

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

Email: [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org)

# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

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

October Edition

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

### October 7

Rev. Roger Mohr  
*"A Post-Religious Faith."*

It is widely noted that the fastest growing faith, globally and in the US, is no religious identity at all. The percentage of people claiming "no religion" as their religious identity is approaching 20% and growing quickly. However, that does not mean a lack of "spiritual" feelings or needs. It means a rejection of traditional orthodoxies and models. While that is bad news for most religions, it is consistent with Unitarian Universalism. How can we minister to those in this growing and hungry group?

### October 14

Rev. Roger Mohr  
*"A Life Worth Loving."*

The autumn is a beautiful and exciting time of the year. As the temperatures drop, we are more thoughtful as we spend more time in the comforts of hearth and home. But there is so much beauty to experience outdoors - we need to get out and breathe that crisp, cool air, the changing light, and thrill with the autumn colors. Life is good. How can we make it even better?

### October 21

Rev. Roger Mohr  
*"The New Detroit."*

Detroit is obviously changing, changing fast, and changing for the better. It is an exciting time to be living in the D! However, progress does have its price, and there are people suffering for these improvements. "Ubuntu" means that this is our success. But Ubuntu also means that this is our suffering. How can we build our sense of community as Detroit experiences such a welcome and necessary renaissance?

### November 4

Rev. Roger Mohr  
*"Enlightened Government."*

With the elections upon us, it is time to reflect on the relationship between politics and our UU tradition and values. We are an activist tradition, but that does not mean a clear allegiance to one party or another. Historically, we have been on both sides of most issues. But we do have a set of values to use as the basis for assessing our government. Ubuntu recognizes that we are shaped by our government and politics. What would an enlightened government look like?

## 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*

#### Coffee Hour Attendant

*Lord Harris*

**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.

*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

Our church here seems to be getting off to a good start this fall with many activities and visitors coming through our doors. Let's continue to welcome them all.

But I also want to look at the past briefly to say a big thank you to our Settled Ministerial Search Committee which worked all of last year to begin the process to find 1<sup>st</sup> UU Church a settled minister. They did a congregational survey about what we want in our minister and had many contacts with the UUA and other ministers in working toward their goals. Because Rev. Roger Mohr will continue to be our Interim Minister for this year with a plan for him to become our Developmental Minister, we no longer need a Settled Search Committee. But hopefully some of their work will be used in ways to help our congregation to grow and thrive.

The Search Committee members whom I and the Board want to personally thank are Mary Lou Malone - Chair, Dan Secrest, Sharon Mills, Colleen Dolan-Greene, Stephanie Chang and Katherine Maurer. Thank you for your hard work on our behalf!

In addition, the Board of Trustees has added a new member, Danny Rebb, to the Board; so we will have additional hands to do our work. If you remember, when we had our Congregational Meeting in May, 2012, we did not fill two Board positions on purpose. At that time, no one was interested in serving. Danny has been on the Board in the past and will now serve as the liaison between the Board and the Worship Committee. Many of our Board members will not be on the Board after June, 2013, so it seemed prudent to add a member now rather than wait for May so there is some continuity for the future.

Please let me know what you like and what you gives you pause about this church. We want to do the best job we can and if you have ideas or want to take on a particular task, feel free to talk with me, any other Board member or Rev. Mohr.

And the Board wants to commend Sherry Wells on her hard work as Activities Coordinator to bring more activities to our church in an organized fashion. Her work is a big success, while we continue to fine tune how we arrange and coordinate church activities.

Most importantly, it's time to have some fun. On Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 8 pm we will put on an audience participation mystery play that everyone who attends can be a part of. You won't have any lines and you can be as involved or laid back as you wish, but the play will be a 1960's Senate Hearing on health care that will involve a mysterious event . For only \$10, you can get a ticket and a part of the fun.

Sally Borden  
President

## The Rev's Room

Things are off to a wonderful start this year! As I write this article, it is only the middle of September, and it will be three long weeks before I am back in the pulpit. That seems like a long time, to me – and that is a WONDERFUL feeling. I can't wait to be back with you, to feel the energy, excitement, and optimism we are generating.

