

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY
2016
EDITION

OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

February 7th – “Black Theology & Black Power”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

At the outset of Black History Month, I want to consider the first, ground-breaking work of James H. Cone, the father of Black liberation theology. One of the most important theological texts of the 20th century, Cone’s book, “Black Theology and Black Power,” opened the doors to contextual theologies in America. This is the first in a month-long series on the influence of Black scholars on theology and religion in America.

February 14th – “Stories”

Satori Shakoor

Satori Shakoor is the Executive Director of The Society for the Re-Institutionalization of Storytelling and a host of The Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers. She has received international acclaim as a singer with “Parliament/Funkadelic” and is one of “The Brides of Funkenstein.” Ms. Shakoor will share her storytelling and musical talents with the congregation.

February 21st– “Sisters in the Wilderness”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Womanist theology is the constructive theology of Black women who offered strong critiques both to the often male-centric Black liberation theology and the often white-centric feminist theology. The title of this sermon comes from the powerful book “Sisters in the Wilderness” by Delores S. Williams.

February 28th – “Water: A Tale of Two Cities”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

The Michigan cities of Detroit and Flint have made international headlines over water issues, and both situations beg questions regarding political economy and race in America.

FIRST UNITARIAN - UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2015–2016

Officers:

President

Kathe Stevens

Vice President

Matt Friedrichs

Immediate Past

President

Marsba Brubn

Board Secretary

Danny Rebb

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Trustees At-Large:

Joel Batterman

Sydney Schaaf

Dave Vailliencourt

Staff:

Minister

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen
Butler Murray*

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Office Administrator

Alexis Mitchell

Social Hour

Coordinator

Alyssa Bond

**Worship
Services held
every Sunday at
11:00 a.m.**

Letter from the President ...

Letter from your Board President, Kathe Stevens:

Greetings to the First UU Detroit community! We pulled together as a community yet again – and again.

We arrived on January 3 to a sanctuary and social hall with no heat. Church members were flexible and quick moving, setting up worship service in the Parlor, where Rev. Murray gave an outstanding sermon to greet the New Year – and our Centennial Year. Thankfully, EMEAC had repairs made quickly.

Then on January 10 we had to struggle to get to church on a snowy winter day. But our community shoveled and salted, cheerful temporary greeters greeted until the official greeters could arrive, and we warmed each other with good wishes – and new members!

Chloe Lundine and **Carolyn Lusch** slogged through the snow to fulfill their commitment to sign the membership book. Chloe is a student at WSU who was raised UU and Carolyn migrated to the church through her friendships here.

Our newest members' stirring testimony about why they joined the church inspired **Airlie Strasser** and **Vercina Hollis** to step up to sign the book as well! Airlie has been attending First UU on and off for years and Vercina has been coming for months and is already a member of the choir.

We welcome you! UU're in a good place.

Community also looks like this: choir members, greeters and others who have stepped up to do **John Angry's** tasks while he is recuperating. Orders of Service are distributed, water glasses are filled, hymn numbers are put up, cards are placed on the radiators. I know this takes a worry away from John so he can concentrate on getting well and getting back to church.

And now for business. You may remember that the Board Vice-President position was open. **Matt Friedrichs** has graciously agreed to serve as VP until the current term ends on June 30, 2015. The Board approved Matt's appointment at our January 13 meeting. Thank you, Matt!

The Board also approved the final report of the 2015 Strategic Plan. Back in the fall of 2014, we set goals together, put them in writing and agreed on a timetable to meet those goals, resulting in great success in accomplishing what we set out to do. If you want to see all we accomplished, check out the [final report](#) on our website.

cont'd...



Letter from the President cont'd ...

Have you noticed the new look of your newsletter? While we've been using the new logo for some time, **Alexis Mitchell** and I are also starting to incorporate UUA-approved graphics, color scheme, fonts, patterns and color stripe. Let us know what you think.

The Board is starting to focus on the 2016-17 Canvass Campaign, which will start in the spring. Each year in the Canvass Campaign we ask members to give careful thought to the tradition First UU Detroit represents, the role it plays in our lives, and the opportunities we enjoy for spiritual growth. You'll be hearing more about the Canvass Campaign in upcoming weeks.

