

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

  
JULY  
2017  
EDITION

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule ...

### July 2nd— “Ordinary Time”

*Jessica Joslin*

Ordinary Time is the name for the period on the Christian liturgical calendar between Pentecost and Advent, and it starts up again between Epiphany and Lent. It is longer than any other portion of the Christian calendar, but doesn't get nearly as much attention as the festivity of the Christmas and Easter seasons. Yet, after the exciting fires of Pentecost and the joy of Epiphany, what are we to do with all this ordinary time? What exactly makes time ordinary?

### July 9th — “Reparations: A Love Story”

*Anita Belle*

Anita Belle is a Detroit. She practiced law — suing the CIA for the drugs in black communities — and substitute teaches. She focuses her volunteer efforts on fighting for people of African descent to receive reparations, not only for slavery, and founded the Reparations Labor Union in 2013. She is a mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and auntie.

### July 16th — “Poverty Sucks”

*Sherry A. Wells*

Member Sherry A. Wells considers herself a welfare expert — she'd been a recipient, a caseworker, and she's a taxpayer!

### July 23rd — “Detroit Today”

*Stephen Henderson*

Stephen Henderson is editorial page editor for the *Detroit Free Press*, hosts a daily radio show, “Detroit Today,” on WDET 101.9 FM, as well as weekly tv shows *American Black*

*Journal* and *MiWeek*, both on Detroit Public Television. Former editorial page editor of *The Michigan Daily*, Henderson has been a reporter or editor of a number of major newspaper organizations, including the Knight Ridder Washington Bureau, where he covered the U.S. Supreme Court from 2003-2007. Henderson's awards include the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, the 2016 Scripps Howard Award, the 2017 ASNE writing award for editorials. He was also the National Association of Black Journalists' pick for Journalist of the Year in 2014.

### July 30th — “Postdenominational Religion”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*

The purpose and value of denominations has shifted and changed over the past century. In some ways, the Unitarian Universalist Association exists as a post-denominational entity, despite its origins in the Unitarian and Universalist movements. We will examine how denominations came to be, what their current purpose is, and why people continue to adhere to them today.



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

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**SAVE THE [NEW] DATE!**

*Installation Ceremony*  
**Saturday, September 23**  
*Details on [p. 3](#)*



# 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)**

**FIRST UNITARIAN-  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
2017–2018**

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**.

**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*

ACTING SOCIAL HOUR  
COORDINATOR  
*Omar Davis*

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

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**





## Announcements ...

### NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Our Office Administrator of 2-1/2 years, Alexis Mitchell, has resigned in order to focus on pursuit of her Masters in Social Work. We wish Alexis a bright future!

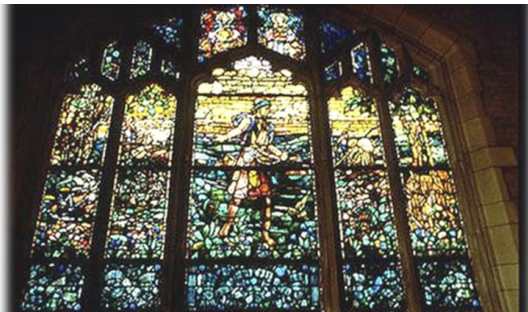
We are pleased to introduce **Nancy Shattuck** as our new Office Administrator.

Nancy retired from a 32-year career in software engineering, coupled with a background as Adjunct Faculty in the Department of English at Wayne State University, in order to pursue her writing career. We look forward to working with Nancy as she applies her skills and experience to our church office.



Nancy's hours will be 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on Sundays.

**Welcome, Nancy!** We're excited you're joining us.



### VISITORS TO UU DETROIT!

**Mary Newcomb** and her husband, **Jeri Putnam**, will be visiting the Detroit area between June 29 and July 4. Mary is the great-granddaughter of Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb and Mary Eliza Haskell Newcomb, to whom [our stained glass window](#), "The Sower," is dedicated. Mary and Jeri plan to attend the UU Detroit service on Sunday, **July 2**.

### SAVE A NEW DATE!

We'd asked you to save September 9 for the installation of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray as our settled minister. The date has **changed** to

Saturday, **September 23, 2017**

11:30 AM in the Sanctuary

The ceremony will be followed by a luncheon in the social hall. Invitations will be mailed to members and friends as the date approaches.

The Installation Committee is **Dessa Cosma** (chair), **Nancy Owen-Nelson**, and **Kathe Stevens**, with **the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray** consulting. We're planning a grand celebration to install Rev. Murray as our Settled Minister.

Initial planning will be done by the committee; others will be involved as the plans progress.





## Committee and Member News ...

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee is working to identify local issues on which to potentially focus in the year ahead. One project has started: the committee has reached out to our neighbor across the street, the Wayne State University [Islamic Center](#) of Detroit. Members of the committee have met with leaders at the mosque to explore how to work together. Updates will be provided!

If you are interested in helping drive social justice in our congregation, please contact chair **Nathan Strickland, Jr.** or join us on the **first Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:00 PM** in the Parlor.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As we go into our new fiscal year, let's introduce you to new and old members of the Membership Committee. Chair, **Dessa Cosma**, leads the committee; **Sally Borden** helps to conduct the "Intro to UU Detroit" classes; and **Glenn Maxwell** organizes our greeters and ushers. We welcome two new members: **Deanna McGraw** and **Sharon Mills**. Thanks to all of you for your interest in keeping our radical hospital thriving!

See [p. 6](#) for details on our "Intro to UU Detroit" classes which are scheduled for **August 6** and **October 15**.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

A hearty "thank you" to **Susan Morgan** for her time spent as chair of the Planning Committee. Unfortunately, Susan has had to resign as chair.

A Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **July 12**, at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. If you're interested in serving on the committee, or wish to chair, please contact Kathe Stevens at [kathestevens@gmail.com](mailto:kathestevens@gmail.com) or come to the meeting so we may talk about planning our future, together.



### CANVASS COMMITTEE

**Thank you for a successful 2017-18 Pledge Campaign!** Just a quick reminder, **the new offering levels start July 1, 2017**. The Minister, Board, staff, and volunteers thank you for your new offering levels.

Summer is a busy time, but we still have bills to pay at the church. If you are enjoying your summer and won't be with us on Sundays, there are a couple of ways to help us pay the bills:

- ⇒ before you leave, you may increase your pledge amount over the summer, or
- ⇒ you may donate online by visiting [www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org), scrolling down to "Giving," and clicking on "[Donate](#)."

We understand life changes, please let our Treasurer, Bob Lauer, know if you have to change your pledge amount.



## Committee and Member News ... cont'd

### REPORT ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

Along with 4,000 other UUs, your Board president-elect **Dan Hale, Kathe Stevens, Glenn Maxwell,** and **Dessa Cosma** attended [2017 General Assembly](#) in New Orleans, LA, June 21-25. Dan and Kathe, along with Matt Friedrichs, were delegates, with Matt participating via an online delegate process.

Those of us onsite attended workshops and worship and your delegates voted on business items including the election of a [new president of our Unitarian Universalist Association](#). That new president is [Susan Frederick-Gray](#).

An overriding tenor of this General Assembly was an intentional look at oppression of People of Color, with workshops featuring ways to dismantle white supremacy. To encourage that POC voices would be included, the UUA Board of Trustees allocated money to support People of Color and Indigenous persons to attend GA: 193 applications were processed.

Among other GA business, the UUA Board of Trustees reaffirmed its commitment of \$5.3 million in funding for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism ([BLUU](#)). The Board also appointed six members to a Commission on Institutional Change.

BLUU urged adoption of an 8th Principle to address multicultural diversity and dismantling racism.

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

In the closing session, GA delegates voted to conduct a study to consider adoption of this 8th Principle. Our current principles are:



Remarks at GA of Interim Co-President, the Rev. Bill Sinkford, are poignant and prophetic: "Change must come if our faith is to thrive. It is our culture and not our theology that has been our biggest obstacle. There is a fundamental hope in our values and our aspirations that speaks to persons across the boundaries of race and culture and language and economic circumstance and ability."

We're hoping to organize an informal presentation after a worship service in the near future.



## Activities ...

### 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>.

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

### 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 **July 13** and **August 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**, Secretary to the Board, at [secretary@1stuu.org](mailto:secretary@1stuu.org).

### Sundays at UU Detroit

#### "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 for **August 6**, and **October 15**.

#### 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.



## Activities ... cont'd

### 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 with our child care provider, **Julia Cuneo**, in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. Volunteers are urged to step up to help with child care. See Child Care Committee Co-Chairs, **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](mailto: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](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.

