

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER


MAY
2016
EDITION

OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

May 1st — “May Day”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

One of the ways that many cultures in the Northern Hemisphere celebrate Spring is through the celebration of May Day. Since we conveniently have worship on this date, we will explore what all of the jubilation and fun is all about!

May 8th — “The Mother in Me”

Anita "Ruby" Jones

Exploring and sharing stories about my matrilineal line, I will reveal the characteristics and traits that have become inextricably woven into the Mother that I am. In turn I will strive to elucidate the bridge that connects all women to the Earth, Mother of us all. *YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET AT CHURCH AT 8:00AM AND JOIN OUR WALK TO GRAND CIRCUS PARK. DETAILS AT PAGE 11.*

May 15th — “Unitarians in the D - Since 1833”

Daniel Rebb

The boundaries between Unitarians and Universalists in Detroit were often quite fuzzy from the 1830s until the two congregations merged in 1934. Our historical service in January showed how Universalists worshiped in this sanctuary during its very early days; this service continues our Centennial history theme by giving equal time to our Detroit Unitarian ancestors.

May 22nd — “Remembering Tillich”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Paul Tillich was one of the most important theologians of the 20th century, and often seen as a patron saint by Unitarian-Universalists because of his work on the relationship of theology and culture and an expansive theology of world religions. A week after delivering the keynote address at the 50th anniversary of Paul Tillich's internment at the Paul Tillich Park in New Harmony, Indiana, I will talk with our congregation about why this theologian is still relevant for us to read and discuss today.

May 29th — “Memorial Day Blues”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Memorial Day is often a hard time to reconcile for lovers of peace. We do want to honor the sacrifices of those who went before us, and at the same time, want to insist on alternatives to war in the present and future. How do we strike a resonant note that allows both for respect and rebellion? How can we be patriotic and critical all at the same time?

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS MAY 15 (MORE INFO AT PAGE 11)

FIRST UNITARIAN - UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2015–2016

Officers:

President

Kathe Stevens

Vice President

Matt Friedrichs

Immediate Past President

Marsba Bruhn

Board Secretary

Danny Rebb

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Trustees At-Large:

Joel Batterman

Sydney SchAAF

Dave Vaillencourt

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 Minister ...

A Statement on the Settled Minister Search:

I am endlessly grateful for the time that I am spending with the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit as your part-time Interim Minister. Often when I come home from our Sundays together, my wife Cynthia will tell me, "I think you are having more fun with this church than you ever have before." And she is right, I truly do enjoy our time together, and I have enjoyed needing to preach in a different key, to a congregation who may hold similar social values to what I have, but who have reached those values through a different theological lens than is my own. I often describe myself to friends as "post-denominational," recognizing that while my professional life requires that I have a home base in a denomination, and I am grateful to the American Baptists for providing that home, that there is no one denomination that is really, truly "me." My personal theology probably adheres well with the Universalist Christians who were the forerunners of this church, but at the end of the day, I'm unabashedly Christian.

When we began this journey together in August 2015, our understanding is that I likely would be with this church as its Interim Minister for two to three years while you conducted a search for a new settled minister. I take that covenant seriously, that I am here to help this church figure out who you are and who you want your next settled minister to be. My job is to make sure that in a couple years I don't have this job. And I know far too many interim ministers who fall in love with a congregation and the congregation falls in love with them, and rather than doing the job that they are supposed to do in preparing the church for the next settled minister, end up being a Trojan horse for their own ministerial candidacy with the church.

I understand that there are a few camps within the church that have broached the idea that perhaps I should stay on as a settled minister here. I would be remiss if I did not admit that I am flattered, that perhaps there are parts of me that would love to stay on, but that it is important for me to honor our commitment to one another that I am here as your Interim Minister. I believe that in principle, but I also believe it because this church needs a settled minister whose focus will be entirely upon this church, growing it, nurturing it, and helping you create a compelling vision for its future in the midst of profound change in Detroit. I cannot do that, fully immersed in my life as the President of Ecumenical Theological Seminary.