And I am not the only one who notices. Our energy is palpably better, and our visitors are feeling the joy, and coming back – we have something that makes a difference in people's lives. Our services are coming together nicely, the music is fabulous, and I am pleased with the way my ministry at FUUD has influenced my theology and style in the pulpit. And just look at our calendar! It is full of events and activities, with more happening all the time, before and after services, and even during the week. For instance, please note the potluck after services on the second Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Check out the Sunday evening meditation on October 21. How about the new "Joyful Noise" Vespers service on the 17<sup>th</sup>? And that's just to name a few – read through the calendar, I bet there is something you are interested in attending.

Remember, our goals for this year are to increase our efforts on all fronts, to bring this church back to life. We are doing very well. But we need to make continuous improvement part of our church culture – doing well means that we can do even better in the future! Here are our most important goals for the year:

- First, improve communication: The Communication Committee has successfully consolidated our emailing lists so that we have one database for disseminating information, rather than three or four – no body should be out of the loop (let us know if you still feel left out). We are still working on getting our social media efforts on track, but that is on the agenda.
- Second, we wanted to increase attendance and membership: We are seeing a solid increase in attendance at services, with our average nearly twenty percent higher than last year, thus far; and we are on track to surpass our goal of 85 members by February first (please try to be present to welcome new members the second Sundays of the month).
- Third, we wanted to increase programming: See the calendar - that is definitely happening, thanks to our programming coordinator and crew.
- And fourth, we wanted to get our finances in order, with \$5000 in additional pledge income for next year. While this is still in the works, finances are in good shape, but with plenty of room for improvement – again, we are on track.

But most importantly, we seem to be feeling good about our church and about one another. Let's continue the good work, and make this a GREAT year in the life of FUUD – the year we turned it around together. We can do it. Indeed, we are already doing it. Let's keep it up!

Namaste! Rev. Mohr

## **Membership Committee, Social Justice Team and Canvass**

I want to thank volunteers Dale Compton, Joan Smykowski and Tim Bailey for volunteering time and ingenuity to the “nametag” project. Dale provided the equipment to hold the name-tags, Tim designed and is building the rack and Joan is producing the nametags. Soon we will all be uniform, at least in this area of our church life.

The first session of New UU orientation was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> , and an impressive number of prospective members and existing members attended and participated. These sessions will continue at 12:30 on the first Sunday of each subsequent month, with New Member Sunday and potluck to follow on the second Sunday of the month. Our first New Member Sunday will be October 14 when new members Dale Compton, Roger Ziegler and Nancy Owen-Nelson will be formally welcomed into the church. Who knows? There may be others. The membership book is always available.

The UU Social Justice Team has attracted a significant number of participants for the Voter Registration Project. Thanks to Sharon Mills for coordinating preparation and planning with Johnny of MOSES. The first canvasser teams are fanning out into the immediate church neighborhood (Woodward to the Lodge, Forest to Martin Luther King) the weekends of September 22-23 and 29-30. Contact Sharon if you want to join a team and/or work the phone bank. There was a tremendous response to the survey prepared by Mary Lou Malone and Sharon Mills, and fifteen people expressed an interest in joining the Social Justice Team. Sessions will begin in October after voter registration is completed.

Danny Rebb is our liaison with MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network), and he has volunteered to act as liaison with UUSC (Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee). He plans to recruit a co-liaison to work with him on UUSC initiatives.

The Canvass has concluded, but pledge income provides the cash flow for the church. Be sure to contribute on a regular basis as you are able.

## From Your Activities Coordinator and Crew

We are being complimented profusely for what we've pulled together thus far but remember that *all* of us are to propose activities for my crew and I to coordinate. We know UUs and friends have many ideas (and talents—August's Talent Show proved that) so please let us work with *you*!

John Angry has been handing me flyers about WSU and Midtown happenings and Maysel Brooks has a list of potential speakers with fascinating topics. Our social justice leaders compiled our survey and are presenting projects.