Another project of the Board is a Policies and Procedures Manual, being organized by **Deanna McGraw**. When we had a full-time minister with office hours and a full-time office administrator, church members could easily get information about events, committees, meetings, contact information, etc. We now rely on volunteers to manage and communicate organizational information. And – this is the good news – as we continue to grow we find ourselves in conflict to use rooms or wondering how to communicate about an event. A Policies and Procedures Manual on hand and on the website will give us one place to reference to get information.

Which comports with our **4th Principle**: a free and responsible search for truth and meaning? That may be a bit of a stretch, but it will be nice when we don't have to search to know how to share information at First UU.

best ...
Kathe

<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>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

Who is a Unitarian-Universalist?

At a Unitarian-Universalist worship service, you are likely to find members who positions on faith may be derived from a variety of religious beliefs: Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, naturist, atheist, or agnostic.

Does This Religion Have a History?

We are a religious people who have woven strands of a rich past into a tapestry of the present. Our history starts in the 16th century, in Central Europe.

Where Can One Find Unitarian Universalist Congregations Now?

More than 1,000 congregations in the US and Canada belong to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, with headquarters in Boston. The oldest Unitarian congregations are in Romania.

There are large Unitarian congregations in the Khasi Hills of India. Others are found in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, France, Great Britain, Australia, Nigeria, South Africa, the Philippines and Japan.

For more information, please plan to attend our next “Intro to First UU” on February 7, 2016 at 12:30 pm. Or contact Regina Weiss for more information at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com.

100-4-100 is now the 125-4-100 Campaign

As we begin to celebrate 100 years in our present congregational home, we are proud to announce that we met our goal of 100 members in 2016, in fact we now have 101 members!

As a growing congregation, we want to establish another membership goal, which will make us stretch. We are now aiming for 125 members for 2016. The 125-4-100 Campaign will be a success as we reach out to old members and friends by inviting them to services, programs and events.

We can encourage those who are undecided about being a member, to join. Please let them know of the “Introduction to First UU” sessions, which are held the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. The “Introduction to First UU” sessions share the rich history of our Detroit church and the UU movement.

Let’s continue our positive growth! Let’s all reach out as we practice radical hospitality.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

We would like to welcome to our Church family:

Vercina T.A. Hollis of Detroit

Chloe Lundine of Detroit

Carolyn Lusch of Detroit

Airlie Strasser of Grosse Ile

We hope they will continue to explore the important questions and meaning of life as members of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit.



Greeters Update February 2016 Greeters

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We are happy to announce our Greeters who have volunteered for the month of February 2016:

- Marsha Bruhn
- Anita Jones
- Carolyn Lusch
- Marilyn Mitchell
- Aletha Oberdier
- Dave Vaillencourt
- Regina Weiss
- Sherry A. Wells
- Jerry Williams

The greeters will be in the narthex, ready to greet current and future members each Sunday at 10:30 am. In this role they are especially welcoming all those who believe in “Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.”

Greeters Needed
To volunteer as the person who welcomes the stranger to our church, please contact Glenn Maxwell at detroitglenn@gmail.com.

Thank You

Thank you, to Regina Weiss for organizing the January 2016 Volunteer Fair. An extra special thanks to those who volunteered.

Introduction to First UU Session

Becoming a Member of Our Religious Community

Unitarian Universalists put less emphasis on formal beliefs and more on practical living.

Our interest is in deeds, not creeds. We appreciate the biblical text, “Be ye doers of the world and not hearers only.”

Our members have been active leaders in the struggles for racial equality, civil liberty, international peace, and equal rights for all people. We work as individuals, in congregational social action, and other groups. We also work with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which brings critically needed social change to many parts of the world.

Our congregations have adopted a set of seven Principles that outline our most basic shared values and mutual exception about how we will interact with one another and the larger world. We affirm and promote:

- ◆ The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- ◆ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ◆ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- ◆ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ◆ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- ◆ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- ◆ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

If you feel and believe that the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit is spiritual home, please consider attending “Intro to First UU,” on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 12:30 pm.

Upcoming Important Membership Dates
02/07/16, 12:30 pm—“Intro to First UU” Session
02/14/16, after the Service—Membership Book Signing
02/17/16, 6:00 pm—Membership Committee Meeting

Church Announcements and Events

First UU Detroit Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

February 10 Whole Foods Community Room 7:00 - 9:00 pm

March 9 Whole Foods Community Room 7:00 - 9:00 pm

All are welcome at Board meetings. Whole Foods is located at 115 Mack Ave at 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.

Vespers Wednesday

Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Parlor.

