

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

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# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
Office Phone: 313-833-9107

February 26, 2012

## March Sermon Schedule

### March 4:

Rev. Roger Mohr,  
*"Life on the Serengeti."*

In nature programs, we often are shown images of life in the natural, as opposed to the human world. It isn't usually so gentle and loving as we might like. A meditation on personal responsibility and the human potential to make it better.

### March 11:

Robert Johnson  
*"What Matters."*

### March 18:

Rev. Roger Mohr,  
*"Begin Again."*

The Spring Equinox reminds us that it is time to give our heart and soul to cultivating the ground of our lives. Plow deep, turn the earth, plant with love. Now is the time to get into the ground and to do what it takes to make our dreams our reality.



*All those who are involved in the service on Sunday (Speakers, Worship Coordinator, Trustee of the Day, Cantor, and Music Director and/or Guest Musicians) will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:30am each Sunday to review the service.*

## THE CHURCH OFFICE HAS MOVED!

Rather than being in the house next to the church, the church office is now directly behind the sanctuary - down the hall on the left between the sanc-

tuary and the fellowship hall, through the first door on the left. If you think of it as the place from which Rev. Mohr magically appears before and dis-

appears to after the service, that would be the place. Tamara is in the office on Saturdays and Sundays, and that is where she can be found.

## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2011-2012

### Officers

#### President

*Sally Borden*

#### Vice President

*Robert Johnson*

#### Immediate

#### Past President

*Marilyn Mitchell*

#### Board Secretary

*Kathe Stevens*

#### Treasurer

*Dan Wiest*

### Staff

#### Minister

*Rev. Roger Mohr*

#### Music Director

*Todd Ballou*

#### Cantor

*Gwen Foss*

#### Office Admin

*Tamara Halliburton*

**Worship Services  
held every Sunday at  
11:00 a.m.**

The deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of every month! Please send any articles to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org) or drop them off in the office.

## The President's Corner

I've wanted to let you know more about the work of your Board of Trustees because everyone on the board works hard to make the best decisions that we can on behalf of the church. At the beginning of each board meeting, we recite together the following covenant —" We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness and respect for each other as we carry out our elected responsibilities to do the business of this church to the best of our abilities. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."

Robert Johnson is our vice president, who also is very involved in setting up, helping with and in general seeing that our church is technologically advanced. He has been working on setting up the necessary technology for our new church office which is now housed at the back of the sanctuary. (This was the office that Ivan Cottman rented for the past few years.) Robert is also the co -chair of the Worship Committee, along with his wife, Kathleen Jacobs Johnson and is a member of our Communications Committee.

Kathe Stevens is the board secretary and does an exceptionally good job of taking minutes, setting up the initial agenda and in general seeing that we stay organized. In addition, she's been very helpful in finding resources to help the church within the Midtown community where she lives.

Dan Wiest is our treasurer and has had this job in the past. Dan continues to help us to use the latest technology to maintain our financial records and help us move forward on a good financial footing. I'm sure many of you know that he does countless other chores around the church, including helping set up coffee hour on many Sundays and being an active participant on the Transition Task Force, the group that meets with EMEAC to help smooth the transition as a church lets go of it's responsibilities for the building complex. Dan is one of our "unsung heroes."

Marilyn Mitchell is our a past president and still works tirelessly on our behalf, helping with legal issues and taking responsibility for membership issues. She and Kathy Stevens have developed a new brochure for the church that we will begin to use to publicize our presence and activities.

Sean McAde is a trustee at large and does a lot of physical work around the church, including helping keep the buildings clean for EMEAC and painting and moving furniture into our new office.

And last but not least, Sandra Thottakath, is also a trustee at large who quietly reviews what is going on and offers good advice on various matters. She also has the portfolio for Social Justice for the Board.

## The Rev's Room

I am very pleased about our work together! I haven't felt so much love in the room in a long time. I can't tell you how much that means to me, and how much I am sure it means to you! This is a fantastic congregation, and your potential is beyond my apprehension. This is all about you, and what you can do together, now that the burden of maintaining the buildings has been lifted. You are making a huge step forward together. Attendance and membership will move in a positive direction this year, with many new faces and new members. We are offering new programming, a new (volunteer)

activity director is awaiting board approval, and there is even movement toward a summer RE program for children. We are nearing a clear budget surplus, which will allow for better support for our members, as well as new outreach and further growth. How exciting is that!? You are making the difference for this congregation, and you are building the ministry of this congregation, in Midtown, in Detroit, and beyond.

Congratulations!  
Rev. Mohr

## New Years Greetings From Arizona

Thank you, First Church U.U. friends for the card and messages at the time of my 92nd birthday celebration. Each signature brought to mind a face I know well and reminded me of a happy thought of the last time we spoke. It's a nice feeling!! Having been the recipient of your remembering my natal day for the past few years, I can tell you that the cards signed during coffee hour

are important to the one receiving the greeting. It's a connection to our church.

A special thank you to John Angry who included photographs of church folks with dates and notations about the occasion pictured.

Loyally, Faye Collong

We learned on Friday, February 17 that Nancy Hutchison, wife of our minister *emeritus*, Larry Hutchison, has been seriously ill; losing a lot of blood through a split in her aorta and having undergone extensive heart surgeries. Larry had given up on her being able to survive until recently, but now he says she is improving just a little

each day. But Nancy is still on a ventilator and unable to talk. Larry now has a church in Decatur, Illinois.