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Letter from the Minister (cont'd)

A Statement on the Settled Minister Search (cont'd):

Recognizing that our time together is a limited one that likely would end in the summer of 2017 or 2018, I have accepted a new part-time call as Executive Director of the International Council of Community Churches, serving as Head of Communion for a small "communion" (they do not like the word denomination) that is approximately half the size of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. Seeing themselves as post-denominational, the ICCC represents many churches throughout the United States and increasingly globally that have formed together as a single community church when many individual denominational churches in the same location would have failed. For example, a community church might be the amalgamation of several churches which originally were Methodist, Congregationalist, Presbyterian, and Unitarian, which together created a new single community church. This is a tremendous honor and completely unforeseen next step in my decidedly ecumenical vocation, which already has seen me serve as the minister of churches in five different denominations. As the spiritual leader of the ICCC, I will end up representing this small communion at the national and international level, having a seat at the World Council of Churches equivalent to the leaders of much larger international communions, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Anglican Communion. I never anticipated doing something like this, and yet it is a unique opportunity that I cannot turn down. I will continue to live in the Detroit area and serve as President at Ecumenical Theological Seminary as my primary professional commitment, and I will continue to serve as the Interim Minister of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit for as long as you need me. I made this covenant with you and intend honorably to see it through to the appointment of your next settled minister.

Thank you for allowing me to serve with and for you. I'm having the time of my life, and I hope that you are enjoying my ministry with you as well. But I wish to quiet the kind sentiments that I should stay on as settled minister for this lovely church. You deserve someone who really, truly will be YOUR minister, whose attention and commitment is entirely to you. I will celebrate with you when that happens. And no matter what, I will still be here in Detroit, available to come guest preach when you need me. But we're not there yet, not for another year or two. For now, I am still very much your Interim Minister, and look forward to our time together.

Peace be with you all,

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Letter from the President ...

Greetings to the First UU Detroit community!

Today I'm going to talk *all Centennial, all the time*.

First—thank you, thank you, thank you to all who were able to join us for our Centennial celebrations. To paraphrase the description of another big event of the last 100 years, “two days of peace and musings.” And lots of fun!

I've been negligent in letting everyone know that our centennial graphic was designed by Aletha Oberdier. We used it for all our PR and centennial documents without giving her proper appreciation. Thanks, Aletha!



Speaking of PR, thank you to Al Acker, who composed an informative and descriptive press release. My spellchecker says the previous sentence is a fragment, so I'm glad we had a professional on our side.

A thousand thank yous to the Centennial Committee, starting with a special hurrah to chair Colleen Dolan-Greene. Rounding out the committee was Nancy Owen Nelson, Maysel Brooks, Danny Rebb, Dan Secrest, Dan Wiest, and myself. I also want to give a special thank you to Nancy Owen Nelson, who served as liaison to the Worship Committee, resulting in our exceptionally well-coordinated worship service on April 17.

Let's hear some applause for the crew that worked on April 9 to spruce up the sanctuary and grounds so we could present our best face: Maysel Brooks, Marsha Bruhn, Sharlene Gage, Glenn Maxwell, Deanna McGraw, Dave & Katherine Vaillencourt, and Dan Wiest, with a special, if coincidental, bonus – Todd Ballou accompanying on the organ.

Colleen Dolan-Greene kindly arranged reasonable, comfortable and Detroit-centric riverfront accommodations for our visiting ministers.

Colleen and Lencha Acker coordinated the potluck and decorated the social hall; I am truly grateful for their commitment and eye for detail and color. The flowers provided by Lencha for the chancel and table centerpieces were, as always, outstanding. I also appreciated their interest and zeal in going through boxes of mementos in the choir room to choose the historical items displayed in the social hall during the potluck lunch.

