

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER
2016
EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

October 2nd — “Days of Awe: From Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur”

Joy Gaines-Friedler

Sunset on October 2, 2016 begins Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is also the beginning of The Days of Awe, ten days in which we go inside ourselves to reexamine, contemplate, to ask ourselves what matters to us, who matters, and what is it we have done this year that may have harmed ourselves or others. We are asked to ask forgiveness from others (not G-d) for any harm we may have caused. This is not easy.

October 9th — “Worth and Dignity”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

The beginning of a monthly sermon series on the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, this sermon will focus on the First Principle, namely “The Inherent Dignity and Worth of Every Person.”

October 16th — “Forgiveness”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Recognizing that we are approaching the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, this sermon will focus on the concept of “Forgiveness,” the central focus of this Jewish holiday.

October 23rd — “Temporary Shelter”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Today is the final day of the Jewish holiday, Sukkot, during which one erects a temporary shelter. We will explore this idea of “temporary shelter” to understand how people of any faith or no faith might come to appreciate Sukkot.

October 30th — “Festival of Lights”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

The celebration of the Hindu holiday of Diwali, “The Festival of Lights,” is the closest that most religions come to a party. We will explore what Diwali means to Hindus and why it often is the most popular holiday to be celebrated on college campuses today.



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



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 ...

Greetings to the UU Detroit community!

Ahhhhhh ... fall at last. No matter the weather, we take care of business – and have fun – at the corner of Cass and Forest. What cool things are we doing at our hot corner on Cass & Forest?

Kathleen Jacobs Johnson and **Robert Johnson**, who have served as co-chairs of the Worship Committee for years, have stepped down to take a much-deserved respite from the imposing responsibility of planning excellent worship services every Sunday. When you next see Robert and Kathleen, extend your warm appreciation to them for a job well done. Under Kathleen and Robert's leadership, we have enjoyed inspiring, well-organized services, with engaging speakers presenting on relevant topics. While this was a team effort with the whole Worship Committee, every team needs leaders and Kathleen and Robert have been exemplary. The time and talent they have gifted to UU Detroit is apparent in the growing numbers of our membership. Something has to make folks stick after they walk in the door, and Robert and Kathleen created the glue.

Nancy Owen Nelson has agreed to chair the Worship Committee, following in the formidable footsteps of Robert and Kathleen. Please take a moment to thank Nancy for her commitment to leadership. Nancy has served on the Worship Committee since her arrival at UU Detroit and will lead with skill and passion.

In other formidable footsteps to follow, I'm grateful to **Dessa Cosma**, who has agreed to chair the Membership Committee following the resignation of **Joan Smykowski**. Joan has stepped down in order to fulfill her Settled Minister Search Committee responsibilities. The Membership Committee, another vitally important glue pot, is in good hands with Dessa. Send your thanks to Dessa, too, for her commitment to UU Detroit.

Our social hour coordinator, Alyssa Bond, has left to pursue an opportunity to work with autistic children. We wish her well! After interviewing candidates, the position was offered to **Humphrey Blakemore** ([see page 10](#) for more info on Humphrey). Please give Humphrey a warm welcome.

In August, the board, committee chairs, and program leads met to begin the process of creating a strategic plan for 2017. Now we invite you to join us at a **Congregational Planning Retreat** on Saturday, **October 22**, 9:30 AM to noon, to select goals and create objectives for our 2017 plan. We're grateful to **Nathan Strickland, Jr.** and **Community Health Awareness Group**, for hosting our meeting in their conference room. Please [see page 10](#) for more details.

Using the democratic process within our congregation to guide our actions in the upcoming year aligns with our 5th Principle! We hope you can be at the congregational planning retreat. Much appreciate to all of you. You nourish my spirit.

best ... Kathe

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

The right of *conscience* and the use of the *democratic process* within our congregations and in society at large.

#5



Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that is guided not by a set creed or dogma, but by an open-minded quest for truth and meaning. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their faith and inspire. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their faith and inspire. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their faith and inspire. Learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or find your local UU congregation at uu.org

NUURTURE Your Spirit. Help HEAL Our World.



Settled Minister Search Committee Updates ...

THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH SURVEY IS ENDING THIS MONTH

To all members and friends of UU Detroit: If you have not filled out our congregational survey please take the time to complete it now. The survey is online and can be completed at your convenience. Anyone without email access will be able to complete the survey in paper form or at a computer station during coffee hour. **We are extending the deadline to complete the survey to Sunday, October 2, 2016.**

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

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

The Committee:

Lencha Acker

Chloe Lundine

Deanna McGraw (Chair)

Bill McKnight

Sharon Mills

Joan Smykowski

Nate Strickland, Jr.





New Membership Committee Chair!

Dessa Cosma is now the Chair of the Membership Committee. Joan Smykowski resigned due to her time and energy commitment to the Settled Minister Search Committee. Please congratulate Dessa next time you see her!



Dessa Cosma

Introduction to UU Detroit

To learn more about the history and philosophy of UU Detroit, please join us October 2nd or November 6th or 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 October 9th, November 13th and December 11th. Please contact Dessa if you have any questions: dessacosma@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

Radical Hospitality

The First Experience to Becoming a Member

Hospitality is a Gift

Hospitality is a gift that we Unitarian Universalists freely give. As Unitarian Universalists it is our charge to ensure that everyone who enters the doors feels welcomed, accepted, safe, valued, and respected.

A congregation of people who genuinely care for and love each other will exude warmth and caring. "Hospitality is love in action," stated Peter Morales, UUA President.

Sometimes, we must get out of comfort zone and greet all visitors before services. Radical hospitality means we invite those we don't know to share our table during Coffee Hour. Radical hospitality means we learn the names of our visitors when we introduce ourselves to them. We are proactive to visitors and friends.

Radical hospitality encourages us to listen, ask thoughtful questions, and show empathy for our guests. We share our gift of hospitality to those who look or sound different from us.

Radical hospitality means we practice our first Principle: "The inherent worth and dignity of every person."

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Susan Morgan of Dearborn

Diana Ovadia of Detroit

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



Policies and Procedures ...

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

Featured policy and procedure of the month:

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

Authority to Act on Behalf of Church

POLICY STATEMENT: "The Board of Trustees is the only body of governance permitted to act on behalf of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit in matters of legal issues, finance, purchases, employment, responding to press inquiries, using the full or partial name, and other areas as determined by the Board. This shall include situations where a member might make a purchase for the Church with their own funds. This does not include budgeted items approved by the Board."

Any matters as outlined above must be brought to the Board and/or the Minister for approval, even in the

case of an emergency. Budgeted items already approved by the board are an exception.

Before you make a purchase, speak to the press, make a promise, etc., get approval from your board of trustees!

At the current time the by-laws of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church do not address authority to act on behalf of UU Detroit. This policy was enacted to cover that omission and will be incorporated into an anticipated set of by-law revisions.



Standing Church Announcements and Events ...

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM.** at the Whole Foods Community Room. Please note future meetings have been rescheduled to the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of October 2016. The dates of the next two meetings are **October 20** and **November 10.**

All are welcome at Board meetings. Whole Foods Market is located at 115 Mack Ave (corner of John R), Detroit. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact **Danny Rebb**, Board Secretary, at dfrebb@aol.com.

SINGING CIRCLE

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

VESPERS

Vespers runs from **6:00 - 7:00 PM** on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Parlor. See our website for more information: <http://1stuu.org/Worship/vespers/.vespers.php>.

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.

WEDNESDAYS AT UU DETROIT

MESSAGE TOPICS

SUNDAYS AT UU DETROIT

FIRST SUNDAYS: "INTRO TO UU DETROIT"

Are you new to the Church, or just interested in learning more about our Church and tradition? The "Intro to UU Detroit" class offers introductory information on what the Church is all about, and it is an important step toward becoming a member. There are two objectives: one is to share information on the Unitarian Universalist tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of UU Detroit. Please do attend: we are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us!

SECOND SUNDAYS: WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

This is a regular service, but we also include a time to invite our new members to come forward, present themselves to the community, and sign the membership book. This is an important ceremony honoring those who have chosen to identify themselves with our values, our tradition, and our community. Make them feel welcome among us!

SECOND SUNDAYS: POTLUCK

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church to share with our UU Detroit community! As we



add new members, it's a good time to share fellowship and nourishment with the people who nourish us, in return. Remember that everything must come and go the day of the event – we have no refrigerator space to keep things beyond the immediate need. If you have dietary concerns (peanut allergies, and such), please do let us know, so that food can be labeled.



