

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

  
DECEMBER  
2017  
EDITION

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule ...

### December 3rd — “On Advent”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

Many of the churches around us have begun to celebrate Advent, the season that leads up to Christmas. What is Advent, and how have UUs recognized it over the years?



4605 Cass Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-9107

### December 10th — Annual “Human Rights Day” Service

#### Joint service/celebration with Amnesty International

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

On this International Human Rights Day, when we welcome Amnesty International to our church, how do we address human rights today when our country has taken regressive stances on these important issues?

### December 17th — “On Chanukah”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

In the midst of Chanukah, we will reflect on this Jewish tradition and the history of why Jews celebrate these eight nights.

### December 24th — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**@ 7:00PM**

**(no worship service on Sunday morning)**

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

Join us for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service.

### December 31st — “New Year’s Resolutions”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

On the cusp of the movement from one year to the next, we often are asked to come up with resolutions for how we will live differently. What do we promise ourselves? Why do we want to change?

## Inside This Issue ...

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Noel Night ... Open House ... Results of Special Congregational Meeting ... Doing Our Own Work: An Anti-Racism Seminar For White People

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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.MIDAMERICA.UUA.ORG](http://WWW.MIDAMERICA.UUA.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



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 over a century ... our Universalist and Unitarian roots in **Detroit** go back over **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**



**Black Lives Matter** to Unitarian Universalists.

## First Unitarian-Universalist Church Organizational Chart 2017—2018

### OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT  
*Dan Hale*

VICE PRESIDENT  
*Nathan Strickland, Jr.*

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
*Kathe Stevens*

BOARD SECRETARY  
*Danny Rebb*

TREASURER  
*Bob Lauer*

### TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE:

*Maysel Brooks*  
*Joel Fortgang*  
*Dan Secrest*  
*Dan Wiest*

### STAFF:

MINISTER  
*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

MUSIC DIRECTOR  
*Todd Ballou*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
*Nancy Shattuck*

CHILD CARE PROVIDER  
*Julia Cuneo*

SOCIAL HOUR COORDINATOR  
*Omar Davis*

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

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

### Noel Night Programming: Saturday, December 2



The Cass Corridor Commons will be a festive and fun place for this [45th Annual Noel Night](#). Come to their historic sanctuary and hear a variety of young musicians and performance ensembles, leading up to our headlining act, the dynamic jazz legend [Thornetta Davis](#).

In their Common Room, they will have a variety of vendors selling a variety of holiday gift items and healing/ wellness items. They will also host local environmental organizations sharing information that will keep you connected and inspired to help heal the planet.

#### COMMONS ROOM:

Local vendors will sell holiday gifts, books and other items!

#### SANCTUARY:

5:00 p.m. - Duke Ellington Schools perform  
6:00 p.m. - Duke Ellington Sophisticated Ladies  
7:30 p.m. - David Ellis Music Department  
9:00-10:00 p.m. - Thornetta Davis performs

### Join Matt Friedrichs: Sunday, December 10

Our own **Matt Friedrichs** will be at the home of Glenn Maxwell & Kathe Stevens on Sunday, December 10, to explain how his UU roots have influenced his commitment to public service. Come on over after the Human Rights Day service and hear how UUism has informed Matt's decision to run for 4th District State House Representative. Open house is 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. at 443 W. Hancock — one block north of UU Detroit. Light refreshments served.

### UU Detroit & CUUB to Co-Ordain Julie Brock

At a November 19, 2017 congregational meeting, members of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, unanimously voted to co-sponsor the ordination of **Julie Brock**.

We will co-ordain Julie with the Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Brighton, where Julie has served as Consulting Minister for the last year. The ordination is scheduled tentatively for a Sunday in April 2018, here at UU Detroit.

Julie is honored to be co-ordained in her home church!





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ... cont'd



Allies for Change

[www.alliesforchange.org](http://www.alliesforchange.org)**DOING OUR OWN WORK: AN ANTI-RACISM SEMINAR FOR WHITE PEOPLE****Feb. 23 & 24, March 16 & 17, and April 13 & 14, 2018 in Ann Arbor, Michigan**

At this time in our nation, we are witnessing an alarming resurgence of white supremacy and state sanctioned violence. It is imperative that those of us who are white do the deep work required to claim and embody an anti-racist identity, understand the privilege we carry, and interrupt racism where we live, work, study, and volunteer. *Doing Our Own Work* helps white people move through places where we often get stuck, so that we can step up with courage, clarity, humility, and compassion to participate in movements led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action.