FIRST Sundays: "Intro to First UU"

Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The "Intro to First UU" 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 UU tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of the Detroit church. 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 Sunday: Potluck

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church – share your food with FUUD! As we begin to add new members, it is 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.

Singing Circle

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm - Singing Circle at the church. Open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com for more details.



Church Announcements and Events

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 First 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.

Young Adults Activities

The first UU Young Adults group participates in two activities per month. To learn find out 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!

Care Committee

The Care Committee addresses pastoral cares of our church community. It is chaired by Nancy Owen Nelson. Other members are Sally Borden, Edie McKnight, and Nathan Strickland. Please contact **Nancy Owen Nelson**, nelnan@aol.com or call her at 313-914-3475, if you would like a member of our Care Committee to reach out to you in a time of need.

Child Care

Childcare is available during service in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the church, off the narthex. See **Sally Borden** or **Richard Hillier** for details.

Church Announcements and Events

Escalating Inequality: Let's Talk, 2016 Winter Speaker Series

Sponsored by Birmingham Unitarian Church, First UU and four other southeast Michigan UU churches, the speaker series takes place at BUC, 38651 Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills.

- ◆ Thursday, February 18, 2016, Hon. Marilyn Kelly, former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice, Distinguished Jurist in Residence, WSU, **Has America Fulfilled Its Promise of Equal Justice for All?**
- ◆ Thursday, March 17, 2016, Peter J. Hammer, Director, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, Professor, WSU Law School, **150 YEARS LATER: The 13th Amendment—Freedom Comes to Michigan?**

The fee is \$7 for each talk. For more information or to make reservations, see **Mary Lou Malone** or **Sharon Mills** at the Social Justice table during Coffee Hour.

First UU Detroit Directory Update

We are compiling a new First UU Detroit directory. If you've changed your address, email, or phone, please let **Danny Rebb** know at dfrebb@aol.com. We want to stay in touch with you!

UUA May 2016 Trip

The Unitarian Universalist Association has been sponsoring trips to the Deep South to visit historic sites in the Civil Rights Movement, e.g., Selma and the church at which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached, museums and other churches and cemeteries. People who have taken the trip tell me it is an incredible, unforgettable experience. Registration for the May, 2016, trip is now open at <http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/may-2016-registration-information.html>. I am planning on going and I would love to share a room with someone and have other people from our church go. Follow the link and learn more.

—**Linda Darga**

Social Hour in Parlor on February 21

First UU's coffee hour will be held in the Parlor on Sunday, February 21. The Center for Progressive Leadership's monthly training will be in the Social Hall so we'll move to the Parlor for our coffee and conversation. All training dates are on the First UU church [calendar](#). Other dates are: March 13, April 10, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 21.

Lost & Found

We now have a Lost & Found box in the office on the shelf to your right as you enter the office. It started as a result of Noel Night items found in the sanctuary. 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 for that item. —**Greeter Team**



Church Announcements and Events

2016 Strategic Plan Is Up and Running and Board Deems 2015 Plan a Success

The Planning Committee is pleased to report that the Board approved our 2016 Plan which is now posted on our website at http://www.1stuu.org/Governance/2016_FUUCD_Plan.pdf. Many church members contributed to the development of the plan over a three-month period. We are grateful for all the participants' time and contributions.

The goals listed below (including the primary contact person's name) will be the focus of our efforts over the next 12 months. To achieve our goals we need additional volunteers in all the action steps. Please connect with any of the primary contacts to be involved to move our church forward.

GOAL 1: Create new opportunities to expand interactions with EMEAC – **Lencha Acker**

GOAL 2: Using the 100th anniversary of the UU sanctuary as a theme, create opportunities to celebrate, increase membership and revenues to connect our past to our future – **Colleen Dolan-Greene**

GOAL 3: Create a viable social justice structure built on the 7 principles to sustain our beliefs, outreach efforts and activities – **Joel Batterman**

GOAL 4: Develop, conduct and evaluate opportunities and programs for spiritual growth – **Rev. Murray**

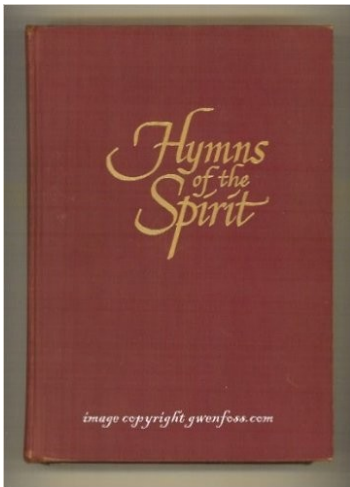
The final 2015 Plan report (posted on our website at http://www.1stuu.org/Governance/2015_StrategicPlanFinalReport.pdf) was approved at the January 2016 Board meeting. Many of our objectives were met. The 2015 plan was our first attempt to create a one-year plan and it was a learning process for our congregation. We were able to take our new knowledge and experiences and create a better plan for 2016.