We acknowledge and appreciate those from our congregation who worked for us at the Dally in the Alley annual event in September. Dan Wiest was our Fearless Leader. Mostly at the parking lot, helping earn us over \$700 for the day, were Gwen Foss, Sean McAde and Sherry A Wells, while mostly at the booth, spreading the good words about 1<sup>st</sup> UU Church of Detroit, EMEAC, the Sugar Law Firm and registering voters were Dan Wiest, Robert Johnson, Mark Schwing, Donna Walker, Marilyn Mitchell, Dale Compton, Art Gabhart, and Tim Bailey.

Our Sundays are now forming a pattern, but with flexibility:

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Before Church</u></b>	<b><u>After Church</u></b> (12:30 / 1:00)
1st	Choir Practice	Intro. to UU
2nd	Choir Practice	Potluck
3rd	Choir Practice	Learning to Love
4th	Movement Choir	(To be determined)
5th	Set-up for Funday	Funday Activity

Some times we have and will have more than one activity before or after the church service that does not present a conflict with the other one; sometimes, choices may have to be made. Individuals and groups are bringing forward those activities so stay tuned.

We are working on ways to inform non-emailers and those who cannot regularly attend Sunday mornings of scheduled activities; ideas welcome.

Sherry A. Wells, Activities Coordinator  
[esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net); (248) 543-5297

## Church Announcements and Events

### **Vespers: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (New Time!)**

Wednesday evening Vespers return on October 3. The schedule this year is from 6:00 - 7:00 on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays each month.

### **Vespers, October 3, 2012, Brush Up Your Shakespeare**

The church doors open at 6:00 pm for Shakespeare's words and music in the sanctuary. At 7:00 pm the party begins. Bring a Shakespeare-related snack to share and play the Shakespeare game.

### **Intro to FUUD**

FIRST Sundays at 12:30. Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The New UU class is about offering introductory information about what the church is all about, and it is an important step toward becoming a member. There are two objectives: one is to share information on the UU tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of the Detroit church. Please do attend: We are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us!

### **Noel Night Organizational Meeting**

Noel Night is happening on Saturday, December 1st. Do you know what 1st UU is doing? Neither do we. Join us for an organizational meeting on Sunday, October 7th at 12:30. See Dan Wiest for details.

### **Vespers, October 10th**

Experience Al Acker's unique blends of selected music and words. (Board meeting follows)

## Church Announcements and Events

### **New! SECOND Sunday Potluck**

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church – share your food with FUUD! As we begin to add new members, it is a good time to share fellowship and nourishment with the people who nourish us, in return. Remember that everything must come and go the day of the event – we have no refrigerator space to keep things beyond the immediate need. If you have dietary concerns (peanut allergies, and such), please do let us know, so that food can be labeled.

### **Vespers, October 17th, Make a Joyful Noise!**

October 17: “Make a Joyful Noise!” The Worship Committee has been thinking of ways to make Wednesday evenings more interesting and attractive, and we are experimenting with new formats and styles. Rev. Mohr, Todd Ballou, and Gwen Foss are going to experiment with a more celebratory, musical approach to our Vespers service. We are calling our band *VESPRESSO!* This is a higher energy, more upbeat service, with more contemporary music; more emotional range; and a briefer, less “didactic” message. This service is designed to lift your spirits as you head into your weekend. Come on, get happy! (Meets in the sanctuary)

### **Mystery Play: Kidnap the Truth**

Sat. Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m., Mystery Play: Kidnap the Truth—A U.S. Senate hearing in the 1960s (echoing now?). Audience members may participate as much as each desires. Tickets \$10 and 1960s-era snack and beverages available for purchase.

### **Learning to Love**

THIRD Sundays of the month at 12:30. The Learning to Love. 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!

### **NEW! Sunday Evening Meditation**

October 21, 6:00 p.m. This is another experimental service, intended to be more quiet and centering as we return from our weekends and prepare for the week ahead. This service will be held in the sanctuary, with soft lights, meditation, acoustic music, and conversation about a chosen topic. This month, we will talk together about finding inner wisdom – how can we learn to hear the voice within us that speaks truth to the power of our will?

