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# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue  
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June Edition

## June / July Sermon Schedule

### June 3

Rev. Roger Mohr

*"Why We Support Same Sex Marriage."*

UUs were among the first to support same sex unions, as well as to ordain homosexual clergy. Why? Well, because it is consistent with our Principles and Purposes, of course!

### June 10

Rev. Tony Perrino

*"Walking Through the Valley of the Shadow."*

Perrino, who served as Minister of our congregation from 1969 until 1972, was well known in the city as a champion of social justice causes. He led a bus full of church members to Washington, D.C. for a protest of the Viet Nam war and hosted a gathering of "the Winter Soldier Investigation" which featured a talk by Jane Fonda! But this sermon, forty years later, will be a reflection on the last years of his ministry as a Hospice Chaplain.

### June 17

Rev. Roger Mohr

*Juneteenth: "Racism and Detroit."*

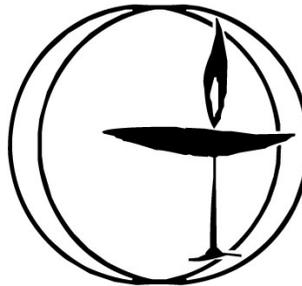
Detroit is a city in which about 80% of the residents are of African American ancestry. That makes Detroit a very interesting environment in which to consider some of the implications of racism.

### June 20 (Vespers)

Rev. Roger Mohr

*"The Same Old River: The Teachings of Heraclitus."*

Heraclitus is famous for saying that no one can ever step into the same river twice. We only have fragments of his writings, but he has much of value to offer.



### July 8

Rev. Roger Mohr

*"Dreaming of the Future."*

During the summer, there is a mild lull in activity, while we regroup and plan for the next church year. That may seem like a time to rest, but it is also a time for us to spend some energy in imagining what we want the church to have done and become by this time next year. What do YOU dream for First UU next year? Let's dream together.

## 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.**

*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 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 hope you all enjoyed last Sunday's celebration service. It was the culmination of a lot of work by a lot of people over many years. Many of us had dreamed/prayed/hoped for a way to stay in our beloved sanctuary and not have the burden of caring for the rest of the building. The linking of the church with East Michigan Environmental Action Council is a win-win for us all.

But now I want to thank some people who work for the church under the radar and are rarely acknowledged. It is likely I am not remembering everyone in this article, but feel free to give me more names of people to mention in the future.

Even though Dan Wiest was mentioned on Sunday at the service as being part of the work of the last two years, I think it is important that you realize how tirelessly he has worked behind the scenes since at least the 1990s. Dan has come to the church early on many Sundays for many years and helped with coffee hour, worked in the office and as a sound technician for the service. He also has been an active member with Amnesty International for a long time, a group that now meets at our church on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM. And while doing all that, Dan manages to find the time to be the church treasurer.

Elayne Sikelianos is another person who has done a lot of work without much public recognition. Elayne was a member of the board in 2009 and graciously stepped aside in 2010 to let some other younger members serve on the board. She also is an excellent cook who prepared meals for Women's Alliance for several years and catered the dinners for Vesper services for several years until February, 2012. Another major task that Elayne, along with Kathleen Jacobs-Johnson, took on last summer was sorting through all the "stuff" in the church kitchen and helping decide what to sell, selling it and then helping arrange to give away what was left.

Another behind the scenes person is Mark Schwing who has been a member of the church for many years also. Every Sunday afternoon or Monday morning, Mark finds out the title for the next week's sermon and changes the wording on the large sign at the corner of Forest and Cass. Mark is an artist and at times has had his art shown at the church and at other locations.

And last but not least, John Angry, has been our head usher for a long time. He comes to church at 8:30 am every Sunday morning to open up the church, participates in choir practice and then handles the arrangements to prepare for the service. In addition to all that, he arranges to have ushers take the collection every Sunday.

So when you get a chance, let these folks know we appreciate them.

Sally Borden, President

## The Rev's Room

What a year! I am so proud of the good work First UU has done. Now is a good moment for everybody to stop, take a deep breath, and relax. Easy, easy...whew....

Okay, that's enough of that. Let's put our game face back on and get started on planning for next year. I am thoroughly excited about the possibilities for this congregation. We are coming off of a banner year, with a balanced budget going forward; solid membership growth; an uneventful, even a pleasant annual meeting; the building transfer; and lots of positive energy. Wow. I might have died and gone straight to ministerial heaven.

