

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
2016
EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

December 4th — “The Heidelberg Project”

Tyree Guyton

Artist Tyree Guyton will speak about the Heidelberg Project, an outdoor community art environment and the brainchild of Mr.

Guyton, a native Detroit artist. It began in 1986 and was originally designed as a creative response to ongoing blight and decay in the neighborhood in which he grew up. The elements of the canvas contain recycled materials and found objects, most of which were salvaged from the streets of Detroit. Each work of art is carefully devised to tell a story about current issues plaguing society. As a whole, the Heidelberg Project is symbolic of how many communities in Detroit have become discarded.

December 11th — “Human Rights”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Our annual joint service/celebration with Amnesty International is held on the day after the celebration of Human Rights Day. We will think about what constitutes human rights and how the persistent terror of racism in America violates these tenets today.

December 18th — “The Third Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Continuing this sermon series over the course of several months, we are exploring and meditating upon the Seven Principles upon which the Unitarian Universalist Association bases its relationships.

Saturday, December 24th — “Carol Service”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Please join for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray will provide the Christmas message, and our music director, Todd Ballou, will play holiday music and organize the singing.

December 25th — NO SERVICE



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

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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**

**FIRST UNITARIAN -
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
2016-2017**

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 **Cass and Forest** 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 believe **Black Lives Matter**

We are a UUA-recognized

Welcoming Congregation



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
Humphrey Blakemore

WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM



Letter from the President ...

Dear UU Detroit community,

I presume – based on what I have seen in social media and conversations I have had at church – that the results of the 2016 election have left many, if not most and maybe even all, UU Detroiters heartsick.

I'm reminded how **Colleen Dolan-Greene** and **Walter (Trey) Greene III** found First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit. After the 1980 presidential election, they were dismayed and disheartened. Colleen and Trey sought out a community of openness and inclusion, where they could join with like-minded people. I want to believe that seekers like Colleen and Trey are not confined to 1980. Our church home may begin to see the Colleens and Treys of 2016 walking in our doors. Let us welcome newcomers and share their hurt. In fact, if you know someone who is hurting, invite them to join you at a worship service. Our practice of radical hospitality is needed now more than ever.

Isn't UU Detroit a welcoming place to invite your friends, to find solace together, and to fight for social justice together?

Have you seen the 11/21/2016 article by Daniel Lombroso and Yoni Appelbaum on the website of *The Atlantic*? The article, "'Hail Trump!': White Nationalists Salute the President Elect," includes a [video](#) portraying actions reflected in the title and contains hateful language. It makes clear the importance for each and every one of us to stand ferociously on the side of love.

I was struck by this particular example of hate, one of many circulating these days, because it brought to mind the work of [Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp](#). The Sharps were Unitarians who, beginning in 1939, traveled to Nazi-occupied Europe to rescue Jews, dissidents, and refugee children. Will we need to emulate the Sharps? In our own country? In the 21st century?

The answer may be yes. And if it comes to it, we must answer yes yes yes.

Some of us are frightened. In addition to actively championing social justice — however that looks to you — let us treat each other tenderly, and hold each other up. Let those of us who are privileged pledge to take action to protect those in our community who are less privileged. If you have an identity that you feel may expose you to marginalization, please know you can come to your faith community for help. Let us expand beyond our faith community into the community of the world to look for ways to fight injustice.

Now is a time for our UU principles to shine. We must be fierce practitioners of our UU principles and of radical hospitality: welcoming 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.

Do you feel as strongly as I do that these beliefs are important to shout out and share?

best ... Kathe



Settled Minister Search Committee

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR CONGREGATION REALLY THINKS?

What qualities do we really want in a new minister?

What are our priorities and visions for the future of our church?

What current issues concern us the most?

Read the results of our congregational survey and find out! These results can be viewed online:

1stuu.org/Ministerial/2016/UU_Detroit_Congregational_Survey_Results.pdf

Printed copies will also be available during coffee hour (see Sharon Mills or Nate Strickland, Jr.) and in the church office starting December 4.

The Settled Minister Search Committee has been guided by the information you've provided in this survey. Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns. Look for us on Sunday mornings, or call or email any of us, using the UU Detroit directory, or by contacting our Office Administrator, Alexis Mitchell, at office@1stuu.org. Alexis can supply contact details.

