

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



JANUARY
2017
EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

January 1st — “Poetry As Visionary Resistance”

Tawana Petty

What does it mean to resist and what role should vision play in our resistance? Toni Cade Bambara said, “The role of the artist is to make revolution irresistible.” Poet Tawana Petty strives to embody that responsibility.

January 8th — “Truth and Meaning”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Continuing our monthly series on the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Murray will focus on the Fourth Principle, “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

January 15th — “MLK and Civil Disobedience”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

As we approach the inauguration of our 45th President, many communities are considering how they will engage and disengage with this new administration. It is helpful to look to the example of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for how moral force can encounter political power for positive effect.

January 22nd — “A New America?”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

In the aftermath of the 2016 election, we have heard about a troubling rise in disturbing behaviors which many would describe as racist and anti-immigrant, including the national story that originated out of Royal Oak here in Michigan. Is this a new American reality, or is this indicative of who we were already?

January 29th — “Reimagining Detroit”

John Gallagher

John Gallagher, a *Detroit Free Press* reporter and author of several books, including “Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City” and “Revolution Detroit: Strategies for Urban Reinvention,” will be sharing his thoughts.



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313-833-9107
www.1stuu.org

Inside This Issue

[Page 2. About Us](#)

[Page 3. President's Letter](#)

[Page 4. Membership News](#)

[Page 5. Committee and
Member News](#)

[Page 6. Policies and
Procedures](#)

[Page 7. Sundays,
Wednesdays, and
Thursdays](#)

[Page 8. Activities](#)

[Page 9. Calendar](#)

[Page 10. Deadlines & Office
Hours](#)



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**. 
CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK →



We affirm and promote **seven Principles**.
← CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK

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.

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
Humphrey Blakemore

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

We have been at the corner of **Cass and Forest** for a century ... our Universalist and Unitarian roots in Detroit go back over **185 years**.
CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK →



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.



Welcoming Congregation

↑ CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK

We are a UUA-recognized **Welcoming Congregation**

We are a proud **member** of the **Cass Corridor Commons**.

CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK →



CLICK TO → FOLLOW LINK



Black Lives Matter to Unitarian Universalists.



Letter from the President ...

Greetings to the UU Detroit community!

My deepest appreciation to you, our members, who turned out on a bitter cold, snowy Sunday, December 18, to vote on important amendments to our bylaws and to hear updates on our finances, our [2016](#) and [2017](#) strategic plans, our search for a settled minister, and the imminent migration of our 1stuu.org website to the mobile-friendly www.uudetroit.org. More info at [page 5](#) of this newsletter.

I was proud to take part in the discourse about the bylaw changes, working through the amendments together to vote on a governing document to carry us into the future.

A huge "thank you" to **Dan Wiest**, **Dan Secrest**, and **Glenn Maxwell**, who set up, and then dismantled, the projector and sound system so we could have the most efficient meeting possible while providing the most information. You can thank Glenn Maxwell for a visit to Costco the night before the meeting, while suffering from a cold, because his wife had forgotten she'd promised "light refreshments" at the meeting.

The CommonUnity Café on Noel Night was another success thanks to the many committed UU Detroiters who decorated the parlor, organized and set up, and served pizza, chili, coffee, cocoa and cider. A personal thank you from organizer Dan Wiest is on [page 5](#) of this newsletter. The Commons was buzzing with visitors to the swap marketplace in the social hall, intentional community events in the D. Blair Theater, and music in the sanctuary. Local legend Thornetta Davis rocked the house again and she was more than delighted to see a Christmas tree, wreath, and roping providing a great holiday backdrop to her talents.

A big shout-out to our volunteers (categories may be a little off but all were there in some volunteering state or other): organizers **Aletha & Matt Oberdier**, and Dan Wiest; servers **Joel Batterman**, **Alex Janke**, and **Carolyn Lusch**; money handlers **Matt Friedrichs**, **Sharlene Gage**, and **Regina Weiss**; decorators **Art Gabhart**, **Carolyn Ludwig**, **Nancy Owen Nelson**, and **Roger Ziegler**; general all around helpers **Maysel Brooks**, **Steve & Christi Curtin**, Glenn Maxwell, and **Susan Morgan**. Thank you to **Marsha Bruhn**, who delivered and donated cider, and **Margaret Beck**, who delivered and donated pizza, and **Colleen Dolan-Greene** who delivered flowers. Our Social Hour Coordinator, **Humphrey Blakemore**, handled kitchen duties (cooking, meeting with the inspectors, clean-up). If I missed anyone, you know who you are and thank you!

Also on [page 5](#), news about, and contact details for, long-time church member, **John Angry**, who visited on Sunday, November 20, along with information about an upcoming book discussion and Music Director Todd Ballou's annual congregational music conversation.

