE ACTION

Peace Action is presenting the documentary, "Atomic Mom" at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, August 6 (Hiroshima Day), at CINEMA DETROIT, 4126 Third St, Detroit 48201, in Midtown, with free, secure parking. This is a deeply personal, moving and intimate depiction of the ONLY woman scientist to work on the Atomic Bomb in the '40s, written and produced by her daughter, M.T. Silvia. It boasts an inspiring and touching ending. Refreshments. — **Linda Darga and Carolyn Ludwig**

MISTNBC ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Saturday, July 30th , 1:00 to 3:00 PM there is an Opening Reception and Ice Cream Social presented by MISTNBC = Michigan's Stop The Nuclear Bombs Campaign, which celebrates 16 years of activism towards a Nuclear Free World at Swords into Plowshares Art Gallery and Peace Center, 33 E. Adams, with secure parking in rear.

WEDDING INVITATION—OCTOBER 15, 2016

Joel Batterman and Julie Brock are happy to announce that their wedding will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at 2:00 PM in the UU Detroit sanctuary. The most important part of our ritual is that we share it with our community. **UU Detroit is an important part of our community**, and the place that brought us together. We would be delighted if any and all would come. This means you! Save the date!

For details and to RSVP: <http://www.jbsquared-detroit.com/>. — **Joel and Julie**



UU Detroit at 2016 General Assembly ...

UU Detroit members **Joel Batterman, Linda Darga, Robert Johnson, Carolyn Ludwig, Mary Lou Malone, Glenn Maxwell, Sharon Mills, Marilyn Mitchell, Danny Rebb, Kathe Stevens,** and **Jennifer Teed** attended [2016 General Assembly](#), which was in Columbus, OH, from June 22 to 26. The theme of this year's General Assembly was "Heartland - Where Faiths Connect."

Robert, Danny, and Kathe attended as your elected delegates. Individually or together, they participated in General Sessions, at which the business of the assembly is conducted, as well as Mini-Assemblies, small sessions for delegates to speak on issues.

On the first evening, Kathe, Glenn, Robert, Danny, Mary Lou, Marilyn and Sharon sat together at the MidAmerica Region in-gathering, with members of the whole region. Then on to the [Opening Celebration](#), with Robert and Kathe marching in the banner parade, Danny taking photos, and the others cheering on us and the banner. We saw Rev. Bill Neely, our former interim minister, waving to us as we marched through the hall!



The next couple of days included a [Public Witness](#); a presentation by [Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists](#); the [speech](#) [at about marker 1:30.00] of "Moral Mondays" activist, Rev. Dr. William T. Barber; the [Service of the Living Tradition](#), the [UUA Presidential Candidates Forum](#); gravely contested [Congregational Study Issues](#); and a preview of a documentary based on UUs Martha and Waitstill Sharp, [Two Who Dared: The Sharp's War](#), with an introduction by co-director Ken Burns. Artemis Joukowsky, the Sharps' grandson, who is also a co-director on the movie, was present.

Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) are issues proposed by congregations for four years of study, reflection and action. The CSAIs presented for vote were: #1 Climate Change and Environmental Justice; #2 A National Conversation On Race; #3 Ending Gun Violence In America; and #4 The Corruption Of Our Democracy.

CSAI #1 (climate) was withdrawn by the presenter, who deferred to CSAI #2 (race). The presenter stated that he believed current conditions in the United States more warranted consideration on race rather than climate. When the vote was taken, the results were evenly split between CSAI ## 2 and 4 (democracy). A second vote was taken, with the result that [CSAI #4](#) was selected by what was, again, a very close vote.

A CSAI is not a statement—it is a question. UU congregations are encouraged to study the issue presented in 2016 GA CSAI #4: "As corporations use 'corporate personhood' and 'money as speech' for their interests rather than the people's needs, can a constitutional amendment be passed to protect us? Could this further Unitarian Universalist work for social and environmental justice and help protect the health and safety of the people and the planet?"

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UU Detroit at 2016 General Assembly ... cont'd

A lot of strong feelings continued to surface at GA 2016 after CSAI #2, a national conversation on race, lost to CSAI #4, a study issue on corruption of democracy. A responsive resolution demanding a multiyear report on antiracism work from the UUA, drafted by youth caucus leaders and supported by Black Lives of UU, was passed unanimously at the closing session.

We participated in the debate and vote on a bylaw amendment to suspend the AIW process at GA in 2017 in New Orleans; and on business resolutions: *Reconsidering Thanksgiving* (which passed) and *Divestment from Corporations Complicit in the Violation of Palestinian Rights* ([pp 98 and 99](#)) (which lost). The divestment issue raised strong feelings and debate.



