

**January
2019
Edition**



Newsletter
**First Unitarian-Universalist Church
of Detroit**

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

January 6th — “All Things Are New”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

As we celebrate a new year, how do we truly make all things new? We have inherited a lot from the previous year, so what can we do to transform and inspire this new 2019?

January 13th — “Hosea Ballou and Universalism”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

One of the most important architects of the Universalist movement in America was Hosea Ballou. Today, we will explore his history and legacy, and finally answer the question: Is Todd Ballou, our organist and director of music, related to Hosea?

January 20th — “The Radical King”

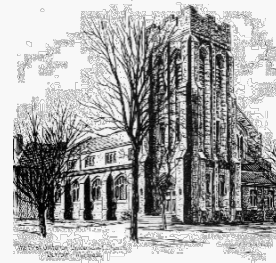
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

All too often, our vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. is of a religious statesman who guided a nation toward racial justice. But to see him in too antiseptic a way is to not recognize the full complexities of King, nor his genius.

January 27th

Rabbi Moshe Givental, Guest Speaker

Title and topic description to follow



4605 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313-833-9107
www.1stuu.org

Vision: First Unitarian-Universalist Church is an urban center in Detroit for spiritual renewal and social justice.

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 [Welcoming Congregation](#)

We believe [Black Lives Matter](#)

We stand in [solidarity with Muslim communities](#)

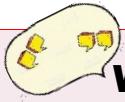
We are a [Member](#) of the [Unitarian-Universalist Association of Congregations](#) — in the [MidAmerica Region](#)

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Music Director: Todd Ballou

Board President: Dan Hale

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote [seven Principles](#).



Words to live by

"*Sea of Pain* is an invitation from **Raúl Zurita**. In 2016 ... Zurita created an installation of seawater and poetry, and dedicated it to Galip Kurdi, the brother of Aylan Kurdi. Fleeing Syria, both children drowned in the Mediterranean on September 2, 2015, and Galip's body was never found. The iconic photograph of Aylan, whose body washed up on the sand near Bodrum, Turkey, as though in a 'children's graveyard,' was taken by the Turkish photographer Nilüfer Demir. 'There are no photographs of Galip Kurdi, he can't hear, he can't see, he can't feel. He is a representative of the other faceless forgotten in other crises and conflicts around the world,' the poet says. 'I am not his father, but Galip Kurdi is my son.' As you walk through knee-deep seawater, you read the poem written on canvases on the walls:

In the Sea of Pain

Don't you listen?
 Don't you look?
 Don't you hear me?
 Don't you see me?
 Don't you feel me?
 In the sea of pain

Won't you come back, never
 again, in the sea of pain?"

Literary Hub, "[Poet of the Disappeared](#)," December 7, 2018, from the introduction to [INRI](#) by Raúl Zurita, translated from the Spanish by William Rowe, preface by Norma Cole. Used with permission of *New York Review of Books*. Copyright 2018 by Norma Cole.



Announcements

Congregational music discussion

You are invited to participate in a congregational discussion about the UU Detroit music program after the service on **January 13, 12:30 - 2:00 PM** in the Parlor. This is an event that happens once a year to identify new projects or improvements to the music program on Sunday morning. The discussion will be facilitated by **Todd Ballou**,

but you can suggest the topics. Some potential topics may include the choir, congregational singing, congregational participation, song leaders, copyright compliance, or piano and organ maintenance. Last year, the value of volunteer song leaders was affirmed.

Feedback or comments are welcomed at any time. If you are unable to make it to the discussion, feel free to email your ideas and comments to musicdirector@1stuu.org. If you do so prior to **January 13**, Todd will be able to share your ideas with the group.

Tour of the Skinner organ

After the church service at **12:30 PM** on **January 20**, **Todd Ballou** will lead a casual discussion and demonstration of the Skinner Organ. The program is free, and you are encouraged to bring friends and family. The discussion will begin at the console, with a demonstration of all the knobs and buttons, and the discussion will follow comments and questions of the participants from there. If there is interest, the tour can include a visit to the organ blower in the basement, the main organ chamber, and/ or the echo organ in the church tower.

The organ offers a wealth of interesting history and facts, so it is not unusual for the discussion to continue for an hour. Children are welcomed too, but they should be supervised.

Member News



Welcome to new members!

