

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER  
2016  
EDITION

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

### September 4th — “End of Summer”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

Labor Day: Growing up in Delaware, a state that lives and breathes on the rhythms of the beach season, the Labor Day weekend was the official end of summer.

Children return to school, young adults head off to college, and churches often set the Sunday after Labor Day as the "start" of the year, a strange phenomenon for an institution that meets year round. Today, we will spend time thinking about what the end of summer means for people of faith and social justice.

### September 11th — “9/11 - 15 Years Later”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

On the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America, I will speak about what it was like to live in New York City at the time of 9/11/2001, and talk about how this important moment continues to affect the lives of Muslims and other religious minorities in America.

### September 18th — “The Holy Land”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

I will spend the week before this sermon in Washington, DC, participating in a World Council of Churches Consultation with American religious and political leaders on the Holy Land. I studied in Israel in the summer of 1997, receiving a first-hand education on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and now, nearly 20 years later, have the opportunity to revisit this issue in depth. In this sermon, I will share glimpses of the week-long conversation that we shared in our nation's capital.

### September 25th — *Detroit Musings:* “Underneath My American Face”

*M. L. Liebler*

As part of our Detroit Musings series, poet M. L. Liebler will read from his work and discuss his evolution from working class to community poet and cultural activist.



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[www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org)

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# About Us ...

**UU DETROIT IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS — [WWW.UUA.ORG](http://WWW.UUA.ORG) — IN THE MIDAMERICA REGION — [WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG](http://WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG)**

We are creating **spirituality** and **community** beyond boundaries, working for more **justice** and more **love** in our own lives and in the world; we practice **radical hospitality**.



The symbol of our faith is a **Flaming Chalice**.



We affirm and promote **seven Principles**.

We **welcome** you as **individual people**, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, religious background, marital status, family structure, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socioeconomic status.

We have been at the corner of **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 are a UUA-recognized **Welcoming Congregation**.



**LGBTQ**  
Welcoming Congregation

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

### OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT  
*Kathe Stevens*
- VICE PRESIDENT  
*Dan Wiest*
- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
*Marsha Bruhn*
- BOARD SECRETARY  
*Danny Rebb*
- TREASURER  
*Bob Lauer*
- TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE:**
- Dan Hale*
- Sydney Schaaf*
- Nathan Strickland, Jr.*
- Dave Vaillencourt*

### STAFF:

- INTERIM MINISTER  
*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*
- MUSIC DIRECTOR  
*Todd Ballou*
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
*Alexis Mitchell*
- SOCIAL HOUR COORDINATOR  
*Alyssa Bond*

**WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM**





## Letter from the President ...

Greetings to the UU Detroit community!

In our continuing effort to keep you informed, this month we'll begin to feature a **summary of different policies and procedures** from the manual recently adopted by the Board. Please watch for these in our newsletters in the months ahead. I hope you find them interesting and enlightening. All congregants are encouraged to take part in the policies and procedures of the Church and we welcome ideas or suggestions.

Speaking of participation, please make sure you fill out a **Ministerial Search Survey**, which will be available in several different formats the whole month of September. More information on the next page.

Have you noticed the new railings on the stairs leading from the sanctuary to the social hall and from the office vestibule to the chancel? Many, many thanks to the Accessibility Committee: **Tim Bailey, Todd Ballou, Irene Brisson, Art Gabhart, Sharon Mills, Glenn Maxwell, Rhonda Rodgers, and Sally Borden**, with special appreciation to Sharon, who was adamant that accessibility was a problem that we could no longer continue to ignore, sparking us into action. We also appreciate EMEAC's approval to install the railings, and in particular, Ed Holman's offer of time and tools. We are standing in faith with our **2nd principle: "justice, equity and compassion in human relations."**



I'm very sorry to announce that **Joan Smykowski** has resigned as Chair of the Membership Committee, as she should, since she's on the Settled Minister Search Committee and search committee members are excused from any other leadership positions. Joan's work has transformed our membership. "Radical hospitality" is not a phrase at UU Detroit, it's a practice, and Joan deserves the credit for getting us there. **Joan, please accept my sincere expression of gratitude for all that has been achieved under your leadership.** You may be proud of the culture shift your efforts have effected.

Additionally, **Regina Weiss** has had to resign as a member of the Membership Committee. We'll miss Regina's organizational abilities for our "Intro to UU Detroit" sessions and enthusiastic presence on "Membership Sunday," activities she planned and led.

Seven of our dedicated members are serving on the Settled Minister Search Committee, creating a temporary leadership gap. Please consider becoming the leader that I know you are. **Join the Membership Committee so we may continue its vital activities.** Joan or Regina will be happy to talk to you about how they have teamed up to create Radical Hospitality ... and how you may carry on the torch (or flaming chalice?).

best ... Kathe



## Settled Minister Search Committee Updates ...

### REMINDER: THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH SURVEY IS COMING THIS MONTH

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

**The survey will be emailed on September 4 to friends and members who normally receive newsletters digitally.** It will take about 15 minutes to answer, using Google Forms survey software.