And Colleen and Lencha didn't just supply their artistry and discerning eye, they also rolled up their sleeves to set up the social hall on Saturday, along with Maysel Brooks, Glenn Maxwell, Nancy Owen Nelson & Roger Zeigler, Jeanie O'Connor, and Dan Wiest. Dan single-handedly rolled tables, and dragged chairs, from the basement.

Our bus and bike tours were fun and informative, and we got to greet folks from other UU churches, see folks we haven't see in a long time, and provide a view of the city and church to new members and new attendees.

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Letter from the President (cont'd)

Joining us on the bus were Al & Lencha Acker, Margaret Beck, Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, Maysel Brooks, Dessa Cosma, Rev. Nancy Doughty, Mary Jo Ebert (*on the Social Justice Committee at BUC—thanks for celebrating with us!*), Gwen Foss, Sharlene Gage, Cheryl Greene, Gina & Elise Gregory (*visiting from Farmington UU!*), Yvanne Ham, Ken Harvey, Carolyn Ludwig, Mary Lou Malone, Sean McAde, Deanna McGraw, Bill & Edie McKnight, Michael Meads, Marilyn & Jerry Mitchell, Nancy Owen Nelson & Roger Zeigler, Aletha & Matt Oberdier, Rev. Susi Pangerl, Danny Rebb, Rhonda Rogers, Dan & Lily Secrest, Ruth Siefert, Airlie Strasser, Janet Thompson, Lee Thume, Sherry Wells and Jerry Williams, with tour guide Trey Greene providing a great overview of the city and our churches.

Our bikers were led by Joel Batterman and Dan Wiest. Pedaling around town were Aydin Akcasu & Ramona Benkert, Barb, Chuck & Dayna Eglinton (*Barb is the president of the Farmington UU board—thanks for coming and bringing your family!*), Matt Friedrichs, Jim & Ruth Harvey, Kathleen Jacobs Johnson & Robert Johnson, Chloe Lundine, and Glenn Maxwell.

Somehow we carried on without Colleen Dolan-Greene, who had an unfortunate fall that morning and was cheering us on from the emergency room (well, that's how I'm imagining it). The bus route took us past the Detroit Medical Center, so we were able to wave and send Colleen healing thoughts as we drove by. Many thanks to Ricky Garcia, who offered to take care of Colleen, getting her to the hospital and staying with her, so that Trey could continue as tour guide. I'm sorry you missed the tour, Ricky. Thankfully Colleen was able to attend the service on April 17, not only to enjoy the results of her hard work leading the centennial committee, but, to the relief of the rest of us, to help direct operations from a couch in the social hall. Rest and recover well, Colleen!

And this is the spot for a special shout-out to Trey Greene, who carried on when I know he wanted to be with Colleen. What a great tour guide he was despite that immense distraction.

While coordinating with the Detroit Institute of Arts for our stop to see the John La Farge stained glass windows which had been in the First Unitarian Church on Woodward originally and later donated to the DIA, Glenn Maxwell learned there were no docents available to speak about the windows. So he dove into the DIA archives, researched, and acted as our own special docent. Bravo! Glenn also worked with the DIA to get our group inside the museum with minimal fuss.

Todd Ballou made an awesome presentation on the organ during our tour of the building. I was especially glad that some of our visitors from Farmington UU Church and Birmingham Unitarian Church were treated to an introduction to our magnificent organ.

Many of the above folks were at our celebratory dinner at Traffic Jam & Snug, and old and new friends joined us as well: Sally Borden, Linda Darga, Ruby Jones, Tracey Martin (*longtime First UU member, now with Farmington UU*), Ruth Siefert, Barbara & Carter Stevenson (*former First UUs; now of Northwest UU*), Rev. Lynda & Stuart Smith, the family and friends of Emma Velasquez – Emirene Mendoza, Carmen Mendoza-King, Ana Rosa Mendoza-King, Enrique De La Rosa, Rodolfo Mendoza – Mary Lee Ventzke and daughter, Virginia Fitzgerald, and George & Judy Waterman.

