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First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

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

August Edition

August Sermon Schedule

August 5

Dan Secrest

*"Democracy: Lincoln, Obama, and
Michael Servetus"*

Unitarians often regard Michael Servetus as the first Unitarian martyr. Servetus has also been credited with being one of the modern forerunners of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience in the Western world. The evolution of freedom of conscience can be traced from Servetus and the Polish Socinians, to John Locke and to Thomas Jefferson and the American Declaration of Independence. We'll examine our 5th principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

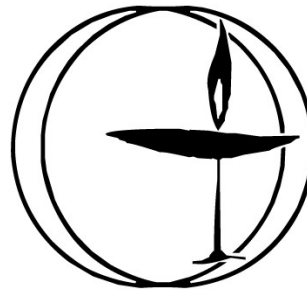
August 12

Nancy Owen Nelson

*"Other Universalists - The Primitive
Baptists of Alabama"*

Nancy Owen Nelson will speak on her recent visit to her hometown in Alabama where she engaged the

Primitive Baptist experience. There will be photos to along with her message.



August 19

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Dune:

Successful Social Struggle."

In response to my, "I dare you to preach on..." sermon topic request, one of our members challenged me to preach on the movie *Dune* and the *Orange Bible*. To me the most important lesson of *Dune* is about how one can successfully effect major social change. How can we win the struggle for social justice?

August 26

Todd Ballou and Gwen Foss will lead a musical service featuring camping songs.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2012-2013

Officers

President

Sally Borden

Vice President

Cynthia Zurschmiede

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 or drop them off in the office.

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 President's Corner

I hope you're all enjoying the summer and not getting heatstroke. On 7/14/12, your Board and other leaders of the congregation (the Worship Committee, the Search Committee, the Transition Task Force and others) met in side yard of Marilyn Mitchell's house for a three-hour "retreat." (UU's usually don't retreat except as a tactical maneuver). With Marilyn acting as our hostess and Rev. Mohr leading the discussion, we reviewed what we have accomplished, where we are and what we want to do in the coming year.

It is important that members of the congregation know about our goals and help us work toward them, because without the rest of you, nothing will be accomplished.

For many of us, First UU is an important part of our life, whether we see the church as a refuge or a jumping off point. And even though we all have differing views of what "religion" is and can be, most of us agree that we can do more together than separately.

The main areas that we want to focus on this coming year are the following:

- We want to increase our membership to 85 members.
- We want to increase article pledges by \$5000.
- We want programming before and after Sunday service in conjunction with Vesper services.
- And we want to increase our public voice with joint ventures with other organizations such as EMEAC, MUUSJN, Rotary, Detroit Works and Moses, among others.

In order to accomplish these goals, we want to improve/better coordinate and make happen:

- Do more outreach through printed media
- Inviting friends
- Being more welcoming and following up with visitors
- Improve communication in all areas including digital and pre-digital methods of communication.

The President's Corner (continued)

There are many other areas in the life of the church that we want to improve or tweak, so please feel free to give your feedback to board members and others in positions of leadership.

For instance, we want to have a better sound system, we need a better system to handle social hour, (The Board is working on hiring someone to handle most of the social hour work.), and we want more new UU classes.

As you can see we have ambitious plans and want you to be part of implementing them. So talk to each other and look around to see what you can help do.

And now I want to introduce you to a longtime church member and a much newer member.

Rhonda Rodgers - Has been attending 1st UU for about 20 years after coming to the church for events and meetings of other groups. She now feels that she's part of the church community, and after Pres. George Bush started "shouting" about Christianity, she felt that she needed to begin to say that she's a Unitarian.

Nancy Nelson - Has been a UU since 9/2004 as a reaction to the extreme political Climate. She likes the balance between humor and intellectual pursuits. Nancy first came to 1st UU for the Christmas Eve service in December, 2011. She loved the music and started attending church soon after. And she has joined the choir. So let's welcome Nancy and her husband, Roger Zeigler, who has also become a member and says "ditto" to whatever Nancy says about the church.

Sally Borden
President

The Rev's Room

Here we are, at the last full month of summer. This a long article, as this has been an eventful season. And from my point of view, the summer has gone very well. I've been fortunate to get outside quite a bit for running and biking, canoeing and hiking – all sorts of physical activities and travel. I even ran my first adventure race, kind of like a triathlon. My race was a co-ed team event requiring us to trail run/hike, canoe, and mountain bike, all while orienteering with a map and a compass (no GPS allowed). We didn't win, but we did finish – that's good enough for a first go. And, as many of you noticed, I have dropped some serious weight, down thirty five pounds since May. I have perhaps that much to go, but I am feeling better every day, so I might just make it. Alas, none of my suits fit anymore, so I am making weekly trips to my tailor to have them taken in – if I look like I am wearing someone else's suit, that would be why. And my life is in renaissance mode, with lots of new growth across the board: spiritually, professionally, relationally, emotionally, and intellectually (Remember that I will be gone August 5-18 to do coursework for my doctorate). I am very excited and pleased.

