

Website: 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

May Edition

May Sermon Schedule

May 6

"Women's Disappearing Rights,"
Rev. Roger Mohr

After nearly two centuries of progress, the last few years have seen a steady erosion of women's rights. Why is this happening, and how can we fight back?

May 20

CELEBRATION SERVICE

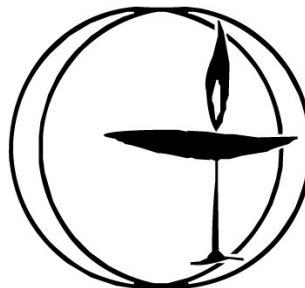
Rev. Roger Mohr will lead a service celebrating the transfer of the church buildings to the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council. This is an exciting experiment in co-operative use of the space. Join us in celebrating the success of this process!

Vespers, May 16

"What Took You So Long?"
Rev. Roger Mohr

A few months ago, a friend handed me a book of aphorisms by the psychologist Sheldon

Kopp. They are a bit difficult, because they are so honest about the ironies of contemporary life. A meditation on the ironies of our expectations.



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.

Summer service "I Dare You!" Sermon Award

To the highest bidder, as a fundraiser. Rev. Mohr will do a sermon on the topic of your choices, going to whoever raises the most money for their topic. Go big or go home. What would you love to hear a sermon on but don't think a minister will do? Rev. Mohr reserves the option to change the title and to tweak content, but no topic is completely out of bounds. What's it worth to you?

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 or drop them off in the office.

The President's Corner

"May you live in interesting times" is an old quote that I believe has a Chinese origin, but it is apropos for many occasions, and this is certainly one of them.

This past year has been a time of hope, frustration, anxiety, friendship, hard work and looking toward the future as we continue to evolve into the same, but different church.

The Board of Trustees and Rev. Roger Mohr, along with many other congregants, have worked hard to continue to develop how we see ourselves and how we will interact with our new partners, Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council. As I write this letter on 4/21/2012, I have with me the original deed transfer for our three building complex that I have signed and had notarized with the consent of the Board. Within the next several days I will be turning this deed over to Diana Copeland, Executive Director of EMEAC, to have it registered with the city of Detroit.

We continue to work towards a mutually agreeable plan with EMEAC regarding the Prentis parking lot and hopefully you will be voting on this plan on 5/6/2012 at our annual congregational meeting.

Both the Church and EMEAC are entities that have struggled and will struggle to grow and prosper, but by placing our trust in each other and working together toward similar goals, we are saying that we are here to stay on the corner of Forest and Cass, a place where UU's have worshiped in the city since 1913.

This year brought us our new interim minister, Rev. Roger Mohr, who has passion and fresh ideas for a city church. Our Sunday attendance and our membership has shown some growth. Our music program under the direction of Todd Ballou and Gwen Foss continues to shine and we have had programs and concerts throughout the year.

Our new position of Activities Coordinator, which was developed by Sherry Wells, a new member (but a long time attendee), has begun to help us have more opportunities to learn, grow and have fun together.

One member told me last year when the congregation overwhelmingly approved a Memorandum of Understanding with EMEAC that "By all rights this church shouldn't have survived, but we did."

So let's survive, thrive and see what we can all do together.

Sally Borden, President

The Rev's Room

As we come to the end of my first year with you, I have to say that I could not be more pleased with the progress you have made this year. First UU of Detroit is a church that is turning around, after a long decline. I am tempted to list the many accomplishments and improvements we have seen this year. But I am afraid if I try, I will miss something important, and fail to give praise where it is due. Let's just say that there is a very positive feeling in the room right now, membership is growing, members are returning, and finances are looking solid. That reverses a forty year trend. Wow.

As we celebrate the transfer of the buildings to EMEAC this month, we complete a very

long and challenging process of discernment and negotiation. I have to give much praise to the Transfer Team for their hard work and diligence in keeping the process on track. It has not always been easy, as there has been some anxiety around the transfer, which is to be expected. In all, First UU has shown that they do have the courage and the skills to take appropriate action. The same can be said of EMEAC. I am proud of both organizations.

So let's celebrate this month. All is well, and the future is bright. Congratulations one and all!

Rev. Roger Mohr

Board Slate Announcement

Our constitution requires that the nominating committee announce its slate before the annual meeting. Here it is in preparation for May 6th.

The nominating committee would like to thank current board members Sally Borden, President; Kathe Stevens, Secretary; Dan Wiest, Treasurer; and Trustees at Large, Sandra Thottakath and Sean McAde for outstanding service in this year of unprecedented change. We are grateful that they are willing to continue in their current positions next year.

We also thank Robert Johnson for his work as Vice President. He has decided not to continue and we nominate Cynthia Zurschmeide to take his place. It must be noted that while our constitution calls for four trustees, we have functioned well with two this year. Our congregation is much smaller now than it was when the constitution was written, so it makes sense to have a smaller board. That said, those two vacancies are technically open, should anyone want to place a nomination. Nominations may be made from the floor, but only with previous consent of the nominee.

We have also nominated three people to replace outgoing members of the nominating committee: Lencha Acker, Danny Rebb and Margaret Wilkie. If you have questions, please talk with a member of the nominating committee.