***If you are a white person who is ready to dive deep and come up stronger for the work of racial justice, join us!***

**Dates:** Feb. 23 & 24, March 16 & 17, and April 13 & 14. Attendance at all sessions required.

**Time:** Fridays, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturdays, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

**Location:** First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Ann Arbor MI. Barrier-free facility.

**Cost:** \$475. Includes program, resource materials, snacks, and beverages for all six days. *Scholarships and/or time payment plan available. We are committed to making this seminar financially accessible for all who wish to participate.*

**Facilitators:** Dessa Cosma and Melanie S. Morrison.

**Information and registration:** <http://alliesforchange.org/doow-ann-arbor.html>

**Contact:** [melaniemorrison@alliesforchange.org](mailto:melaniemorrison@alliesforchange.org)

**REGISTER EARLY BECAUSE ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS!!**



## Committee and Member News ...

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

If you are interested in helping to drive social justice in our congregation, please contact Social Justice Committee chair **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**, [vicepresident@1stuu.org](mailto:vicepresident@1stuu.org), or join us on the **third Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:00 PM** in the Social Hall.

### 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. Care Committee members are **Sally Borden**, **Linda Darga**, **Edie McKnight**, and **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**



### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**VISION:** UU Detroit will be a healthy and active community, featuring efficient, respectful, interesting, and consistent electronic communication throughout the week. Electronic communication will support our face-to-face gatherings, and vice versa. We will be a caring community with well-coordinated means of keeping people without computers and smartphones in the loop. Smaller groups will prosper within our larger community, with many using niche communication technologies, yet also staying connected with the mother ship. With regard to the larger community, we will be accessible and well organized in collaborating on larger goals and in sharing experiences and ideas.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit our web page: [Communications Committee](#).

**TO VOLUNTEER:** Speak to chair, **Dan Secrest**, at 313-580-7082 or send an email to [communications@1stuu.org](mailto:communications@1stuu.org).

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Want to talk about the Sunday sermon, what it meant to you, what it means for all of us, how to apply what you heard to your life in the week ahead — or just explore an idea you had while listening? Then **head to the “Sermon Table” sign in Social Hour after the service.**

The Membership Committee also is hosting a “Visitor Table” during Social Hour. You are invited to join with members of the committee, whether you are a visitor or want to meet visitors to our church. **Look for the “Visitor Table” sign.**

If you've been visiting and enjoyed meeting folks at the Visitor Table or discussing the sermons at the Sermon Table — or maybe you just like the potlucks — **why not join our church?** We welcome you! Membership Committee chair **Dessa Cosma**, [dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com) is available to schedule a date for you to sign our membership book.

Other members: **Sally Borden**, **Maysel Brooks**, **Joel Fortgang**, **Glenn Maxwell**, **Deanna McGraw**, **Sharon Mills**.



## Sundays & Wednesdays ...

### Singing Circle

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

### Committee Meetings

Many committee meetings are scheduled on Wednesday nights. Check for dates on our Church [calendar](#) or under *Committee & Member News*, [p. 5](#).

WEDNESDAYS AT  
UU DETROIT

## Sundays at UU Detroit

### Child Care

Child care is available during Sunday worship service with our child care provider, **Julia Cuneo**, in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. Volunteers are needed and urged to help with child care; our policies require two adults in the room at all times. See Child Care Committee Co-Chairs, **Sally Borden** or **Richard Hillier**, for details.

### “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! Classes are scheduled quarterly. Watch your Order of Service for upcoming dates or contact **Dessa Cosma**, [dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com).

### Welcoming New Members

Do you wish to come forward as a new member, present yourself 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. Let Membership Committee Chair, **Dessa Cosma**, know you're interested so we may welcome you properly! [dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com).

### SECOND Sundays: Potluck

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



### SECOND Sundays: Networking

All congregants are invited to bring and share your personal business cards for distribution on the second Sunday of the month. Many of us would certainly like to be able to support businesses of fellow church members and if you feel the same, here is an opportunity to do just that. Contact **Ruby Jones** ([racedancer@hotmail.com](mailto:racedancer@hotmail.com)) for more details.

### Acknowledgements

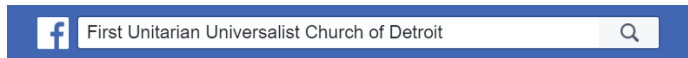
If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce on Sunday, please write the message on one of the index cards which can be found in the backs of the pews, and place the card in the offering basket during the collection. Milestones and visitor names will be passed to the Minister for sharing as part of our closing circle. Please note that announcements about meetings are more appropriate for coffee hour.