Contact details are:  
2520 Twin Oaks Ct., Apt. 25  
Decatur IL 62526  
Phone: [352.949.1601](tel:352.949.1601)

## Learning to Love:

As part of Rev. Mohr's teaching on spiritual growth, he is forming a group to support one another in their practice of love as a spiritual discipline. This group will be about being accountable to each other and offering support in the work of practicing love in our daily lives. Times are not yet arranged, so if you are interested, please email Rev. Mohr at [reverendmohr@gmail.com](mailto:reverendmohr@gmail.com), or call at 313-262-6175.

### Birthday List

I would like to start acknowledging birthdays in the newsletter. If you would like to be included, please email your birth date to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org) or leave it in the office!

## Church Announcements

### **Vespers Wednesday**

Vespers every Wednesday: dinner at 5:30, service at 6:30, meetings and activities at 7:00.

### **Acoustic Circle at 1<sup>st</sup> UU - Wednesdays**

An acoustic circle will be held in Pullman Hall every Wednesday from 8-11:30pm. Enter through the Red Door from the back lot.

### **Book Discussion – March 7th**

We had a really good discussion on Lakoff's book, Don't Think of an Elephant on Wednesday. We discussed the book as well as actions that we can take as a group and a church to help frame our values to the community. Our discussion was so good, that by popular demand, we will continue our discussion on March 7th. If you haven't finished reading the book, now's your chance! Please bring your ideas, thoughts, listening ears, as well as ideas for other books you would like to read. See Linda Darga for additional information. See you then!

### **Motor City Free Geek Program – March 28th**

On Wednesday, March 28th at 7 pm after Vespers come hear a presentation about the Motor City Free Geek program with Ken Grundberg, whose passion is both helping recycle computers and related equipment and helping young people be part of this process for their rehabilitation. He has tons of knowledge and experience and you can learn how you too can be part of this green movement. To learn more go to [motorcityfreegeek@gmail.com](mailto:motorcityfreegeek@gmail.com).

### **New Year...New Signup Sheet for Chancel Flower Donations**

As you leave the sanctuary, you'll notice there's a new signup sheet for donating flowers each Sunday. Please take a moment to add your name and the person/event you wish to honor. Suggested donation is \$20 but is negotiable depending on your situation. If you have questions, see Lencha Acker or call her at 313-393-8544. Thank You!

Please submit this form to Sherry Wells to request events at 1st UU.

Calendar / Room Use Application (precedes contract if non-congregation use)

\_\_\_\_\_ day/s, \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Rooms requested: Sanctuary \_\_\_\_ Social Hall \_\_\_\_ Memorial Hall \_\_\_\_

Blue Room \_\_\_\_ Kitchen \_\_\_\_ Pullman/Red Door \_\_\_\_

Organization/address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Event name and description: \_\_\_\_\_

Set-up required: \_\_\_\_\_ Entry door: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_ Recurring? \_\_\_\_\_ Admission charge: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Key loaned to: \_\_\_\_\_ or Official keyholder to open up: \_\_\_\_\_

*Notify 1<sup>st</sup> Church immediately if anything changes: (313) 833-9107; info@1stuu.org*

## MOSES 15th Annual Banquet

### Building From Our Core

### Core Values; Core Issues; Core Teams

### Guest Speaker: Dr. Gail Christopher, VP Kellogg Foundation

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Location: Fellowship Chapel

7707 W. Outer Drive

Detroit, MI 48235

5:45 PM Reception 7:00 PM Program

Donations: \$40 Members \$55 Non-Members

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the MOSES office. 220 Bagley Ste. 212 Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 962-5290 ext. 10 [www.mosesmi.org](http://www.mosesmi.org)



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email us at [info@1stuu.org](mailto:info@1stuu.org), or give  
us a call at (313) 833-9107.

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## WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR SUMMER VACATION?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if everyone in the world had an attitude of open-mindedness, tolerance, concern for the planet, and support for each other that UUs do? For one week each summer, we experience such a world. That world is **MUUSA!**

Join us on **Sunday, July 1st to Saturday, July 7th** at MUUSA, the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, where you can vacation with other Unitarian Universalists in a beautiful natural setting with activities and fun for all ages. We invite families, singles, and couples to join us at our inter-generational retreat, where you can enjoy workshops, classes, and leisure time. We gather at Trout Lodge, located in

5,200 acres of pine and oak forest on a private 360 acre lake 75 miles southwest of St. Louis, Missouri, near Potosi.

Save the date now and make your summer vacation planning easy. The 2012 theme, "Living Once Upon a Time: The Stories Deep Within Us," will be led by **Reverend Keith Kron**. Your stay includes three buffet meals a day, comfortable housing, relaxing at the beachfront, watercraft use, opportunities for horseback riding, creating in the arts and crafts center, your choice of morning and afternoon workshops and much, much more!

We offer a nursery and day camps for our youngest campers and a unique program with separate hous-

ing for our junior and senior high youths. Our campers rave about MUUSA! To hear more, visit YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNWMdbjxuE> and view our video to see what a week at MUUSA is like. You can register today at [www.muusa.org](http://www.muusa.org). Have questions? Contact Susan Porter, Registrar at [muusa@uua.org](mailto:muusa@uua.org). We can't wait to welcome you to the most fabulous week of the year!

**(Remember Save the Date: Sunday, July 1st to Saturday, July 7th, 2012)**