It is probably also important to inform you that this spring my wife, who lives in Illinois, asked me for a divorce. *Her dedication to her career kept her in Illinois, and she could not share my enthusiasm for Detroit.* Sometimes it is just time to recognize and embrace the end of a relationship in order to make room for new growth. It is sad, as it had been nearly twenty good and loving years together. But we both agreed that it was the right decision. Sometimes it is necessary to let go of the good to achieve the better.

But most importantly, the church leadership and I have been working very hard to prepare for the coming church year. Our retreat this year focused largely on the functional areas of the Sunday service, as we identified what needs to be done, as well as what is and isn't getting done at present. To begin with, at the retreat, FUUD's leadership set the goals of increasing membership by 16%, from 73 last February to at least 85 members (we are at about 77 right now), and to grow pledge income from \$63k to \$68k, primarily through the increase in membership. I am sure you will be hearing more about that, as the board and relevant committees develop concrete plans and objectives in each area. Let's just say that there is significant room for improvement and much opportunity for all of us to further engage.

The Rev's Room (continued)

I will be in the pulpit three times a month this year (generally the first, second, and third Sundays), as I move to full time ministry here in Detroit. I am excited about my ministry here, as I have come to understand my work in Detroit much more clearly during the last year. I will be focusing on two primary goals and themes, with variation, or course. First is individual spiritual growth – speaking to FUUD's mission statement, to be "An urban center for social justice and spiritual renewal." The second speaks to the point of social justice, as I will be focusing on the goal of community formation and development, within the church of course, but also in the larger community of Midtown and Detroit as a whole. I have learned so much about this city this year, and I have a growing network of relationships and responsibilities that is drawing me more and more to economic development and urban planning within the city. I can clearly perceive my ministry here.

Indeed, last but not least, I want you to know that the board and I have agreed to pursue the possibility of a developmental ministry for me here (pending approval from the UUA and the Interim Ministers' Guild). A developmental ministry entails a three to five year commitment, between the church and me, to create and pursue a set of longer term objectives and projects. This is more than an interim ministry can accomplish. Moreover, the point of a developmental ministry is to stabilize and revitalize a struggling congregation, to establish a "new normal." After several decades of decline, the "normal" for this church is sorrow and frustration. A "new normal" for FUUD would be about success and joyful excitement. That is what we want to create together. I love this congregation and I love Detroit, and I am thrilled by the possibilities.

With love,

Rev. Roger Mohr

Church Announcements and Events

Vespers Wednesday

Vespers will be on vacation in July and August. Look for new and improved Vespers 2.0 coming this fall.

Learning to Love

The Learning to Love group will meet on the third Sundays of the month, after services (about 12:30). The group is open for now (meaning that anyone can join, anytime), and will be working on helping one another to live in a more loving way during our day to day and moment to moment lives. All are welcome!

Pop Songs for a FUUD hymnal!

We have been using lots of “contemporary” songs in our services this year, and we want to start collecting them up so we can gather sheet music for our professional musicians, Todd and Gwenn, to use on Sundays. What songs do you love to sing that might be uplifting for our services? Pete Seeger, “Turn Turn Turn”? How about Desiree, “You Gotta Be”? Beatles, “All You Need Is Love”? Marvin Gaye, “What’s Going On”? Louis Armstrong, “What a Wonderful World”? If you think of something, Rev. Mohr is collecting them, just send your ideas with artist and title to reverendmohr@gmail.com .

Rev. Mohr will be gone from August 5 -18, as he will be in New York doing coursework for a Doctor of Ministry degree. In case of emergency, Sally, as board president, will have a colleague contact for ministry.

Church Announcements and Events

Wanted to Purchase

A gently used exercycle (a stand in place bicycle) to help get some much needed exercise.

Please call if you know of one available.

Sally Borden 313.533.1494

Membership, Social Hour and Social Justice

I am looking for a few good people to contribute their ideas of how to improve the membership experience and serve on a committee. You do not have to actually be a member to participate. In fact, some very good ideas have been brought to me by a "friend" of the church. The Board is considering ways to improve the social hour so we can enjoy it without imposing on one or more people each Sunday the task of producing the event. This quickly becomes a chore, but yet the social hour is a critical part of our church experience.

Another task for the membership committee is verifying people's addresses, phone numbers and emails. I will start the process of culling the existing directory to eliminate information about people who have moved on and to add information on new members and friends.