UU Detroit is delighted to introduce two new members. **CR ("Cee Are") Wayne** and **Eric Gardner** signed our membership book on November 11. Please give Cee Are and Eric a warm UU Detroit welcome to our community!

Have you filled out a survey?

A survey was distributed at our December 7 interactive board and congregation meeting and, later, sent via email to members. **If YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED your survey and NEED A COPY**, please contact **Kathe Stevens** pastpresident@1stuu.org or 313-675-1553. We hope to **tally the results** by the end of the month; please return your survey answers by **January 15**.



UU Detroit's got talent

Calling All Authors: It's become clear that we have a lot of writers at UU Detroit, and that we all have some common concerns. If you would be interested in putting together a book fair at the church, please contact **Nancy Shattuck** (officeadmin@1stUU.org) or **Nancy Owen Nelson** (nancyowennelson@1stUU.org). We think the Parlor would make a great venue for a book signing event.

Great BIG HURRAH for volunteers

Our church runs smoothly because of our many volunteers.

As we begin a new calendar year, let us take a moment to reflect on our volunteers: the **Worship Committee**, organizing fresh services with absorbing topics; **members of the choir**, filling our spirits with music; the **Child Care Committee**, devoting time each Sunday to the children; the **Care Committee**, reaching out to our members; the **Social Justice Committee**, shining a light in dark times, and the **Finance, Membership, Communications, and Buildings & Grounds committees**, working on the “nuts and bolts” of congregational life.

A great **BIG HURRAH** for all of you! We appreciate your love and care during the past year and look forward to a festive and productive new year. Farewell to 2018 and cheers to 2019!

Board & Committee News

Paint party!

Lyn Scharret of *New Center Pilates*, a tenant on the second floor of the Commons who has done a lot to spruce up the buildings, has offered to paint the women's bathroom if she can get a volunteer to work with her. The Board will pay for the paint — will you **volunteer to wield a paint brush** with Lyn? We'd accept more than one volunteer. 😊 **Kathe Stevens** pastpresident@1stuu.org or 313-675-1553 has more information. Thank you!

Black Lives Matter campaign

At its December meeting, your Board of Trustees voted to participate in the [congregational giving component](#) of the

UUA [“Promise and the Practice of our Faith”](#) campaign, pledging the equivalent of **\$10 per UU Detroit member** to the campaign, which will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by UUA donors.

This campaign invites all Unitarian Universalists to be part of an historic commitment to [Black Lives of UU](#) through 1) financial support, 2) by scheduling at least one worship service around the campaign's themes, and 3) by making a long-term commitment to dismantling white supremacy, racism, and oppression within our congregations, our Association, and beyond.

Watch for an announcement from the Board with details about a **special opportunity** to donate to the campaign.

Membership committee

The visitors table has been appreciated by many visitors each week for nearly a year. It is a visible place for them to begin to learn about our church and UU, as well to feel comfortable.

It's about a 30-minute commitment on a morning you are already in church. You need only to have a smile and encourage visitors to talk about their interests and ask questions. We have literature at the table and a facilitator guide.

In order to continue this service, we need additional volunteers. Please go to [Visitor Table Signup Sheet](#) to sign up. We have openings through February 24. Please call **Deanna McGraw** at 586-202-5241 if you would like to learn more. Thank you.

Worship Committee special meeting

All are invited to attend a special meeting of the Worship Committee to how to improve our communications within the committee and with the rest of the church. The meeting is scheduled for **2:00 PM** on Sunday, **January 6**, at the home of **Dan Secrest**, chair of the Communications Committee. Dan will share various church policies and best practices, and we will have a chance to discuss these in a relaxed environment. We'll also serve light refreshments.

Dan's address is **18104 Parkside St, Detroit, MI 48221**. Please let Dan know if you will be able to attend. danielsecrest@gmail.com.



Practice our 5th principle

Would you like to serve on UU Detroit's Board of Trustees and, in a very real sense, practice our 5th Principle: *the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*?

You can play an important role in guiding the congregation forward as we face unique challenges. Trustees establish governance policies and are involved in conducting our business and financial affairs.

Anyone interesting in serving as a trustee should read our [bylaws](#), especially Art. V — the Board of Trustees and Art. IV — meetings.