I'm grateful that Rev. Murray's sermon topics are addressing the climate of American politics and the "troubling rise in disturbing behaviors which many would describe as racist and anti-immigrant." If you, too, are troubled or anxious, please know your faith community is seeking answers together. Join us on Sunday.

Each month, I try to relate one of our principles to recent church life. Although I was awed by Rev. Murray's [sermon on the Third Principle](#), this month I want to invoke EACH of our seven principles! You can read them on the [Membership Page](#) in this newsletter. Our community at the corner of Cass & Forest is important to me and, I'll guess, to all of us. To borrow from Rev. Murray's recent sermon: we travel this road TOGETHER.

best ... Kathe



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Liberate the Truth | Radiate Kindness | Love Courageously

From your Membership Committee Chair



The snow is here and the holidays are approaching. A few weeks from now, the hustle and bustle will give way to cold, short days. Some of us may feel down as a result of the weather; others will nestle in, using the extra time at home as hibernation — reflecting, creating, and preparing for a well-rested re-emergence in the spring. Whichever is your tendency, remember that you have a loving community at UU Detroit. You belong here, with us. Being a member of our congregation is so much more than officially signing the book and making a contribution of record! Intellectual stimulation, spiritual reflection, great conversations, acts of service, budding, as well as decades-old, friendships — that's what makes us a community. (Oh, and did I mention hashing through the details of our bylaws? That's some real community building right there!) Throughout this holiday season and beyond we are each others' chosen family. As we enter a new year, we will continue to grow together as members of an old and proud institution — the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit.

— Dessa

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism are:

- 1st:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- 2nd:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- 3rd:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- 4th:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- 5th:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- 6th:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- 7th:** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

"Intro to UU Detroit"

To learn more about the history and philosophy of UU Detroit, please join us January 1st and February 5th at 12:30 PM.

Membership Book Signings

If you have made the decision to become a member of UU Detroit, our next membership book signing will be January 8th. Please contact Dessa if you have any questions:

dessacosma@gmail.com



Committee and Member News ...

PLANNING COMMITTEE NEWS

We're delighted to announce that a new member, **Susan Morgan**, has volunteered to chair the **Planning Committee**. Susan's enthusiasm was contagious as she and Bill Dickinson introduced the [2017 Strategic Plan](#) at our recent congregational meeting.

Thank you, Susan, for sharing your talents to help plan the future of UU Detroit! A huge thank you to the committee — Bill Dickinson, Deanna McGraw, Dan Hale, and Sally Borden, with Kathe Stevens and Rev. Murray *ex officio* — for all its hard work to get our 2017 Strategic Plan before the congregation.

Deanna McGraw updated us on the [2016 Plan 3rd Quarter Report](#) at the congregational meeting. We've done a great job accomplishing many of our goals!

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Our dedicated webmaster, Dan Secrest, has posted our bylaw amendments approved by the congregation on December 18th, on our website: <http://www.1stuu.org/Governance/By-Laws.pdf>.

A VERY WELCOME VISITOR!

We were so happy to have **John Angry** in our pews again! Many thanks to his nephew, Atiba Seitou, who has been caring for John diligently and got him to church on November 20. John would appreciate visitors and calls. He's at Hartford Nursing & Rehab Center, 6700 W Outer Dr, Detroit, MI 48235; his mobile # is 313-614-3562.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

In 2014, one of my favorite campaign memories was at the IAGD (Islamic Assoc of Greater Detroit) mosque in Auburn Hills. They invited candidates again this year. Both times, I told what our Faiz taught me/us about Islam.

This time, I was told that they have a dinner the first Sat. of every month, to which the public is invited. So I went on December 3, primarily to ask if their community has had problems since the election. I was introduced as a guest to a couple of women, spoken with and guided, led to the front of the dinner line.

One woman, with whom I had a lengthy conversation, when I told her the congregation I was part of, said she remembered that after 9/11, UU Detroit members formed a circle around the mosque across the street to protect it and its worshippers. I felt sooo proud!

Apparently, they've not been targeted, but those I met were so impressed that, after the business meeting and announcement of election of officers, the man presiding introduced me to the hundreds who were there. I stood for a moment to acknowledge that. And then he kept talking about me and thanking me for caring. (As did others right after the meeting.)