Very special thanks to Dan Secrest and Sherry Wells for transporting some of our members this weekend to make sure they, too, were able to celebrate.

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Letter from the President ... cont'd

Our special worship service was enhanced with memories from Rev. Nancy Doughty, our former Minister of Education, ordained at First UU in 1962; Rev. Susann Pangerl, ordained here in 1979; Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, our former Director of Religious Education, ordained in our sanctuary in 1989; and former DRE and Community Minister, Rev. Lynda Ch'anna Smith, co-ordained here (with Northwest UU Church) in 2006.

Rev. Larry Hutchison, our Minister *Emeritus*, spoke lovingly and wittily about his nine years as our pastor and we were also glad to welcome his wife, Nancy, who was Larry's full partner in his ministry at First UU Detroit.

Of course, a special thank you to our Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, who rocked the house with his sermon honoring our 100 years at Cass and Forest.

Every good thing comes to an end and it's important to thank our clean-up crew: Lencha Acker, Maysel Brooks, Marsha Bruhn, Matt Friedrichs, Trey Greene, Robert Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Nancy Owen Nelson & Roger Zeigler, Dan Secrest, and the omnipresent Dan Wiest.

I want to make a special mention of Dan Secrest, who kept the website updated with information on the centennial, coordinated all reservations and collected funds, and assembled and set up the slide show in the social hall during our lunch.

Thank you to Robert Johnson, who accessed his Google photos from the 95th anniversary celebration to project during our Sunday potluck.

And ... all the folks who brought potluck dishes so we could nourish ourselves in body and spirit.

I'm thankful that our multi-talented Danny Rebb captured great photos, which appeared on Facebook during our centennial weekend. You may view photos at First UU Detroit Centennial Google Photos: <https://goo.gl/photos/zST2269cUG2YdmQRZ>.

Our Detroit Bus Company driver, Angie, was punctual, helpful, deftly followed our circuitous route, and maneuvered some difficult turns with great skill (or so I'm told, I had my eyes shut). I'm proud that we chose a company which contributes a percentage of all ticket sales to safe youth transportation in Detroit: <http://thedetroitbus.com/ride-for-ride/>.

Before I put in a plug for our history tour booklet, I want to give a special shout-out to those who helped with research: Gwen Foss, Glenn Maxwell, Marilyn Mitchell, Danny Rebb, and Dan Wiest. And now for the plug: history tour booklets will be available for purchase on Sundays – the suggested donation to cover printing costs is \$5. We have about 15 booklets left to purchase.

Whew. I may have missed someone; if I did, know you are appreciated in thought if not in print.

We are a principled bunch, whether planning, promoting or participating, working or welcoming, singing or dining, speaking or visiting. I'm going to start advocating for an eighth UU principle: **the inherent worth of celebrating!**

best ... Kathe



Will I and My Partner Be Welcomed at First UU of Detroit? ?

Yes, whatever your gender identity, gender expression, sex, affection or sexual orientation, family or relationship structure, you can be at home at any Unitarian Universalist church.

Will My Partner and I Have to Adhere to Religious Belief?

No! We are a community of seekers that doesn't require adherence to any one religious belief or creed. We are a religious community that agrees that we need not think alike to love alike.

How Serious Are Unitarian Universalists are about Accepting Us?

We are so serious about including you, it is now a part of the bylaws of the Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) (as amended July 1, 2014):

“Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons and commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone’s participation.”