To be elected as a trustee, you must have been a member for 60 days and have made a pledge of support with a contribution of record. The term is two years; elections will be held at our annual congregational meeting in May 2019.

The Board meets at 12:30 PM on the third Sunday of each month in the Parlor. For more information contact **Dan Hale**: president@1stuu.org.

Community



Continuing a Christmas Eve tradition

Heartfelt thanks to the **Worship Committee**, to **Rev. Murray**, and to our music director, **Todd Ballou** and the UU Detroit choir (**John Angry**, **Sally Borden**, **Steve Curtin**, **Linda Darga**, **Gwen Foss**, new member **Eric Gardner**, **Yvanne Ham**, **Nancy Owen Nelson**, **Dan Secrest**, and **Lee Thume**) for creating another lovely Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Worship Coordinator **Nancy Owen Nelson** and Worship Leader **Dan Secrest** infused a special glow to the service.

There was the usual hustle and bustle before, as the choir rehearsed and robed and dozens of candles were removed from their boxes and placed on the windowsills. A special thank you to new member **Susan Matthews** for setting up our antique candelabra in the chancel! Susan also helped to make the social hall festive with holiday tablecloths.

Our greeters deserve a special thank you. **Maysel Brooks** and **Joan Smykowski** arrived very early to slip cardboard sleeves on dozens of candles; each person who entered our church was handed a candle and our special [holiday order of service](#).

We're grateful to **Dan Wiest** for being one of the first to arrive and the last one out (as usual), locking the doors and turning off lights.

Hats off to **Tim Bailey**, **Glenn Maxwell**, and the other generous souls who picked up and dropped off members and friends to share this special evening.

Thank you to social hour staff **Omar Davis** for working on Christmas Eve.

The service started remarkably, with Todd playing long-unused chimes in the bell tower — *manually, with a wooden croquet ball*. Walkie-talkies were also involved!



Todd performed his usual magic with the organ, the choir anthemed, we heartily sang the old, familiar carols, and Rev. Murray delivered a contemporary message.



The lights were dimmed slowly and gradually by new member **Cee Are Wayne**, introducing a reverent setting while we lit our handheld candles and sang together, as is our custom, *Silent Night, Holy Night*.

Basking in the warmth of community, we moved to the social hall to enjoy coffee, cookies, and conversation, ending the night surrounded by love and the spirit of the season.

“Share the Plate” Sunday

Our December 9 *Share the Plate* recipient was [Freedom House](#), which seeks to serve asylum seekers who have been in the United States less than one year and have no other ability to hire legal counsel to assist them with their claims. They are people who may suffer harm on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or their political opinion. Members of a particular social group can include, among others, victims of domestic violence, those targeted because of their family, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Your donations will help fund the services provided free of charge to their clients.

This was an excellent kick-off to **UU Detroit’s new initiative to work on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants**. There will be more to come in following Sundays and on social media.

UU Detroit birthdays!

- 1/7 Deanna McGraw
- 1/8 Sean McAde
- 1/20 Colleen Dolan-Green
- 1/25 Elayne Sikelianos
- 1/26 Bill Dickerson

Denominational News



MidAmerica

By January 1, 2019, the MidAmerica website (currently MidAmericaUUA.org) will be UUA.org/midamerica. If you encounter any difficulties accessing the new website, contact Gretchen Ohmann: tech@midamericauua.org.

UUA

The new [UUA Organizing Strategy Team](#) has published “[Just Acts: In Resistance There is Joy—2018 Wrap Up & Preparing for the New Year!](#)” These are actions we can take to make a difference, some as simple as picking up the phone today, others more long term.

[Engage in Solidarity with All Those Migrating](#) aligns with UU Detroit’s immigration social justice focus, with:

- a link to watch a webinar: *Love Resists: Solidarity with All Those Migrating*;
- instructions, including a sample script, on how to connect with your member of congress via letter or phone;
- how to support refugees in Mexico and at the U.S./ Mexico Border.

If you want to help but are trying to discern the best role for you given your skills, gifts, and resources, visit the UUA’s [Love Resists page](#).

Other immigration news and information:

The December 7 blog of UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray provides thoughts on a humanitarian response to migration: [Seven Lessons in Witnessing the Migrant Caravan](#).

The *UU World* reports that six UU ministers and laypeople were among the 32 people arrested during an interfaith [Love Knows No Borders public witness](#) in San Diego, CA, on December 10.