## Church Announcements and Events

### **Entertainment Books for Sale!**

Margaret Beck is selling Entertainment Books for \$30 each with the church earning \$6 for each book sold. Entertainment books are filled with many coupons to save you money. We also get 2 free books worth \$60 after she sells 15 books. Please call Margaret Beck [313 882 7775](tel:3138827775) or email [margretbeck@comcast.net](mailto:margretbeck@comcast.net) if you are interested in purchasing one. They also make excellent gifts. Thank you for helping our church!

### **Chancel Flower Donations**

Our custom for providing flowers for each Sunday service is to have members and friends donate them in honor or memory of a person or event. The signup sheet for donating flowers is now in the back of the church (some call it the narthex). 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. Lencha Acker purchases the flowers each Saturday at the Eastern Market and delivers them to church on Sunday. The donor then takes the flowers home to enjoy and returns the vase later. If you have questions, see Lencha Acker after the service or call her at 313-393-8544. **The following dates are still available:** Oct 28, Nov 11, Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 16 and Dec 30. Thank You!

### **Connect with Reverend Mohr**

Reverend Mohr is getting more active on social media sites, so please look him up! He will be posting most days, so if you are looking for a bit of daily inspiration, this is a place for you to connect.

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/revrogermohr>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/RevRogerMohr>

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

Also look for the FUUD sites at:

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/groups/firstuudetroit/>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/First-UU-Detroit/>



## Church Announcements and Events

### **Message Topics**

Remember, Rev. Mohr is always open to new ideas for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an idea for a sermon, please do feel free to share it.

### **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](mailto:reverendmohr@gmail.com) .

### **Important Reminder!**

With the campaign season heating up, it is important to remember that whatever our political beliefs and preferences, the church cannot promote or take sides on behalf of a particular candidate or party. That means we cannot have individuals representing particular candidates campaigning in the buildings as guests of First Church.

*If you have any questions as to what is appropriate, please contact Rev. Mohr or President Sally Borden.*

## November 6 General Election

### VOTE411.org

#### Election information you need

Before you vote, go to **VOTE411.org** for election information you need:

- What's on the ballot
- Who are the candidates
- Their views on issues.
- Non-partisan

Review this webpage for candidates and proposals appearing on the November election ballot. **Build your ballot with the online voters' guide.** Type in your address to see the races on your ballot. Candidates' positions can be compared side-by-side, and you may print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

This webpage maintained by the League of Women Voters of Michigan, a non-partisan organization.

*If you have any questions please contact Toni Tront [ttront@mindspring.com](mailto:ttront@mindspring.com),  
313.274.2171, member Social Justice Committee of 1stUU.*

# OCTOBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday to Nora Holt on October 7th!	1	2 Happy Birthday Earl Harvey!	3 6pm - Vespers, "Brush Up Your Shakespeare"	4 Happy Birthday Donna Walker!	5	6 Happy Birthday Robert Lauer!
7 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "A Post-Religious Faith." 12:30pm - Intro to FUUD 12:30pm - Noel Night Org Meeting 12:30pm - Lunch/Polish Art Center	8	9	10 6pm - Vespers, Al Acker, followed by Board meeting	11	12	13
14 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "A Life Worth Loving." 12:30pm - Potluck	15	16	17 6pm - Vespers, "Make a Joyful Noise!" followed by Worship meeting	18 Happy Birthday Judith Waterman!	19	20 8pm - Mystery Play, "Kidnap the Truth"
21 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "The New Detroit." 12:30pm - Learning to Love 3:00pm - WSU Music Recital, free 7:00pm - Sunday Evening Meditation	22	23	24	25	26 Happy Birthday Yvonne Ham!	27
28 10am - Movement Choir 11am - Sermon 3:00pm - WSU Tuba Recital, free	29 Happy Birthday Ruth Harvey!	30	31			



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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us a call at (313) 833-9107.

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## First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Classified Ads

We are starting a new section for classified ads. There is no charge for members and donors and only \$5.00 for everyone else! To submit an ad, please see Tamara in the church office, leave a message on the church voice mail (313-833-9107) or send an email to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org).

### **Looking for an inexpensive reliable vehicle**

Lord Harris, our Coffee Hour Attendant, is looking for an inexpensive, yet reliable mode of transportation. If you have something you are willing to sell, please see him during coffee hour.