But in order for a good year to develop into a strong, vibrant church, it is imperative for us to move forward with that momentum. A major agenda item for this summer, from my point of view, is to get clarity about the relationships and functioning of the various subsystems within the church. How does membership relate to worship to coffee hour to greeters and ushers to the worship service and to the board? What sort of programming will help to nourish our church and the surrounding community? How does this organization function? How does that functioning support the goal of being a center for social justice and spiritual renewal?

Moreover, the summer is a time for goal setting. What are the specific objectives we want to achieve next year? What do we want to see for average attendance on Sunday? Right now we expect a little less than sixty persons at a typical service, which is great: How many should we try to have next year? How can we make that happen? Same goes for membership, pledges, etc. What about programming? How many new programs can we offer in practical reality? What sorts of programs make the most sense right now?

And at the foundation of all of this is the question of vision and mission. Who are we, and what can we offer to our community? That is the question that is foundational to all the other answers. Remember the four questions I asked at the beginning of our work together. "Who are we?" "Why are we here?" "Whom do we serve?" "How can we serve them better?"

Let's make this year even better than the last. And that achieving that goal begins with the work we do this summer. As the plans develop for this summer's work, we will offer information as it becomes available. But also please pay attention to the newsletters this summer – that's where opportunities for you to engage the planning process will be found. I hope to see you frequently this summer.

Offered with love,

Reverend Roger Mohr

## Church Events

### **Vespers Wednesday**

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

### **Fundraising for Justice Workshop – June 2nd**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Farmington "Fundraising for Justice In YOUR Congregation" featuring Jerry King, 20+ years experience as a fundraising consultant - \$10 donation, lunch provided -- UU Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Register on line: [www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration.html](http://www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration.html) or call Randy Block at 248-549-5170

### **Learning to Love—1st and 3rd Sundays**

The Learning to Love group will meet on the first and third Sundays in June after services (about 12:30). Going forward this summer, the group will meet in co-ordination with Rev. Mohr's preaching schedule (second Sunday in July, and probably fourth). 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! (Rev. Mohr apologizes for the cancellation May 20th, a personal issue created a scheduling conflict. Back on track this month!)

### **Motor City Pride Fest—June 2nd and 3rd**

First UU will have a table at the Motor City Pride Fest in Hart Plaza this year on June 2 and 3. This will be a joint effort with UU Farmington, Northwest and Grosse Pointe churches. Table staffers are needed for 2:00 – 8:00 on Saturday and 11:00 – 6:00 on Sunday. Contact Dan Wiest on times that you can help out.

### **UU Choirs Concert – June 3rd**

4 p.m. Ann Arbor UU. Sign up today to carpool to it after eating lunch locally at one of the eateries your A.C. listed.

### **Affordable Care Act Workshop – June 9th**

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Bloomfield Hills "The Affordable Care Act: What In It for You" – FREE Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Register on line: [www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration2.html](http://www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration2.html) or call Randy Block at 248-549-5170

## Church Announcements

### **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!

### **Pop Songs for a First UU 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 .

### **From Your Activities Coordinators**

On Mother's Day, I took part in Women Walking Woodward for Peace. UU Anita Jones (Ruby) and others organized it and Channel 2 sent a camera. I left the march to go to church and Carolyn Ludwig took part by driving me to catch up with them. Passersby honked or wished us a Happy Mother's Day, many of whom flashed the peace sign. Mother Nature sprinkled us with her holy water while we read the same proclamation that Rev. Mohr read during his sermon, before She shone the sun down upon our parade. This is the first annual so more of us can join in next year.

We didn't quite fill the back of my minivan for World Medical Relief, but now you know what they are looking for. The place is impressive-almost 60 years, over 120 countries assisted, and it all started in Detroit. Lily Secrest's neighbors brought guests from a Philippine clinic.

We have 14 members in our choir, so I have not planned activities Sundays before service. But after its last practice for the summer, which would be June 24th, it is an alternative. Most of us voted for after church events, but does that go for the summer, too? Or, like me, would you rather have more of the weather left to enjoy personal activities?

ALSO, your ideas are still needed. Remember that the goal of my crew is to help plan and promote them, NOT create it all!

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



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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

## WE GET MAIL

### Kids in Church

3-year-old Reese: 'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is his name. Amen'

A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

One particular four-year-old prayed, 'And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought for a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Submitted by Faye Colling