For more information about becoming a member of First UU of Detroit, please contact Regina Weiss at regina.a.weiss@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

A Welcoming Congregation

Our congregation proudly displays the rainbow flag of an officially designated Welcoming Congregation, a congregation where people of any sexual orientation or gender identity can feel at home. We were originally recognized as a Welcoming Congregation in 1997. In 2015, we applied to have this status renewed, and this was approved by the LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Here are some excerpts from the approval letter:

“Your application was among the most thorough and powerful that I've had the pleasure of reading. I was able to get a strong sense of not only the tasks you accomplished, but also the spirit and energy which you brought to it... It's clear that First UU understands that becoming recognized as a Welcoming Congregation is a commitment rather than an end point... I'm especially impressed with your fundraising and advocacy efforts to support marriage equality in Michigan and with your partnerships with community groups.”

Our congregation believes and practices the first Principle of Unitarian Universalism: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. We invite you to share your leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, responsibilities, blessings and joys of congregational life.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

We would like to welcome to our Church family:

Aimee Cisler, Andy Cisler, Steven Lewis

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



Greeters Update

We have the best greeters at First UU! All guests and members are treated with dignity, respect and compassion. Thank you to all the greeters that practice “radical hospitality.” You are making a positive difference in our faith community. Please let Glenn Maxwell know if you are interested in volunteering as a greeter. Glenn will work with you to find which dates best work with your schedule. Please contact Glenn to volunteer at detroitglenn@gmail.com.

One-on-One

Sunday, May 8, 2016 at 12:30 pm

As a result of our phenomenal growth as a church congregation, we have a record number of new members. Let's all get to know each other, at our first One-On-One, on Sunday, May 8, 2016 at 12:30 pm.

It's like speed dating, but it's to get to know our new and old members. You'll have a pre-determined number of minutes to get to know each other. Then participants will rotate to the next person. If you decide to get to know each other more after your One-On-One, that's up to you. You'll be surprised how many new friends you can make in minutes.

It's fun. It's fast. It's rewarding. It's all part of our philosophy of “radical hospitality.” Don't wait another hundred years to get to know your church family.

For more information, please see Regina Weiss.

The 3 Requirements to Being a Member of First UU

- ◆ Sign the Membership Book,
- ◆ Make a financial pledge and/or
- ◆ Make a financial donation of record.

For more information, or to access the forms to become a member, please visit

<http://www.1stuu.org/Membership/membership.php>

Questions About Becoming a Member?

Unsure of the Steps to Becoming a Member?

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

Want to Volunteer as a Greeter?

Please contact Glenn Maxwell at detroitglenn@gmail.com.

Important Upcoming Membership Dates

- ◆ “Intro to First UU” Sessions (choose one): May 1 or June 5 or July 3, 2016 – 12:30 pm
- ◆ *Membership Book Signings* (choose one): May 8 or June 12 or July 10, 2016 – after the service
- ◆ *One-On-One*: May 29, 2016; 12:30 pm
- ◆ *Committee Fair*: July 10, 2016 – after the service



Standing Church Announcements and Events

First UU Detroit Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

May 11	Whole Foods Community Room	7:00 - 9:00 pm
June 8	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.

Wednesdays: 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.

Standing 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

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](mailto:nelan@aol.com) to provide a network for communication and support. Other members are **Sally Borden**, **Edie McKnight**, and **Nathan Strickland**.

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.

Lost & Found

We now 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 for that item. —**Greeter Team**



Special Church Announcements and Events

Mother's Day—May 8—"Women Walking Woodward for Peace"

Join us again on Mother's Day, May 8, 2016 at First UU Detroit Church/Cass Corridor Commons, 4605 Cass at Forest, at 8:00 AM. We will walk to Grand Circus Park and gather on the East side surrounding the bronze statue redubbed "Ikwe Michigamma" (Woman of the Great Waters). We will offer prayers, songs and intentions to bring justice, compassion, equity and peace into the affairs of our social, political, economic and spiritual institutions. We will return to First UU for a special Mother's Day service at 11:00 AM.

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting—May 15

Pursuant to Article IV, §2(A) of our by-laws, at 12:30 P.M. on Sunday, May 15, 2016, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary. At our Annual Congregational Meeting, the voting membership will elect a President and Vice-President, trustees-at-large as appropriate for expiring terms or vacant positions, and all other elected positions as provided for in our by-laws. The voting membership will also approve a budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year, receive committee reports, and transact any and all other business of the Church.