One objective from the 2015 plan which was not completed but is well underway is the development of policies and procedures for our church. Current Board-approved policies and procedures will provide our many volunteers with an agreed-upon way to accomplish our work. Policies and procedures will help to provide transparency, accountability and a focus to meet our mission.

All former policies have been collected and issues for new policies have been identified. All policies and procedures are now under review and will be presented for Board approval in the next few months. When approved, a Policy and Procedure Manual will be posted on our website. Training sessions and announcements in the Newsletter and Order of Service will acquaint the members with the new policies and procedures.

—**Deanna McGraw**, Chair, 2015 Planning Committee

Church Announcements and Events



In case you missed the first of our Centennial-related historical services that was held on January 24th, here is the responsive reading used that day which was found in a vintage hymnal.

—**Danny Rebb**

Fellowship

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Fellowship is life, and lack of fellowship is death.

Fellowship is heaven and lack of fellowship is hell.

It is the deeds that we do upon earth, it is for fellowship's sake that we do them.

If we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another.

Therefore let us turn aside from the ways of darkness wherein each man seeks only his own gain.

Not what we keep but what we share makes us truly rich.

He who seeks selfish ends separates himself from mankind and loses his own soul.

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Though a man think he be sufficient unto himself yet ten men united in love can do what ten thousand singly would fail in.

Seek ye, therefore, to dwell in love and peace and truth one with another, and the gifts of the spirit shall enrich all and make no man poor.

Since in fellowship is strength, and immeasurable is the help that man can yield to man.



Calendar: First Unitarian- Universalist Church of Detroit

Wed Feb 3

6:00pm – 7:00pm: *Social Justice Committee meeting* - Parlor

7:00pm – 8:30pm: *Singing Circle* - Social Hall

Sun Feb 7

9:00am – 10:30am: *Choir Practice* - Chancel

11:00am – 12:00pm: *Worship Service, "Black Theology & Black Power"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) - Sanctuary

12:30pm – 1:30pm: *Introduction to First UU* - Narthex

12:30pm – 2:30pm: *Settled Minister Search Committee* - Parlor

Wed Feb 10

7:00pm – 8:00pm: *Board Meeting* - Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack, Detroit

7:00pm – 8:30pm: *Singing Circle* - Social Hall

Sun Feb 14 - Valentine's Day

9:00am – 10:30am: *Choir Practice* - Chancel

11:00am – 12:00pm: *Worship Service, "Stories"* (Satori Shakoor) - Sanctuary

11:45am – 12:00pm: *New Member Sunday* - Sanctuary

12:00pm – 1:00pm: *Potluck* - Social Hall

Mon Feb 15 - Presidents' Day

7:30pm – 9:00pm: *Amnesty International* - Parlor

Wed Feb 17

6:00pm – 9:00pm: *Membership Committee* - Foyer

7:00pm – 8:30pm: *Singing Circle* - Social Hall

7:00pm – 9:00pm: *Worship Committee* - Parlor

Thu Feb 18

7:00pm – 8:00pm: *"Escalating Inequality: Let's Talk,"* 2016 Winter Speaker Series - Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills

Sun Feb 21

9:00am – 10:30am: *Choir Practice* - Chancel

11:00am – 12:00pm: *Worship Service, "Sisters in the Wilderness"* (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) - Sanctuary

12:00pm – 3:00pm: *Social Hour held in the Parlor* (Center for Progressive leadership training in the Social Hall)

Wed Feb 24

6:00pm – 7:00pm: *Vespers* - Parlor

7:00pm – 8:30pm: *Singing Circle* - Social Hall

Sun Feb 28

11:00am – 12:00pm: *Worship Service, "Water: A Tale of Two Cities"* (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) - Sanctuary



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.

Church Announcements

Message Topics

Remember, 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.

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**.

March Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, February 20th

Next issue covers March 1—March 31, 2016

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org