He explained their custom of giving family titles to others in the community, such as Sister--for example, as the Sisters from 4 countries, who cooked the dinner this time. And then he said I am now "Auntie Sherry." Such an honor simply for practicing UUism (and Green Party values, which includes Social Justice and Nonviolence). — **Sherry A Wells**

THANKS TO NOEL NIGHT VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all who contributed time, effort and other resources to make for YET ANOTHER successful Noel Night. I counted 25 people (out of a membership of 110) taking part, whether it was to help decorate and/or clean on Friday night to being greeters, working the café (sorry about the crockpot Aletha Oberdier), leading house tours, helping in the kitchen (yay Humphrey!), and cleaning up on Saturday. While the help that UUs offer should come as no surprise, it does not go unappreciated. At least two Noel Night visitors attended subsequent services so do not doubt that your work had no tangible (let alone intangible) benefits. A grateful congregation thanks you again. — **Dan Wiest**

BOOK DISCUSSION

Discussion of the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber's "The Third Reconstruction" continues on Sunday, January 8, at 12:30 PM in the Parlor. — **Mary Lou Malone**

CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC CONVERSATION

Join us on Sunday, January 15, at 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary for our annual music conversation and planning meeting. — **Todd Ballou, Music Director**

See the [church calendar](#) for details.



Policies and Procedures ...

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

*Featured policy and procedure of the month: **Child Protection***

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**

POLICY STATEMENT: In order to provide a safe environment for the physical and emotional well-being of all children participating in UU Detroit activities, all child care volunteers will be screened and will be trained to follow procedures which will ensure that all children are safe and well protected at all UU Detroit-related activities .

Recognizing a need to provide child care on Sundays, a dedicated group of UU Detroiters worked to clean out the old "bride's room" off the narthex of the sanctuary. The room was scrubbed and painted, set up with a rocker, child-size table and chairs, and toys, games, paper, crayons and books, and repurposed as a nursery and child care room.

Just as — or perhaps even more — importantly, a child care policy was instituted.

The procedures to support the Child Protection Policy start with a screening of all volunteers, including an application process. The application process includes a background check, the providing of three references, and thorough reference checking. The three references must include: a person who has known the applicant for an extended period, a former or current supervisor; and a member of the applicant's immediate family.

The policy states that at no time is a child to be alone with an adult; there must always be two trained child care volunteers with the child. While the policy is written to so that children will be protected at all times, there is also an extensive section on how to report any (unlikely) case of abuse. Disruptive behavior and volunteer training are also covered in the policy.

Child care volunteers are on call each Sunday. A list of vetted, trained, qualified child care volunteers is available to our Sunday greeters so they may alert child care volunteers when a family arrives.

We invite you to visit our warm and welcoming nursery/child care room!



[CLICK TO RETURN TO FIRST PAGE](#)



Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays ...

SINGING CIRCLE

Singing Circle is held every Wednesday at **7:00 PM**; open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com for more details.

WEDNESDAYS AT
UU DETROIT

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.

MESSAGE
TOPICS

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.

BOARD 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 **January 12** and **February 9**. 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.

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.



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.



Activities ...

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

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 to join our Google Group.

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. Either Dan Secrest, Alexis Mitchell, or Kathe Stevens will get your room scheduled and Alexis will get information about your event into the newsletter.

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 on our [Facebook group](#) 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.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT EMEAC EVENTS?

You can find out what's going on with East Michigan Environmental Action Council, the owner of our building and manager of the Cass Corridor Commons, by clicking on the [Latest News](#) tab at www.emeac.org.

CASS CORRIDOR COMMONS NEWS

UU Detroit is part of the [Cass Corridor Commons](#), a multi-use nonprofit green space and community hub that embodies principles of shared space, environmental justice and social justice principles. The Commons' [Facebook page](#) has up-to-date information .



Calendar ...

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

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

Sunday, January 1 — New Year's Day; Last Day of Hanukkah

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Poetry As Visionary Resistance"* (Tawana Petty) — Sanctuary

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

Wednesday, January 4

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

7:00 PM: *Social Justice Committee Meeting* — Parlor

Sunday, January 8

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

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

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

12:00 PM: *Potluck* — Social Hall

12:30 PM: *Book discussion "The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays"* (Mary Lou Malone, organizer) — Parlor

Wednesday, January 11

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

Thursday, January 12

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

Sunday, January 15

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "MLK and Civil Disobedience"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

12:30 PM: *Congregational Music Conversation* (Music Director Todd Ballou) — Parlor

Monday, January 16 — MLK Jr. Day

7:30 PM: *Amnesty International* — Parlor

Wednesday, January 18

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

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

Sunday, January 22

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "A New America?"* (Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray) — Sanctuary

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

Wednesday, January 25

6:00 PM: *Vespers* — Parlor

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

Sunday, January 29

11:00 AM: *Worship Service "Reimagining Detroit"* (John Gallagher) — Sanctuary



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

**FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF DETROIT**

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201

... in the Cass Corridor Commons ...

Please visit us at www.1stuu.org,
email us at info@1stuu.org, or give us
a call at (313) 833-9107.

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**.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday January 20th

Next issue covers February 1 — February 28, 2017

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