**Members without personal email access** will be able to complete the survey on **computers available during social hour** on **September 11, 18** and **25**. Members of the Search Committee will be in attendance to help folks use the computers.

Surveys will also be available in a **paper mail-in format**.

We ask that all surveys be completed by **September 30**.

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

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



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



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

## Do I Have to Join UU Detroit to participate in Activities?

No, UU Detroit has an open door policy for seekers, friends or members. We place strong emphasis on freedom of belief and the right of each individual to pursue his or her own path in search for ultimate truth.

## Do I Have to be From a Particular Religious Background to Attend Services, Programs and Groups?

No, we are Unitarian Universalist, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, atheist and agnostic, believers in God, and more.

## Will I Have to Convert to Become a Unitarian Universalist?

No, religious conversion means giving up one faith to take on another. If you become part of UU Detroit, we do not ask you to give up the religious convictions of your heritage.

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

## Finding A Spiritual Home

### Unitarian Universalism for Young Adults

New schools, new jobs, new relationships and new communities — the lives of many young adults are filled with transitions, each of which adds both new possibilities and new needs to one's life. In this time of great change in one's life, one often needs a setting that nurtures and grounds us. UU Detroit provides young adults with just a place.

In our congregation and in the wider Unitarian Universalist community, we are simultaneously challenged to rigorously examine our faith and given the freedom to express it. Unitarian Universalism offers us somewhere to ask questions, to engage in dialogue, to meet others on their spiritual journeys, and to find our spiritual home.

### *Living Spirituality*

Are you searching for a community in which to explore spiritual questions without being given a set of "right" answers? Many young adults are. We seek a relevant and living spiritual environment in which we are free to question the answers that others have given us. For some, this means developing a faith that passes the tests of reason and logic. For others it means the freedom to explore new spiritual practices and approaches.

### *Introduction to UU Detroit*

To learn more about UU Detroit, please plan to attend one of our next "Intro to UU Detroit" sessions, Sunday, September 4 or Sunday, October 2, 2016, at 12:30 PM in the church narthex. For more information, please contact Joan Smykowski at [joan.smykowski@gmail.com](mailto:joan.smykowski@gmail.com).

## Welcome To Our Newest Members

**Christi Curtin**  
**Steve Curtin**  
**Jaclyn Wilke**

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





## Practicing Radical Hospitality at UU Detroit

As our membership grows, it's important that all of us reach out to visitors and members. Sometimes, Radical Hospitality means getting out of one's comfort zone before and after services and during Social Hour. Here are 3 easy ways to practice Radical Hospitality:

- If you arrive early before the service, extend a hand, introduce yourself to anyone you aren't familiar with. Most importantly, welcome them to UU Detroit. Radical Hospitality means that we are pro-active in welcoming visitors; we don't let someone sit uncomfortably in the back.
- After the service, is another opportunity to introduce yourself to anyone who you have never met. Make sure to ask them their name, and invite them to the Social Hour. Radical Hospitality means that we don't expect visitors to "figure it out themselves."
- At Social Hour, make a point of talking to visitors. Invite someone you don't know to your table. If your committee is looking for new members, Social Hour is a great time to promote your group.

**We are always looking for new greeters and ushers. Please let Glenn Maxwell know if you are interested in volunteering. Glenn can be reached at [detroitglenn@gmail.com](mailto:detroitglenn@gmail.com).**

## The Requirements for Becoming a Member of UU Detroit

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

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

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

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

**Please contact Joan Smykowski for more information.**

## Thank You to Regina Weiss

I would like to thank Regina Weiss for the great job she has done as a member of the Membership Committee. Unfortunately, due to her busy work and volunteer schedule, she is unable to continue as a member of the Committee. If you are organized and outgoing, we need you! Please see Joan Smykowski to volunteer.



## Policies and Procedures ...

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

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**

#### *Featured policy and procedure of the month:* **Introduction to Policy and Procedure Manual**

The key paragraphs of the introduction to our P&P manual explain why we need policies, the intent of procedures, and expectations: “*The First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit's Governing Board of Trustees is pleased to present a Policy and Procedure Manual to guide our staff and volunteers to meet our mission. The policies' focus is to be a transparent, inclusive, and accountable organization. The procedures provide the guidelines to carry out the tasks to successfully accomplish the policies. We*

*recognize that our work will evolve over the years and annual review of policies and procedures is required.*”

*“We expect all Church members and staff to honor and follow the policies and procedures. We also recognize that as our work is performed, we may find that a policy or procedure needs to be changed. When this happens, Church members are encouraged to bring the issue to the attention of the Board of Trustees for review and revision.”*

This introduction to our P&P manual also includes a list of fiscal year responsibilities of the Board and committees, assigns those responsibilities, and provides a timetable of periodic reviews and destruction of forms.