Lencha Acker
Chloe Lundine
Deanna McGraw
Bill McKnight
Sharon Mills
Joan Smykowski
Nate Strickland, Jr.





MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

From your Membership Committee Chair



Dessa Cosma

The power of community can be hard to put into words, but here's

what I think: I think a healthy community feels safe. It feels loving. It feels like family- which means, you may not always like every single thing that's happening, but you're committed to stretching yourself for the sake of growth and the relationship. Or maybe sometimes your commitment comes in the form of standing firm in your values.

At UU Detroit, we are each other's chosen family. In the last few weeks, I have been more grateful than ever for the comfort, support and compassion I've received and witnessed from members of our congregation. In the most stressful and anxiety producing couple of weeks our nation has shared in a long time, we at UU Detroit chose to come together.

That's because this is a place that matters. Each of us matters - and as a congregation, we matter together. I am thankful for our collective chosen family and for each of you with whom I share it. —
Dessa

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism are:

- 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.

“Intro to UU Detroit”

To learn more about the history and philosophy of UU Detroit, please join us December 4th at 12:30 PM.

Membership Book Signings

If you have made the decision to become a member of UU Detroit, our next book signings will be December 11th and January 8th. Please contact Dessa if you have any questions:

dessacosma@gmail.com



Policies and Procedures ...

SO, YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT UU DETROIT'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES?

*Featured policy and procedure of the month: **Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance***

In June 2016, your Board of Trustees approved a [Policies and Procedures Manual](#). The need for a manual became apparent from several different sources as diverse as the Planning Committee to our staff, from individual congregants to the Board itself. The P&P may be found on the first page of our website, 1stuu.org. Click on any title in the Table of Contents in the manual to go directly to that policy.

We're going to feature a summary of a P&P every month in the newsletter so you may get to know how UU Detroit operates!

— **Planning Committee**

POLICY STATEMENT: Because Board members are in a critical position to shape and influence Board decisions and actions, it is important that each member keeps informed and up to date on issues. Regular attendance is essential so that decisions will represent the opinions of the Board as a whole. Regular attendance ensures that issues are examined from a variety of perspectives and it enables Board members to be productive.

The board takes seriously its responsibility to the congregation that elects it, taking care to define what is an attendance problem and, perhaps more importantly, resolve it.

A problem arises when there are:

1. two unexcused absences in a row, or
2. three excused absences in a row, or
3. one-third of the total number of board meetings in a 12-month period are missed.

A procedure was created for the board to pursue to, first, resolve the attendance problem.

Should the problem persist, the board then will decide what actions to take regarding the member's future membership on the board.

If the board decides to terminate the board membership, a termination process is outlined.

Your UU Detroit board has worked together to accomplish much in the past year, including the passage of these policies and procedures!



Standing Church Announcements and Events ...

SINGING CIRCLE

Singing Circle is held every Wednesday at **7:00 PM**; 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 in the Parlor. See our website for more information: <http://1stuu.org/Worship/vespers/.vespers.php>.

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

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM**, on the second Thursday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are **December 15** and **January 8**.

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**, Secretary to the Board, at secretary@1stuu.org.

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.



SECOND SUNDAYS: NETWORKING

All congregants are invited to bring and share your personal business cards for distribution on the second Sunday of the month. Many of us would certainly like to be able to support businesses of fellow church members and if you feel the same, here is an opportunity to do just that.



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

Visit the UU Detroit Young Adults Group Facebook page to learn about activities, <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!

SHARE OUR FACEBOOK POSTS!

Facebook events are being created for 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.



Special Church Announcements and Events ...

NOEL NIGHT COMING SOON!

Detroit's Midtown District, of which UU Detroit in the Cass Corridor Commons is a part, will host the 44th annual **Noel Night** on Saturday, **December 3rd**, from **5:00-10:00 PM**.

Cass Corridor Commons will feature **performances** by the [Cantata Academy Chorale](#) and [Thornetta Davis](#) in the Sanctuary, **healing arts performances and workshops** in the D. Blair Theater, and a **swap market and craft-making** in the Social Hall. See [schedule of Noel Night activities](#).