Three [Actions of Immediate Witness](#) were debated and voted on at the GA closing session. The three were *Build Solidarity With Our Muslim Neighbors*, *Some Guns, All Guns: Legislating Appropriate Restrictions*, and *Stop The Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender 3 Non-Conforming Family*. The Muslim solidarity AIW grew out of the Resolution of Muslim Solidarity approved at the MidAmerica Regional Assembly in March; UU Detroit was a signer of that resolution. AIWs are initiated by delegates and move through their entire creation and adoption process during one GA, expressing the conscience and carrying the authority only of the delegates at the GA at which they are passed.

At his very first GA Danny exercised his procedural rights by speaking at the "Pro" microphone in favor of the Muslim solidarity resolution, both as a member of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit and as a resident of Dearborn, home of the largest Middle Eastern population in the U.S. Danny also spoke at the "Procedures" microphone, moving to call the question on adding an amendment to the *Stop The Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender 3 Non-Conforming Family* AIW. His first motion made at GA was seconded and it carried!

GA 2016 was protested by members of the Westboro Baptist Church. An [impromptu peaceful demonstration](#) was organized against the protest; the WBC, carrying signs with hate messages, was met by [10 angels](#) and 200+ singing and chanting UUs. The "angels" had been used to block the WBC protest at the funerals of the Orlando shooting victims; they were designed by a member of the Unitarian Church in Orlando. Singing peaceful songs and chanting "love not hate," UUs in Columbus stood on the side of love. As the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Peter Morales, said: "You don't combat hate with hate. We just try to gently let our position be known and really try to counter hate with love."



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UU Detroit at 2016 General Assembly ... cont'd

The UUA invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer. The 2016 Ware Lecture featured broadcaster Krista Tippett of "On Being." The lecture and transcript are available on the [GA website](#).

Worship services ranged from those which filled the huge convention hall to low-key, early-morning meditations. Meditation rooms were available for down time including a healing room set up for Blacks, only, to use, in keeping with the UUA's escalating commitment to the Black Lives of UU movement. Some of the convention center's bathrooms were transformed and dedicated as gender-neutral. There were many recycling stations spread throughout the convention center.



Workshops were as diverse as the UUs who attended them. The "Black Lives of UU" track that many of us followed was quite a refreshing change from General Assemblies of the recent past, which generated some ugly, privileged behavior. Materials and, in some cases, videos from workshops will be available on the [UUA website](#) and you may read thorough coverage of GA 2016 in the [UU World](#).

Kathe and Sharon participated in a Ministerial Search Committee Orientation organized by the UUA Transitions Office. Transitions Director Keith Kron explained what constitutes a successful search and talked about the most common mistakes search committees make in the search process, followed by a Q&A period. The orientation provided valuable information and insight into UU Detroit's process as we search for a settled minister.

If you want another perspective and more information, read Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi's "highlights and revealing phrases heard at General Assembly" in the [UU Farmington newsletter](#).

And finally, we had fun just being with almost 4,000 other UUs – and each other! See [more photos](#) on the UU Detroit website.





Calendar

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

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

Sunday, August 7

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Race, Class and Justice in America"* (Abayomi Azikiwe)—Sanctuary

12:30 PM: *Introduction to First Church*—Narthex

Wednesday, August 10

7:00 PM: *Board Meeting*—Whole Foods Community room

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

Sunday, August 14

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Ecumenism, Yesterday and Today"* (Reverend Stephen Butler Murray)—Sanctuary

12:00 PM: *New Member Sunday*—Sanctuary

12:00 PM: *Potluck*—Social Hall

Monday, August 15

7:30 PM: *Amnesty International Meeting*—Parlor

Wednesday, August 17

7:00 PM: *Worship Committee Meeting*—Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

Sunday, August 21

9:00 AM: *Center for Progressive Leadership training in the Social Hall*—Coffee Hour in the Parlor

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "The Gospel of Bruce"* (Joel Batterman)—Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 20

7:00 PM: *Worship Committee Meeting*—Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

Wednesday, August 24

6:00 PM: *Vespers*—Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

Saturday, August 27

10:00 AM: *Worship Committee Retreat*—at the home of Music Director Todd Ballou

Sunday, August 28

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Detroit Musings, 'Scrap Metal Mantra': a Love Song to Detroit"* (Ken Meisel)—Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 31

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall



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,
email us at info@1stuu.org, or give us
a call at (313) 833-9107.

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 office@1stuu.org by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Saturday, August 20th

Next issue covers September 1—September 30, 2016

No submissions accepted after the deadline—send items to office@1stuu.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR WORK SCHEDULE

Alexis Mitchell works every Sunday and occasionally during the week, as needed. Her hours are generally:

First and third Sundays: 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Second, fourth and, if necessary, fifth Sundays: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM