

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER
2017
EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule ...

November 5th — "Me Too"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

When it was revealed that Harvey Weinstein, one of the most powerful producers in Hollywood, had long been using his power and influence to sexually harass and assault aspiring actresses, a powerful movement on Facebook began with women who themselves had experienced sexual harassment or assault simply stating, "Me Too." This was done both as an act of self-empowerment, but also to demonstrate to men just how many of the women that they know have lived through such abuse. The answer being that such experiences are almost universal. How do we move forward as a society in which so few men believe that they have acted inappropriately, while so many women have suffered the violation of such treatment?

November 12th — "Race in America"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

A month ago, Stephen Henderson came to our church and delivered an important message about race in America. Following the service, eight members of our church asked me to do a sermon in response to Henderson. This is my response.

November 19th — "How We Die"

The Rev. Ken Phifer, Guest Minister

The two most important themes human beings must deal with are Life and Death. Mostly we prefer, understandably, to deal with the former and mostly avoid the latter until we are confronted with our own mortality or that of someone we care for. But in so many ways the discussion of Death and of how we die is as important as any topic of Life itself. In this new age of remarkable medical technologies and pharmaceutical wonders, it matters greatly that we think about death and dying and how we want to confront these inevitable matters. My sermon will deal with some of these issues, based on more than 45 years of pastoral experience and 79 years of just living!

November 26th — "My Heart Wears No Colors: A Sermon in Poetry"

Nancy Owen Nelson, Guest Speaker

In this sermon, Nancy Owen Nelson will discuss her process of researching and writing poetry about her Confederate ancestors, and the challenging spiritual journey it entails.



4605 Cass Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-9107

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, **November 19, 2017**, 12:30 PM, See [p.3](#).



About Us ...

**UU DETROIT IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN-
UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS —
WWW.UUA.ORG — IN THE MIDAMERICA REGION —
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



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**

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**



Black Lives Matter to Unitarian Universalists.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, **November 19, 2017, 12:30 PM**, in the Social Hall of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, for a vote by the congregation to co-sponsor Julie Brock's ordination.

Julie Brock, who is the daughter of Kathe Stevens, stepdaughter of Glenn Maxwell, and wife of Joel Batterman, has been affiliated with UU Detroit since birth. She grew up in the Sunday school and participated in hundreds of church activities as a child.

As an adult, Julie officially joined the church and served in various capacities, including a term as a Board trustee and running the annual Canvass Campaign as chair of the Canvass Committee.

Julie subsequently obtained a Masters of Divinity and recently was granted fellowship by the Unitarian Universalist Association. She has fulfilled all UUA requirements to be ordained.

For the past two years, Julie has served as Consulting Minister for the Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Brighton, MI. Her wish is to be co-ordained by UU Detroit and CUUB in the sanctuary at UU Detroit.

A sponsoring congregation must vote to approve the ordination. CUUB has called a special congregational meeting for October 29.

The UU Detroit Board of Trustees has scheduled a special congregational meeting for Sunday, November 19, 2017. The meeting will take place in the Social Hall at 12:30 PM. Its sole purpose is to call a vote to approve First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit's co-sponsorship, with Community Unitarian Universalists of Brighton, of the ordination of Julie Brock.

Dessa Cosma, Colleen Dolan-Greene & Kathe Stevens of UU Detroit and Sarah Neidert & Robin

Rogers-Reef of CUUB have formed a committee to plan Julie's ordination.

The ordination is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in April 2018, here at UU Detroit.

Julie's ordination will follow a special history at UU Detroit. We are able to boast that we have ordained/co-ordained five women ministers:

- Rev. Nancy Wynkoop Doughty — 1962
- Rev. Susann Pangerl — 1979
- Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher — 1989
- Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman — 1998
- Rev. Lynda Ch'anna Smith, co-ordained with Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church — 2006

Pending the affirmative vote of UU Detroit and CUUB, Julie will join our proud list as the sixth woman to be ordained or co-ordained in our sanctuary.

Please join us on **November 19th** to cast your vote!





Committee and Member News ...