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism

Whether you are a born-and-raised UU or have come to our faith very recently, you’ll find it fun and informative to watch this short animated video created by the Unitarian Universalist Association which explains UUism: [WE ARE UUS VIDEO](#).



Church Life



Communicate:

Send an email:

- [Choir](#) (Todd Ballou)
- [Email listserv signup](#) (Webmaster)
- [Minister](#) (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)
- [Newsletter](#) (Newsletter Editors)
- [Office administrator](#) (Nancy Shattuck)
- [Webmaster](#) (Dan Secrest)
- [Weekly email digest](#) (Ruby Jones)

Go to a link:

- [Board Members & Committee Chairs](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Facebook group](#)

Community:

Send an email:

- [Amnesty International](#) (Dan Wiest)
- [Share personal business cards](#) (Ruby Jones)
- [Sign the Membership Book](#) (Deanna McGraw)
- [Suggest sermon topics](#) (Worship Committee)

Learn about us:

Send an email:

- ["Intro to UU Detroit"](#) (Sally Borden)

Go to a link:

- [Facebook page](#)
- [History](#)
- [Parking](#)
- [Website](#)

Participate:

Send an email:

- [Help with Sunday child care](#) (Sally Borden)

Go to a link:

- [Flower Donation Signup Sheet](#)
- [Greeter Signup Sheet](#)
- [Visitor Table Signup Sheet](#)

Reserve a room:

Send an email:

- [Sunday morning/afternoon or Wednesday evening](#)
(Newsletter Editors)
- [Other days](#) (Dee Collins — or call 313-556-1702)

Dates and Deadlines



Membership Committee Meeting: Sun., **Jan. 6**, 12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Deanna McGraw/Kathe Stevens)

Special Worship Committee Meeting to discuss ways to improve our communications within the committees and with the rest of the church: Sun., **Jan. 6**, 2:00 PM — Dan Secrest's home, 18104 Parkside St, Detroit

Potluck: Sun., **Jan. 13**, 12:00 PM — Social Hall (Dan Wiest)

Congregational Music Discussion to identify new projects or improvements to the Sunday morning music program: Sun., **Jan. 13**, 12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Todd Ballou)

Board Meeting: Sun., **Jan. 20**, 12:30-2:30 PM — Parlor (Dan Hale)

Skinner Organ Tour: Todd Ballou leads a discussion and demonstration of the Skinner organ, Sun., **Jan. 20**, 12:30-1:30 PM — Narthex

Amnesty International Meeting: Mon., **Jan. 21**, 7:30-9:00 PM — Social Hall (Dan Wiest)

Vespers: Wed., **Jan. 23**, 6:00-7:00 PM — Henry Ford Village, 15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn (Dan Secrest)

Social Justice Committee Meeting: Sun. **Jan. 27**, 12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

Weekly Sunday order of service deadline

Send your item/event to be included in our order of service to officeadmin@1stuu.org by **12:00 PM Thursday**

February newsletter deadline

Send items to newsletter@1stuu.org by **January 20** — the next issue covers February 1-28 — no submissions accepted after the deadline

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Ave at the corner of Forest Ave

... in the [Cass Corridor Commons](#) ...

Please visit us at www.1stuu.org,

email us at officeadmin@1stuu.org,

or give us a call at (313) 833-9107

Our history of fighting for civil liberties in the world and advocating for Detroit at home is long and strong. Our roots in Detroit go back over 185 years: Universalists first worshiped in Detroit in 1831, Unitarians in 1833. One hundred years later, an experimental union of the two congregations led to an official merger, preceding the national merger of the two denominations (in 1961) by 27 years.

Radical thinkers who worshipped, spoke, met, and organized within our congregations include ground-breaking African-Americans; civil rights crusaders and martyrs; progressive politicians; icons of women's movements, including trailblazing women lawyers and doctors; promoters of worker's rights; LGBTQ pioneers; peace activists and martyrs; environmental champions; immigration reformists; authors, poets, educators, scientists, architects, and musicians.

Ordinary people seeking solace and a vision of how to put faith into action — from 19th century abolitionists to 20th century suffragettes to 21st century water warriors — we have lived out and continue to live out our Sixth Principle: *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*



**SIDE WITH
LOVE**

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48201