Standing Church Announcements and Events ... cont'd

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce during a worship service, please write the message on one of the index cards which can be found in the backs of the pews, and place the card in the offering basket during the collection. Milestones and visitor names will be passed to the Minister for sharing with the Congregation as part of our closing circle.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a global movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights. Amnesty International meets at UU Detroit on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. Contact **Dan Wiest** at dfwiest@comcast.net for more information.

CARE COMMITTEE

Help us to minister to each other. If you or someone you know is sick, in need of a pastoral call or other assistance, please let the Care Committee know by contacting its chair, **Nancy Owen Nelson**, at nelnan@aol.com to provide a network for communication and support. Other Care Committee members are **Sally Borden**, **Linda Darga**, **Edie McKnight**, and **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**

CHILD CARE

Child care is available during Sunday worship service in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. See **Sally Borden** or **Richard Hillier** for details.

YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES

Learn about UU Detroit Young Adults Group and its 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!



SHARE OUR FACEBOOK POSTS!

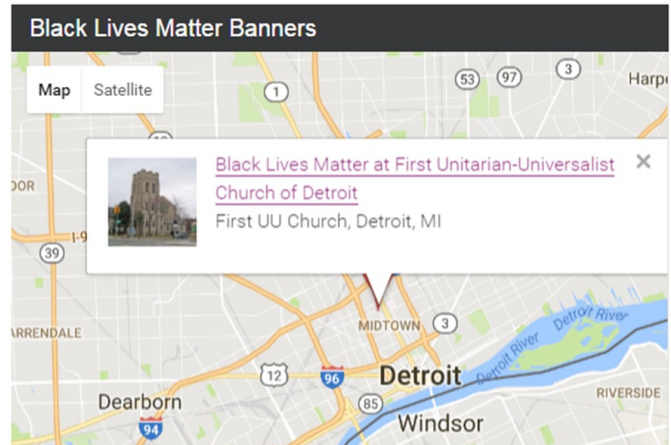
Facebook events are being created for sermons, Vespers, Membership activities, and other events. When you see a Facebook event about church activities, **please share it!** Help get the word out about what we're doing at UU Detroit on Sundays and Wednesdays.



Special Church Announcements and Events ...

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The Unitarian Universalist Association website [affirms](#) “Every person has value as a member of the human family. The suffering caused by racism must be ended if we want to create fair and loving communities.” One way our denomination formally supports the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement is through an [Action of Immediate Witness](#) passed at General Assembly 2015. UU Detroit offers its support by displaying “Black Lives Matter” on the sign in front of the church. A map of banners on the UUA website includes a pointer to UU Detroit.



Information at: <http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism>

<http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/black-lives-matter>

<http://www.uua.org/statements/support-black-lives-matter-movement>

<http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/black-lives-matter/banners>

VISITOR TO UU DETROIT

Dr. Janice Marie Johnson, Director of [Multicultural Ministries and Leadership](#) for the UUA, visited UU Detroit in September. She had lunch with Board President **Kathe Stevens**, Matt Malone, and **Sharon Mills** and **Mary Lou Malone**, two members of the committee exploring “Building the World We Dream About,” a UUA program on race and ethnicity. They spoke of a number of challenges confronting UU congregations in a highly charged, racialized society. They also explored ways to empower our congregation to address and dismantle racism by customizing and implementing such programs as “Building the World We Dream About” at UU Detroit. Her visit underscored the urgency of creating a justice-seeking faith community inclusive of people of all races and ethnicities. Following lunch, Dr. Johnson took a guided tour of the church, noting and discussing its history and involvement in social justice issues.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Join us for a book discussion on Sunday, **November 13, 2016, at 12:30 PM** in the Parlor. The book is available from the [UUA bookstore](#) or your favorite source for good reads. The church’s neighborhood shop, [Source Booksellers](#), has copies or can order them. We’ll be using the UUA study guide to start discussion. — **Mary Lou Malone**