The **Young Adults** are helping to organize **UU Detroit's** 3rd annual **CommonUnity Café**. See **Dan Wiest** to volunteer to decorate or to help out at the Café:

Friday, December 2

6:00 — 9:00 PM:

Decorate the sanctuary and the Parlor

Saturday, December 3

5:00 — 10:00 PM:

Serve at the Café



IMPORTANT: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 18TH

Dear UU Detroiters, a congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 18 at 12:30 PM** in the social hall. The board is offering amendments to our current bylaws. **It is imperative that we have a quorum.** Please plan to attend on December 18. Printed copies of the proposed amendments will be available in coffee hour through December 11; the proposed amendments have been emailed to all members in good standing. The bylaws will also be one of the handouts at the meeting. **PLEASE, PLEASE ATTEND ON DECEMBER 18TH!**

OPPORTUNITIES TO CHAIR COMMITTEES

Joel Batterman has stepped down as chair of the **Social Justice Committee**. Thank you, Joel, for your service. We know you will continue to advocate for social justice issues, especially transit.

We're also looking for someone to chair the **Planning Committee**. Planning Committee members are Bill Dickinson, Deanna McGraw, Dan Hale, and Sally Borden, with Kathe Stevens and Rev. Murray *ex officio*. Due to other commitments, none of the members are able to chair the committee. Please consider lending your talents to help plan the future of UU Detroit!

In the spring, we'll begin our annual pledge drive, organized by the **Canvass Committee**. The board is heavily involved in this important part of our funding. We're looking for someone to take the lead to help us raise funds to continue our missions at the corner of Cass & Forest.



Special Church Announcements and Events ... cont'd

Share the Plate

The SHARE THE PLATE collection on Sunday, November 20th was very successful. We thank all those generous donors who, in total, contributed \$460 for Zaman International.

This year **we will be having a SHARE THE PLATE collection on the third Sunday of every month.** This assumes that there is continuing interest to do so. Many members in the past have expressed interest in this being a regularly scheduled activity of our church. This activity, in a very concrete way, expresses our values of recognizing the worth and dignity of all and treating others with compassion.

As always, participation is completely voluntary. For the future projects you wish to support you do not have to do anything special; write your donation check to the church and we will split your donation 50%/50% between the church and the featured charitable project. When, for any reason, you want your donation to go to the church only you need only write on your check or contribution envelope, "Church ONLY" or "Pledge ONLY."

You might also choose to have 100% of your donation go to the featured charitable project. In that case just write "Project ONLY" or "SHARE THE PLATE ONLY" on your check.

Do you know of a local charitable organization whose goals are consistent with U-U principles? We will be looking for other such organizations for future SHARE THE PLATE Sundays. Catch one of us at coffee hour or ask any Board member how to proceed.

Thank you all for your support and acceptance of this program.

Mary Lou Malone and **Bob Lauer**

Share the Plate Work Group



Play Tickets for Sale!

I have 14 tickets to see the play, *The Realization of Emily Linder* at the Detroit Repertory Theatre on **Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 2:00 PM.** Tickets are \$15 each with our church getting \$5 each for our budget. We also can go to the Traffic Jam after the play. The play is about retiree, Emily Linder, predicting the exact hour and day of her death and her strange funeral plans. The result is both hilarious and moving. Please call or email Margaret Beck if you are interested in seeing the play at (313) 882-7775 or margretbeck@comcast.net. I will also have tickets at coffee hour.

— **Margaret Beck**



Calendar

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

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

Friday, December 2

6:00 PM: *Noel Night* decorating

Saturday, December 3

5:00 PM: *Noel Night*

Sunday, December 4

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Heidelberg Project"* (Tyree Guyton) — Sanctuary

12:30 PM: *Intro to UU Detroit* — Narthex

12:30 PM: *Planning Committee Meeting* — Parlor

Wednesday, December 7

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

Sunday, December 11

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*— Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Human Rights"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

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

12:00 PM: *Potluck* — Social Hall

12:30 PM: *Amnesty International* celebration

Wednesday, December 14

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

Thursday, December 15

7:00 PM: *Board Meeting* — Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit

Sunday, December 18

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "The Third Principle"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

12:30 PM: *Congregational meeting* — Social Hall

Monday, December 19

7:30 PM: *Amnesty International* — Parlor

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

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

Saturday, December 24

Carol Service

Sunday, December 25

NO SERVICE

Wednesday, December 28

6:00 PM: *Vespers* — Parlor

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**.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday December 20th

Next issue covers January 1 — January 31, 2016

No submissions accepted after the deadline—send items to newsletter@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