Edie McKnight, Elayne Sikelyanos, Toni Tront and Cynthia Zurschmiede

Church Announcements

Vespers Wednesday

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

Book Discussion – May 2nd

The next Book Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, May 2, at 7:00 pm., following the Vespers Service. Stories by Jerrold Foke will be discussed. Mary Lou Malone will have copies of the stories available on Sunday, April 29. You may also want to read *Afternoon of an Author*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald. That story is available online.

Clean-up Day – May 5th

On Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 – 1:00, members of the Cass Community Commons will participate in a clean-up day. Tasks will include indoor and, weather permitting, outdoor activities. Come share in the dusting, washing, trimming, whacking, repairing, replacing, aching, swearing and laughing. This will give a chance to apply some TLC to our home as well as mingle with our co-inhabitants. Bring your own work gloves and any special supplies for those areas you keep meaning to get to but haven't and they've been really bugging you to get done. Contact Dan Wiest for more details.

Annual Meeting – May 6th

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012 right after church. We will be voting on the election of officers for the coming fiscal year, our budget and a proposal to lease and eventually sell the Prentis Lot to EMEAC. More information will be available soon, but to vote, you have to have been a member in good standing for 60 days prior to the vote (which means you have signed the membership book and made a pledge of record in the last year.)

Historical Museum Visit - May 6th (after the Annual Meeting)

Our last chance to see the Detroit Historical Museum before it closes for "the big renovation" (May 24 to mid-Nov.) plus its annual Grow Detroit program. Ages 5-17 and 60-100 is \$4; others \$6.

Women Walking Woodward for Peace - May 13th

Sunday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Women Walking Woodward for Peace on Mother's Day. One could start with their brief program at Grand Circus Park and walk to our church or all the way to Geary Park in Ferndale. Contact UU Anita Jones (Ruby) at racedancer@hotmail.com or A/C Sherry (248) 543-5297 or esperantosherry@tm.net

Amnesty International - May 15th

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Dan Wiest displayed its important work; it meets at our Church.

2012-2013 Canvass

The 2012-2013 Canvass begins Easter Sunday and should be concluded by the end of April so the Board can prepare a budget to present to the congregation at the May 6th Annual Meeting. This is also the time to become a member or renew your membership. See Marilyn in coffee hour.

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!

Doing your Spring Cleaning for donating on May 20? See poster in social hall.

A. World Medical Relief's Wish List

- personal hygiene products (samples)
- soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo
- new / gently used bath towels, washcloths
- new / gently used sheets (twin size)
- bubble wrap mailing envelopes
- garden tools
- vacuum cleaner
- Craftsman tools
- Gaylord boxes (cartons- 4'x 4'x 4')
- paint; powerwash
- picnic table
- digital camera
- security cameras
- computers and printers

Unopened medications—6+ months before expiration

Medical supplies: dressings, IV kits, tubing, tape-rolled bandages, syringes, bed pans, urinals, liquids – any IV solutions as long as unexpired colostomy/ostomy supplies, adult diapers, blue pads (full packages or cases only), liquid nutrition (Ensure, Boost, Jevity, etc.) – unexpired, hospital beds, manual wheelchairs, shower chairs, walkers, canes, crutches, commodes

*May 21—Monday--10 AM to Noon
Drop off items and tour of the place
11745 Rosa Parks Blvd.*

B. Motor City Free Geek

Ink jet and toner cartridges, new or used
Cell phones, PDAs, laptops, CPU towers, desk tops
(To be refurbished and passed on to local nonprofits.)

Motor City Pride Fest

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.

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

Displays on Sunday, April 15, merely touched on your possibilities. Those who initially signed up for Movement Choir will be contacted by Kimberly, and so on for other sign-ups. Rhonda Rogers, Jerrold Fokes and Sherry A Wells went to the Friday evening session of the Jesus Seminar, Parables of Jesus and agreed I should look into bringing it to Detroit.



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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48201

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

WE GET MAIL

Greetings from Arizona,

I'm coming back to Michigan later than usual because we have had much family activity, around the happenings' of the marriage of my granddaughter Kristen Elizabeth Colling to Kamil Salloum, a recent PhD grad and now a research scientist for "INTEL" in Portland, Oregon.

The groom rented a house in Scottsdale for the month to accommodate family guests from four different countries. We, here in Arizona, hosted guests from four USA states. I was happy to have brother, Vic, and his daughter at my home.

I enjoyed meeting the women of the groom's family and many of Kristen's young friends at the bridal shower. I told them a story about my gift, which was one of my 1943 wedding presents from my husband's side of the family, passed on to us. It was a warranted 22K gilded dessert set with hand painted 18th century scenes. As Kristen finished opening her shower gifts, the groom's mother presented her with one more, a beautiful diamond necklace and earrings, which caused shouts of joy from the bride-to-be and the guests.

Family and friends witnessed vows at a very solemn church ceremony attended by the bride's only sister, Jillian, and the groom's only brother, David. The country club reception, dinner and dance were anything but sedate. My 92 year "dancing feet" were ready to answer when the band played music from my "Swing Era." I danced with my son Norm, Vic's grandson and one dance with Christopher, a handsome fellow in love with our Jillian. Christopher is a third year medical school student and Jillian, a first year student in nurses training classes.

I'm looking forward to coming to church for the many exciting things I read about in the newsletter.

See you in church!

Faye Colling