MEMORIAL FOR JERRY WILLIAMS

Some members have expressed regret that they were unable to attend Jerry Williams' funeral. A memorial consisting of items displayed at the funeral will be set up in the Social Hall on Sunday, November 12, 2017. Extra copies of the funeral program will be available.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial performance for the first three months of the current Church fiscal year which ended September 30, 2017 continued to be very favorable. General donations including pledged and plate are currently running 13% lower than expected. Though that may sound like a large variance it is still too early in the year to draw any conclusions. Some of our larger donors contribute in lump sum rather than variably though the year. We expect this variance to dissipate shortly but we will be watching this.

Expenses at September 30 are comfortably under budget. Since we were doing so well last year we pre-paid some of the minister installation celebration expenses. This should leave that line item about two thousand dollars under budget in this year. At this point, Committees are almost all under budget also.

At September 30, our financial statements are showing a margin of safety for the first fiscal quarter of a little more \$ 4,400. We expect to have a favorable margin of safety as long we continue to meet at our current location.



Committee and Member News ... cont'd

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, 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 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.

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 is available to schedule a date for you to sign our membership book.



Activities ...

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.

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 for Wednesday nights. Check for dates under *Committee & Member News*, [p. 5](#).

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.

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 **November 9** and **December 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

"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.

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.

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) 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 for more information.

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.

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.

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 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



Share our Facebook Posts!

Facebook events are being 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 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.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 .



Policies and Procedures ...

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

Featured policies and procedures of the month: **Finance Policies**

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!

— **Planning Committee**

While our members of the lifeblood of the church, money is its bones. This month we'll feature the many finance policies of the church:

The **Expense Reimbursement** policy outlines a process for the request and disbursement of funds.

Our **Operating Budget** is covered by two policies. **Development** sets out a timetable and expectations for the Annual Operating Budget. **Reporting** requires the Finance Committee to prepare and present a monthly financial statement and report for the Board .

The **Pledges and Gifts** policy ensures that gifts, pledges, and other donations to the Church are accounted for and used in accordance with their purpose and with the donor's intent.

There are three **Spending Authorization** policies. The **Capital Expenditures** policy defines a capital asset and outlines by whom and how capital assets may be purchased. **Operating Funds** explains how to initiate a request for a purchase, or reimbursement, within a committee's authorized spending limit. The **Restricted Funds** policy directs the Treasurer to oversee the disposition of donations restricted by a donor to specific uses.

The **Sunday Collection** policy outlines steps for collecting, recording, and depositing the Sunday offering to provide due diligence on behalf of the Congregation.

Your Board has adopted and implemented these finance policies to ensure that our resources are stewarded in a rational, responsible, and consistent manner by leadership in the Church.





Calendar ...

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

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

Wednesday, November 1

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

Sunday, November 5

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel
 11:00 AM: Worship Service "Me Too" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary
 1:00 PM: Samhain ceremony "Trillium Reclaiming" (Stephen Curtin) — Parlor

Monday, November 6

11:00 AM: Historic Houses of Worship Tour — Sanctuary (Sally Borden)

Wednesday, November 8

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

Thursday, November 9

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

Sunday, November 12

9:00 PM: Choir Practice — Chancel
 11:00 AM: Worship Service "Race in America" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary
 12:00 PM: Potluck — Social Hall

Wednesday, November 15

7:00 PM: Worship Committee — Parlor
 7:00 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting — Social Hall
 7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

Sunday, November 19

9:00 AM: Choir Practice — Chancel
 11:00 AM: Worship Service "How We Die" (Rev. Ken Phifer, Guest Minister) — Sanctuary
 12:30 PM: Special Congregational Meeting — Social Hall

Monday, November 20

7:30 PM: Amnesty International — Parlor

Wednesday, November 22

7:00 PM: Vespers — Parlor
 7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall

Sunday, November 26

11:00 AM: Worship Service "My Heart Wears No Colors: A Sermon in Poetry" (Nancy Owen Nelson, Guest Speaker) — Sanctuary
 12:30 PM: Membership Committee meeting — Parlor

Wednesday, November 29

7:00 PM: Singing Circle — Social Hall



The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray



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 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 by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

Newsletter Deadline

Friday, November 20th

Next issue covers December 1 — December 31, 2017

No submissions accepted after the deadline — send items to newsletter@1stuu.org.

Office Administrator Work Schedule

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