## Standing Church Announcements and Events ...

### BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM** on the second Wednesday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are **September 14** and **October 12**.

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](mailto:dfrebb@aol.com).

### SINGING CIRCLE

**7:00 PM** — Singing Circle at the Church. Open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at [bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com](mailto: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.

WEDNESDAYS AT UU DETROIT

The Worship Committee is always open to new ideas for speakers and for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an **idea for a speaker or a sermon**, please do feel free to share it: [worship@1stuu.org](mailto:worship@1stuu.org).

MESSAGE TOPICS

## SUNDAYS AT UU DETROIT

### FIRST SUNDAYS: "INTRO TO UU DETROIT"

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

### SECOND SUNDAYS: WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

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

### SECOND SUNDAYS: POTLUCK

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church to share with our UU Detroit community! As we add new members, it's a good time to share



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





## Standing Church Announcements and Events ... cont'd

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a global movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights. Amnesty International meets at UU Detroit on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. Contact **Dan Wiest** at [dfwiest@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:nelnan@aol.com) to provide a network for communication and support. Other Care Committee members are **Sally Borden**, **Linda Darga**, **Edie McKnight**, and **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**

### CHILD CARE

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

### YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES

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

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/> or contact **Aletha Oberdier** at [alethafaye@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@1stuu.org)!



### LOST & FOUND

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

### SHARE OUR FACEBOOK POSTS!

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



## Special Church Announcements and Events ...

### JOIN US AT DALLY IN THE ALLEY—SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

UU Detroit will host its annual table at **Dally in the Alley** between **11:00 AM and 6:00 PM** on Saturday, **September 10**. Join UU Detroit members to spread the word about our church and religion. All streets between Forest and Hancock, 2nd Ave and Anthony Wayne a/k/a 3rd, are blocked off for the festivities. **To volunteer and for more information, please contact Dan Wiest at [dfwiest@comcast.net](mailto:dfwiest@comcast.net)**. We hope that our booth will be in the same location as last year, on Forest Avenue just east of Second Ave. **Check the [church calendar entry](#) on the morning of September 10 to find the specific location for our table.**



Dally in the Alley is sponsored by the North Cass Community Union. NCCU is a non-profit organization that began as a neighborhood effort to prevent the removal of the historic buildings on the north side of Forest between Second and Third by the City of Detroit in 1976. Proceeds from Dally events are used to support projects which improve the quality of life for people who live and work (and worship) in our neighborhood.

**UU Detroit congregants and caretakers were among the first organizers of Dally**, which began as a local street fair in 1977. Dally has grown to be the largest annual community festival in Detroit organized by a team of community volunteers.

### WEDDING INVITATION—OCTOBER 15, 2016

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

### 2ND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Dear UU Detroit Church Members, you are invited to participate in the second annual Congregational Planning Retreat to be held on Saturday, **October 22**, from **9:30 AM to noon** at a location to be determined. All church members are encouraged to attend. 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. **SAVE THE DATE** and look for more information coming soon. 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, September 4**

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "End of Summer" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)—Sanctuary

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

12:30 PM: *Paper Sunday*: fill out the congregational survey! — Social Hall

### **Wednesday, September 7**

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

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

### **Saturday, September 10**

11:00 AM to 6:00 PM: *UU Detroit @ Dally In The Alley*—Forest & Second Avenues

### **Sunday, September 11**

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "9/11 - 15 Years Later" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)—Sanctuary

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

12:00 PM: *Potluck*—Social Hall

12:30 PM: *Paper Sunday*: fill out the congregational survey! — Social Hall

### **Wednesday, September 14**

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

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

### **Sunday, September 18**

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice*—Chancel

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

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

12:30 PM: *Paper Sunday*: fill out the congregational survey! — Social Hall

### **Monday, September 19**

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

### **Wednesday, September 21**

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

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle*—Social Hall

### **Saturday, September 25**

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

### **Sunday, September 28**

11:00 AM: *Worship Service - Detroit Musings series* "Underneath My American Face" (M. L. Liebler)—Sanctuary

12:30 PM: *Paper Sunday*: fill out the congregational survey! — Social Hall



First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, which has a [long history of activism](#) and is an affirming and [welcoming congregation](#), is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice, whose members strive to liberate truth, radiate kindness and love courageously. We are a proud member of the [Cass Corridor Commons](#).

**FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF DETROIT**

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201

*... in the Cass Corridor Commons ...*

Please visit us at [www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org),  
email us at [info@1stuu.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

### **OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Tuesday, September 20th**

Next issue covers October 1—October 31, 2016

No submissions accepted after the deadline—send items to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto: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