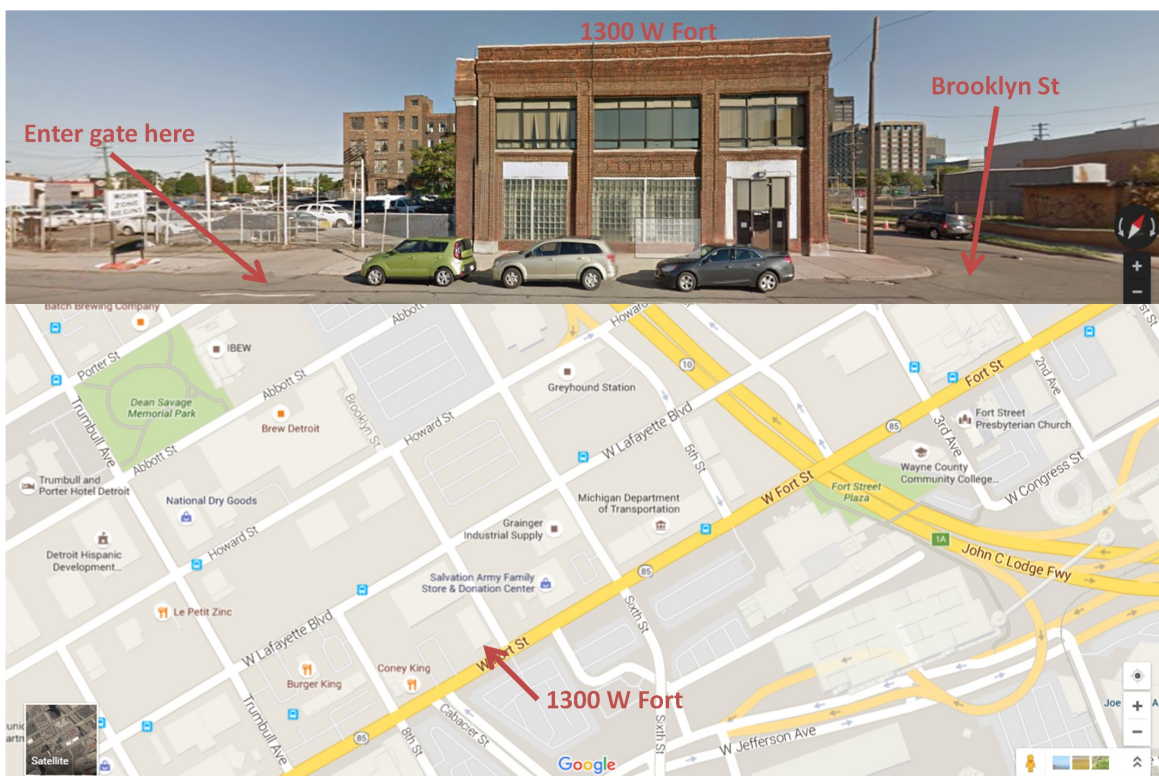
Special Church Announcements and Events ... cont'd

NEW SOCIAL HOUR COORDINATOR

Take a few minutes to meet our new Social Hour Coordinator, **Humphrey Blakemore**, who is currently finishing up a 360-hour culinary arts program at Hannan House run by Operation Able. The program includes classroom instruction and hands-on experience. Humphrey describes himself as "sociable, customer-oriented and a hard worker." He has been training with our staff and volunteers, and will start officially on October 2. Please give Humphrey a warm UU Detroit welcome.

2ND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Dear UU Detroit Church Members, you are invited to participate in the second annual Congregational Planning Retreat on Saturday, **October 22**, from **9:30 AM to noon** at **Community Health Awareness Group**, 1300 W. Fort Street at the corner of Brooklyn. An email with driving and parking directions will be sent as the date approaches; or refer to the map below. Contact board secretary, **Danny Rebb**, for details. We will take this time together to reflect on our accomplishments and challenges over the past year and look forward to our 2017 needs. You will be able to help select our final goals and create the objectives and action steps to achieve the goals. As members of UU Detroit, your input is vital to develop a successful plan for 2017. Thank you! — **Planning Committee**





Calendar

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

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

Sunday, October 2

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "Days of Awe: From Rash Hashanah to Yom Kippur" (Joy Gaines-Friedler) — Sanctuary

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

Wednesday, October 5

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

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

Sunday, October 9

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "Worth and Dignity" (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

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

12:00 PM: *Potluck* — Parlor

Wednesday, October 12

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

Sunday, October 16

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

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

Monday, October 17

7:30 PM: *Amnesty International* — Parlor

Wednesday, October 19

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

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

Thursday, October 20

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

Saturday, October 22

9:30 AM: *Congregational Planning Retreat* — Community Health Awareness Group Conference Room, 1300 W Fort at Brooklyn, Detroit

Sunday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 26

6:00 PM: *Vespers* — Parlor

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

Sunday, October 30

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "Festival of Lights" (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary



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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**.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday, October 20th

Next issue covers November 1 — November 30, 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