Third Annual UU Regional Picnic—May 21

Mark your calendars and get your lawn chairs out of storage — the third annual UU Regional Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, at Belle Isle. Watch for details via Facebook, email, and in our Sunday Order of Service.

Social Hour in Parlor—May 22

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

Decorating in the Sanctuary—May 29

A wedding is scheduled in the sanctuary on May 29 at 3:30 PM. The bridal party will need to come in to start decorating the church immediately after our 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM service, so we'll need to take our greetings and conversation directly into the social hall on May 29. Congratulations to the happy couple!

<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"> • 4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
	<p>FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT - AT THE CORNER OF CASS & FOREST</p>

Special Church Announcements and Events

2016-2017 Canvass Campaign

The 2016-17 Canvass Campaign, "100 Years at the Corner of Cass and Forest," is winding up and we hope you have turned in your completed pledge forms. Feel free to contact one of our Canvass Campaign Co-Chairs, **Marsha Bruhn**, 313-400-1192, or **Marilyn Mitchell**, 313-617-5989, if you have questions, need a pledge form, or need more information. We'll use your completed pledge forms to create a realistic 2016-17 budget to present at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 15.

So much going on at First UU Detroit: check the calendar first


Our growing and energized congregation means there are many meetings and events going on at First UU Detroit on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings! By checking our church calendar first, <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar.php>, you can see if the date on which you wish to hold your event is open. Then check in with our Office Administrator, Alexis Mitchell, via email at office@1stuu.org or call 313-833-9107, to get your event on the calendar. Alexis will check with EMEAC's Dee Collins to make sure there are no conflicts and get your event calendared so you may invite all of us!

Centennial Celebration Photos

Danny Rebb captured some great photos of our centennial celebrations. You're encouraged to upload your photos by going to our First UU Detroit Centennial Google Photos site:

<https://goo.gl/photos/zST2269cUG2YdmQRZ>

Upload by choosing this button at the upper right hand side of the screen: 

Please label your photos  by using this button in the upper right hand corner of this screen – click on it after uploading:

Remember the Trust

The First Unitarian-Universalist Church Trust was established in 1964 by the merger of the First Unitarian Church Trust with the Annis Fund and the Woodward Fund. Initially, only the interest earned on the principal in the Trust was given to the Church. However, as membership declined while salaries and building maintenance continued to increase, the Church called on the Trust repeatedly to invade the principal to keep the doors open. As of July, 2008, \$223,816 of Trust principal had gone to the Church.

Had it not been for the Trust, the Church would not have been able to celebrate the centennial of the sanctuary on April 16-17, 2016. *We ask you to consider honoring the centennial by making a special gift to the First Unitarian-Universalist Church Trust.* Feel free to contact me at 313-617-5989 to make a legacy gift. Thank you.