We would like to have a new Church Directory ready for distribution in the Fall.

Linda Darga and I will hold a first social justice meeting on August 5th at 12:30 in the social hall. Please join us if you are willing to serve on the committee or if you have ideas for social justice projects that you would like our church to pursue in the coming year. We plan to start with a voter registration drive in the church neighborhood as a way to introduce members of the community to our church and also to encourage voting in this crucial election year.

Please email me your ideas and see me after church if you are willing to serve on one or more committees. Thanks.

Marilyn Mitchell, Membership Chair. Mitchell140@comcast.net.

Church Announcements and Events

July 13, 2012

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the card and your kind messages on the death of my son Darius.

It matters a lot to me that people care and remember Darius.

With love,

Sondra [Greene]

The Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance (~1900) has morphed into "The New Alliance" (10-9-2010) which includes males and females of all ages.

In the past, we have supported 1st UU Church of Detroit and our congregation in areas of bereavement, Noel Night, Christmas Night, coffee hour (one month a year) and speakers on various subjects including social and political issues. In the future, we want to go forward and have a meeting in the fall where we will come together to discuss what our goals and objectives will be in the future.

What are we doing now? We have contributed monies from our funds to help with the July and August coffee (social) hour. In the mean time we are organizing our archives. Also, we are thinking about events for the fall.

Faye Colling, Carolyn Ludwig and Sandra Thottakath

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!

Church Announcements and Events

From Your Activities Coordinator and Crew

Remember that this group does not "approve" of events, simply coordinates the calendar to avoid conflicts, helps smooth the way and publicize your event. Keep me in the loop !

The Sunday before-service programs were well attended .Two of my crew—Gwen Foss and Kimberly Kleinhans--presented the first two of these and Joan Smykowski's insisting we include "fun" led to the Fifth Sunday Funday concept.

By now, the Talent Show will be over. I twisted no arms to get the 18 acts that you and those you invited saw. As a congregation, we step forward. (Or we're a bunch of "hams" eager to be on stage !) Joan organized, wrote and formatted that beautiful program. Kimberly stage-managed it.(Stay tuned for Maysel Brooks' contributions.)

I am excited about how this will build community as we get to know each other better and broader, to include an unsuspected range of abilities and interests behind those coffee cups. I hope that those you invited will be interested in coming back.

9:30a.m. seemed to be too early, though choir members were used to 9 AM. So let's try 10:00 AM *sharp!* No straggling in, *please*. Our presenters handled it well but shouldn't need to.

Coming up in August:

- 5th** -- 9:45 a.m. - A Social Justice Committee is reforming; come to suggest and discuss goals
- 11 a.m. - Dan Secrest presents Democracy (which ties in with next item)
 - 12:30 p.m. - Linda Darga and Marilyn Mitchell will lead planning the first Social Justice action (voter registration in Detroit.)
- 12th** -- 10 a.m. - Esperanto is 125 ! Sherry A Wells will introduce / update you about the universal second language, easiest to learn. In the US, more members are UUs than other religions Sherry helped organize the UU Esperanto Network.
- 11 a.m. - Nancy Nelson tells about a unique church she visited down South
 - 12:30 p.m. (Nothing on the schedule—enjoy longer conversations)
- 19th** -- 10 a.m. Tinkaboudit 2--Jerrold Fokes will facilitate the next discussion about language; every session is group-dynamically led.
- 11 a.m. - Reverend Mohr, sermon TBA
 - 12:30 p.m. - Learning to Love
- 26th** -- 10 a.m. - Zero Waste Detroit, Anna Holden—a bet plan available for getting the whole city recycling
- 11 a.m. Music Service orchestrated by Todd Ballou, our Music Director
 - 12:30 p.m. - Those of us living in Ferndale and Royal Oak may take 3 people as free guests to the Detroit Institute of Arts . We may stop somewhere for lunch on our way.

Sherry A Wells, Activities Coordinator, esperantosherry@tm.net, 248-543-5297



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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48201

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email us at info@1stuu.org, or give
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AUGUST 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:45 am and 12:30 pm - Social Justice Committee Meetings	6	7 Happy Birthday Katherine Maurer!	8	9	10	11
12 Happy Birthday Mark Schwing! 10am - Esperanto is 125!	13	14	15 Happy Birthday Maysel Brooks! Happy Birthday Rhonda Rodgers!	16	17 Happy Birthday Annie Byrne!	18
19 10am - Tink-aboutit 2 12:30 pm - Learning to Love	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Happy Birthday Patricia Pilafian! 10am - Zero Waste Detroit 12:30 pm - DIA trip	27	28	29	30	31	