### 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)!



### 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 on your newsfeed! Help get the word out about what's going on 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.emecac.org](http://www.emecac.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 .



## Policies and Procedures ...

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

Featured policy and procedure of the month: *Criminal Background Investigation Policy*

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

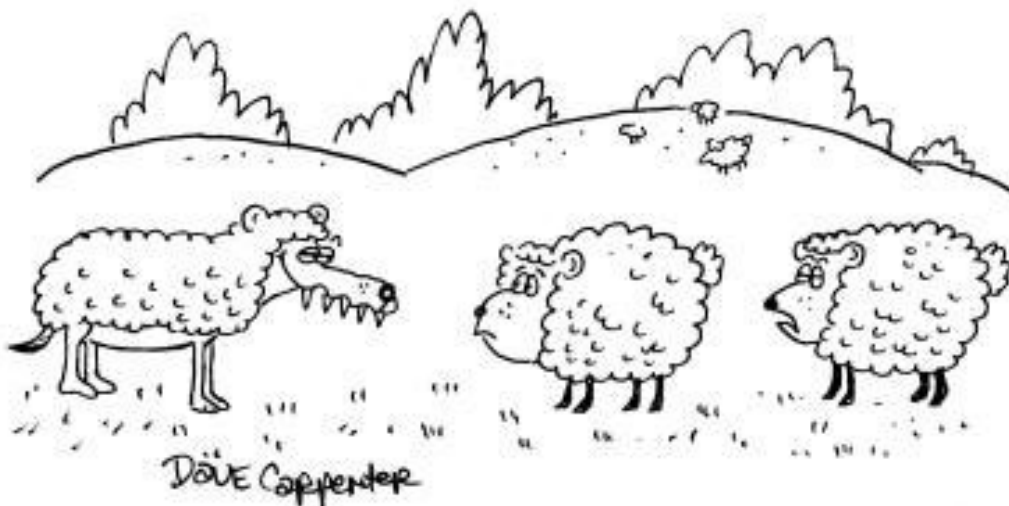
**POLICY STATEMENT:** "In order to provide for the safety of children involved in UU Detroit services or activities and to assure that Church finances (revenues and expenditures) are properly managed, all persons who may be involved in these activities will agree to and have an investigation of possible criminal history. A negative report will prevent their involvement in said activities."

The importance of this policy does not need to be explained. The procedures outline the persons who are to be investigated prior to starting their position; the persons responsible for the investigation; a review process, including provisions for privacy; and how records pertaining to a criminal background check are to be managed.

The procedures go on to outline the actions required if a report shows criminal history, including how to notify the affected person, and sets out a grievance procedure.

An information packet is attached to the policy, which includes an *Acknowledgement and Authorization* (the form filled out to authorize UU Detroit to perform the background check), *Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation*, and *Summary of Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act*.

While UU Detroit is clearly serious about protecting children and our finances, a bit of levity is always in order.



"Who did the background check on him?"

[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>

### Sunday, July 2

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Ordinary Time" (*Jessica Joslin*) — Sanctuary

### Tuesday, July 4 — Independence Day (U.S.)

### Wednesday, July 5

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

7:00 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting — Parlor

### Sunday, July 9 — Esbat: Full Buck Moon (Native American/Pagan)

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Reparations: A Love Story" (*Anita Belle*) — Sanctuary

12:00 PM: Potluck — Social Hall

### Wednesday, July 12

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

7:00 PM: Planning Committee meeting — Parlor

### Thursday, July 13

7:00 PM: UU Detroit Board of Trustees meeting — Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit

### Sunday, July 16

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Poverty Sucks" (*Sherry A. Wells*) — Sanctuary

### Monday, July 17

7:30 PM: Amnesty International — Parlor

### Wednesday, July 19

7:00 PM: Worship Committee — Parlor

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Sunday, July 23 — Parents' Day (U.S.)

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Detroit Today" (*Stephen Henderson*) — Sanctuary

### Wednesday, July 26

6:00 PM: Vespers [CHECK THE CHURCH CALENDAR, EVENT MAY BE RESCHEDULED] — Parlor

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

### Sunday, July 30

11:00 AM: Worship Service "Postdenominational Religion" (*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray*) — 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](http://www.1stuu.org),  
email us at [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@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 [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

### Newsletter Deadline

**Thursday, July 20th**

Next issue covers August 1 — August 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.