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



## What Else is Going On? ...



### Share our Facebook Posts!

Facebook events are created on our [Facebook page](#) and shared to our [Facebook group](#). These include sermons, Vespers, membership activities, and other events. When you see a Facebook event about church activities, PLEASE **LIKE IT** and **SHARE IT** on your own newsfeed! Help get the word out about what's going on at UU Detroit.

### Check the Church Calendar!

There are so many interesting things going on at UU Detroit! Please be sure to check the church calendar before you schedule an event. You may access it online at <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar>. If the day looks free for your event, you may reserve a room by sending an email to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@1stuu.org). Either webmaster Dan Secrest, office administrator Nancy Shattuck, or newsletter editor Kathe Stevens will get your room scheduled and get information about your event into the newsletter.

### 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.

### Young Adults Activities

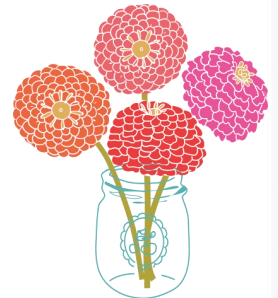
Visit the UU Detroit Young Adults Group Facebook page to learn about activities, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/> or contact **Aletha Oberdier** at [alethafaye@gmail.com](mailto:alethafaye@gmail.com) to join our Google Group.

### Weekly Announcements

**Anita "Ruby" Jones** compiles church-related announcements into a weekly email digest, which she sends each Friday via the church email group, so the announcements will be fresh in our minds for Sunday activities and discussion. Send your announcements to [announcements@1stuu.org](mailto:announcements@1stuu.org).

### 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, **Nancy Shattuck**, after the service, or send an email to [webmaster@1stuu.org](mailto:webmaster@1stuu.org)!



### Board of Trustees Meetings

Board meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM**, on the second Thursday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are **December 14** and **January 11**. All are welcome at Board meetings. Whole Foods Market is located at 115 Mack Ave (corner of John R), Detroit. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact **Danny Rebb**, Secretary to the Board, at [secretary@1stuu.org](mailto:secretary@1stuu.org).



## Policies and Procedures ...

### So, You've Been Wondering About UU Detroit's Policies and Procedures?

Featured policy and procedures of the month: **Fund Development**

In June 2016, your Board of Trustees approved a [Policies and Procedures Manual](#). The need for a manual became apparent from 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 feature a summary of a P&P every month in the newsletter so you may have a chance to know how UU Detroit operates!

**"POLICY STATEMENT:** This policy establishes guidelines for approval of UU Detroit fundraisers for any purpose, by any means, and at any location in order to ensure that our fundraising activities: are consistent with the Mission and Vision of the Church, are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), are consistent with our not-for-profit status, focus our resources on the Church's highest priorities and the approved Church budget, and avoid overburdening the Congregation with requests for money.

**RATIONALE OR BACKGROUND:** Fundraisers are an important part of active Church life. They provide opportunities for congregants to build relationships and to strengthen their

*commitment to the Church. They also provide funds for the Church as well as for approved charitable causes."*

The policy states that any member or group of members of the Church may raise money to benefit the Church or a reputable charitable organization as long the requirements under the policy are met. Fundraising is defined as any activity organized to solicit contributions from or sell goods or services to members of the Congregation or the public. Fundraising is done on an *ad hoc* basis, as needed or as interest arises.

The procedures outline the scope, review process, and criteria to organize a fundraising activity. A Fundraising and Event Information Form is attached to the policy. The form includes a template for submitting the required preliminary budget for events.



[Click to return to first page](#)





## Calendar ...

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

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

### Saturday, December 2

5:00 PM – 10:00 PM: Midtown Detroit's 45th Annual Noel Night

### Sunday, December 3

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel

11:00 AM: Worship Service "On Advent" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary

12:30 PM: Membership Committee meeting — Parlor

### Wednesday, December 6

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Sunday, December 10

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel

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

12:00 PM: Potluck — Parlor

### Wednesday, December 13

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Thursday, December 14

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

### Sunday, December 17

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel

11:00 AM: Worship Service "On Chanukah" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary

### Monday, December 18

7:30 PM: Amnesty International — Parlor

### Wednesday, December 20

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

7:00 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting — Parlor

### Sunday, December 24

7:00 PM: Christmas Eve Annual Candlelight Worship Service [NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNING] (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary

### Wednesday, December 27

6:00 PM: Vespers — Parlor

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Sunday, December 31

11:00 AM: Worship Service "New Year's Resolutions" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary



The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray



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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 [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org).

## 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 [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

### Newsletter Deadline

#### Wednesday, December 20th

Next issue covers January 1 — January 31, 2017

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

### Office Administrator Work Schedule

**Nancy Shattuck** works every Sunday from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.