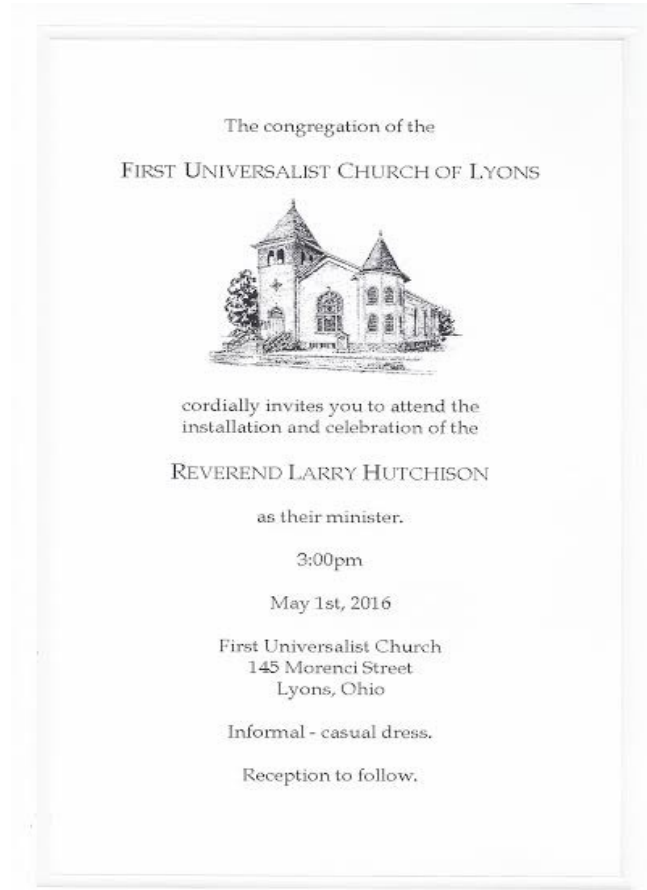
Marilyn Mitchell, Trust president



Special Church Announcements and Events

Invitation to Installation—May 1

Our Minister *Emeritus*, Rev. Larry Hutchison, whom many of you had a chance to meet at our recent Centennial celebrations, is being installed at the First Universalist Church of Lyons, OH, near Rev. Hutchison's home in Adrian, MI. Rev. Hutchison extends an invitation to all First UUs to attend his installation:



Wedding Invitation—October 15

Joel Batterman and Julie Brock are happy to announce that their wedding will take place on Saturday, **October 15, 2016**, at 2:00pm in the First UU sanctuary. The most important part of our ritual is that we share it with our community. First Church 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/>.

Special Church Announcements and Events

Time To Decide-VOTE your choice at the May Congregation meeting

How is First Unitarian-Universalist Church referred to? How do we want to be known in 50 years? Our legal name is: First Unitarian-Universalist Church.

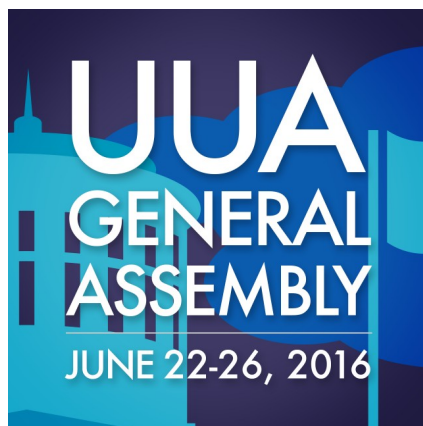
Currently, we use many different acronyms or abbreviations in our documents, publications, newsletters, and Order of Service. Below are listed the variety we've seen (there may be others).

1. FUUD
2. FUUCD
3. First UU
4. 1stUU
5. First Church
6. First Church Detroit
7. First UU Church Detroit
8. First UU Church of Detroit

In addition, a new domain name, UUDetroit, has been acquired. The website will be migrated to the new domain sometime in 2016. Therefore, other suggested acronyms, inspired by the new domain name, might be:

9. UUDetroit
10. UU Detroit

Based on the Congregational vote, we will implement the use of our acronym in all our documents, publications, press releases, order of service, newsletter, and other written materials. — **Planning Committee**



2016 **General Assembly** early bird registration rates increase on May 1. The conference is in Columbus, Ohio, and First UU Detroit will have great representation this year. As of the date of this newsletter, over half a dozen First UUs are planning to attend. We have one potential candidate to represent First UU as a delegate: Danny Rebb. If anyone else is interested in becoming a GA delegate, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Marsha Bruhn.



Special Church Announcements and Events

Resolution on Muslim Solidarity

At its March 9 board meeting your Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support a MidAmerica Regional Assembly Resolution on Muslim Solidarity. The Resolution will be presented for approval at Regional Assembly on April 30. The MidAmerica Board is meeting in the Detroit area the weekend of May 19-22 and, pending approval of the Resolution at Regional Assembly, during the board's time here it is planning a social witness action around the proposed Resolution. Rev. Kimi Riegel of Northwest UU Church is organizing a meeting with Muslim leaders to present the Resolution. You are invited to participate in the social witness action, which is tentatively planned for Thursday, May 19, in Dearborn. Times and details are to be worked out. We'll keep the congregation informed of the final plans. Hold the date on your calendars! The draft Resolution is reprinted below:

MidAmerica Regional Assembly Resolution on Muslim Solidarity

Drafted by Southeast Michigan UUMA Cluster

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association's Principles call us as member congregations to affirm and promote "The inherent worth and dignity of every person" and, "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all";

WHEREAS our living tradition draws from many sources, including "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life" and "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves";

WHEREAS the United States Constitution is founded in part on the freedom of religious belief and practice;

WHEREAS the histories of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism affirm the importance and centrality of freedom of religious belief and practice in this country;

WHEREAS Muslims in the United States have faced increased levels of discrimination and hate crimes since 9/11;

WHEREAS an additional layer of fear, prejudice; and xenophobia have arisen following the Paris and San Bernardino terrorist attacks in 2015; and the refugee crisis in Syria has become a target of this fear, prejudice, and xenophobia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The 2016 MidAmerica Regional Assembly expresses its love and support for Muslims in our communities and encourages congregations in the MidAmerica Region to

- ◆ build bridges of partnership with Muslim neighbors in our local areas;
- ◆ increase understanding of Islam within and beyond our local congregations;
- ◆ learn more about the realities of religious discrimination and the Syrian refugee crisis; and
- ◆ work to foster greater inclusion of all peoples, regardless of their religious, ethnic, national, or racial identity(s).

Endorsing Congregations by Board Vote, February 2016:

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty, Clarklake, MI

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, Southfield, MI

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI

Community Unitarian Universalists of Brighton, Brighton, MI

Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, Farmington, MI

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, East Lansing, MI

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, Detroit, MI

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro, Owensboro, KY

First Unitarian Church, Louisville, KY

St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, Cincinnati, OH

Calendar: First UU Church Detroit

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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 1

9:00am: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00am: *Worship Service "May Day"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)—Sanctuary

12:30pm: *Intro to First UU*—Narthex

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

6:00pm: *Social Justice Committee meeting*—Parlor

6:00pm: *Membership Committee meeting*—Foyer

7:00pm: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 8

8:00am: *Women Walking Woodward for Peace*—meet at church and join in the walk to Grand Circus Park

9:00am: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00am: *Worship Service "The Mother in Me"* (Anita "Ruby" Jones)—Sanctuary

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

12:00pm: *Potluck*—Social Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

7:00pm: *Singing Circle*—Sanctuary

7:00pm: *Board Meeting*—Whole Foods, 115 Mack Ave @ John R, Detroit

SUNDAY, MAY 15

9:00am: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00am: *Worship Service "Unitarians in the D - Since 1833"* (Daniel Rebb)—Sanctuary

12:30pm: *Annual Congregational Meeting*—Social Hall

MONDAY, MAY 16

7:30pm: *Amnesty International*—Parlor

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

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

7:00pm: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Social Hour held in the Parlor: Center for Progressive leadership training in the Social Hall

11:00am: *Worship Service "Remembering Tillich"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

6:00pm: *Vespers*—Parlor

7:00pm: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 29

11:00am: *Worship Service "Memorial Day Blues"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)—Sanctuary

12:30pm: *One-on-One* (Membership Committee)—Social Hall

12:30pm: *Sanctuary Decorating*—move greetings and conversation directly to the Social Hall so the Sanctuary may be decorated for a wedding commencing @ 3:30pm



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**.

June Newsletter Deadline

Friday, May 20th
Next issue covers June—June 30, 2016
No submissions accepted after the deadline.
Send items to office@1stuu.org