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# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
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February Edition

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

**February 3**

Rev. Fran Dew

***“The Life and Works of James Baldwin”***

Since I consider prophecy as well as revelation to be open and ongoing I've chosen my open quartet of Twentieth Century prophets: moral and ethical innovators who bring messages society does not want to hear; those who diagnose our societal ills and are ignored or defamed for serving as our collective conscience. This morning I'll share why James Baldwin is on my list.

**February 10**

Jeanie O'Connor

***“What Would Jesus Do? Exploring Catholic Social Teaching.”***

Doctor of Ministry **Jeanie O'Connor** titled her doctoral dissertation: “The Transformative Effects of Street Retreats.” She will share her life of faith in action in her talk.



**February 17**

Rev. Roger Mohr

***“Earth Faith.”***

What is the role of our religion in a non-religious world?

**February 24**

Rev. Roger Mohr

***“Called To Be Human Beings.”***

Perhaps to be human means to be called to create a life of meaning through creating meaning.

**March 3**

Rev. Roger Mohr

***“Urban Eco-village.”***

The eco-village movement is a way of forming eco-logically and socially sustainable communities. Is it time for a Detroit experiment?

## 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](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**

One of Rev. Mohr's recent sermons talked about the constancy of change. So even though this church has a long history in Detroit, we need to continually change to survive and grow. That means we need to constantly reevaluate ourselves, see how we are doing and what we can change to do better. Some of you have been telling me and others that positive things are happening at the church and that there are good feelings here. I think this reflects all the hard work of many who've gone before us and those of us who are working hard and having some fun hopefully, to make this church the best it can be.

But if we step back in time for moment, we are reminded that Unitarians and Universalists started coming to Detroit to found churches in the 1840s and 1850s. So we do have a significant historical stake in this city and in it's survival and resurgence. We have some records going back to at least the 1880s here in the "Archives" of our church which is currently housed in the Bride's Room at the back of the sanctuary. I use the term "Archives" loosely because we have not had anyone in many years to properly organize and store our historical materials. In fact these materials stored in metal file cabinets and paper boxes have been moved several times in the last two years and have never been stored in appropriate temperatures and locations that would ensure the long-term survival of them.

We at the Board have been aware of this failing on our part and it was recently brought to our attention by others in the church that having our Archives properly stored in a local library would be one way to preserve and properly care for these materials. After review of several possibilities, the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan was contacted and one of their archivists came and

**The President's Corner** (continued)

looked at our collection at our request. Materials about other churches and institutions that have stored their archivists at the U. of M. library were shared with us, along with information about how archival material is stored and accessed. Along with many Detroit churches with histories of social activism, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor, has also donated their historical materials to the Bentley Library.

Materials are stored in acid free paper in temperature controlled rooms and are not destroyed. Eventually many of these materials will also be digitized, but as of last year, 3000 people use the library for historical research free of charge. There is no cost to the church to donate our archival material to the library and we will have access to use materials that are needed in future celebrations, such as our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sanctuary which will occur in 2016.

The board currently feels that this is the best approach to properly care for materials that have been saved over the years by many devoted people, but we are open to other suggestions and ideas.

So let members of the board know how you feel about this proposed action. We need to continue to respect our past while we move forward in love as a religious community.

Sally Borden, President

## **The Rev's Room**

As I write this article, I am beginning to pack for a long trip. I will be attending the UU Ministers' Association "Institute for Excellence in Ministry" training, "Power with Love." This course is about how to leverage our authority as ministers to advance our UU goals in our communities. As many of you know, this is a topic that is very important to me: I see my role as your minister in Detroit to be very much about expressing our leadership and agenda in the larger community. I hope I will find inspiration and guidance to think more deeply about our ministry in Detroit, and to think about my personal ministry more inter-culturally and globally.

From there I will travel to New York to continue work on my doctoral classes. The first week I will be studying the needs of the post-modern family: What are the challenges and opportunities our families face in a much less structured and bounded world? Without the comforts and constraints of tradition, how do we make meaning of our place in the community, the planet, and the cosmos as a whole? The second week I will be studying "Change Management" in the context of the congregation. How can we effectively promote and sustain meaningful and positive change, as well as respond to necessary or imposed changes?

On the way, I will visit Florida, visiting the 49<sup>th</sup> of the 50 states, leaving only Alaska on my personal list yet to be experienced. I will also spend a day or two in both Washington DC and New York City, neither of which I have visited before. I love to travel and explore new cities, so I am very excited to add so many new destinations to my life. And I am traveling alone, which means I also get the thrill of being a solo adventurer – the pleasure of self-reliance and solitude are important to me. This is a soul stirring and mind expanding agenda, and I am

**The Rev's Room** (continued)

sure I will come back stronger and wiser for it.

I believe this trip will return me to you with a much improved and inspired vision of ministry, both as your minister in Detroit, and in terms of my personal vision and spiritual life. One of the benefits of being a minister is the obligation to constantly review and challenge one's self to improvement in every sphere of our lives. I hope to bring you many blessings from my travels, despite my temporary absence from the church. Know that I am only an email away, and with you in spirit. Keep up your good work!

Namaste! Rev. Mohr

PS: Please remember that I will be traveling for training and study from January 25<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in the pulpit on February 17<sup>th</sup>. President Sally will have a clergy contact in case of emergency. I will miss you all!

## Membership Committee

The Unitarian Universalist Association (“UUA”) requires each congregation to report the number of its members as of February 1<sup>st</sup> each year. This number establishes the number of delegates each congregation is allowed at General Assembly, as well as the amount of dues each congregation owes to the UUA and to its individual district.

As chair of the membership committee, I have completed a census for First Unitarian-Universalist Church in Detroit, Michigan, and am pleased to report that at present, First Church has 72 members in good standing plus a number of pledging “friends”. “Good standing” under the By-Laws is conferred on a member who has made a financial contribution of record in the current or prior fiscal year. The prior fiscal year stretched from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The current fiscal year commenced July 1, 2012 and will end on June 30, 2013.

Between April 1, 2012 and January 13, 2013, eight people have become new members. This represents a very high percentage of our membership as of the last Annual Meeting.

In order to be entitled to vote in the Annual Meeting, to be elected to the Board of Trustees, serve as an officer, vote as a member of established committees and represent First Church at General Assembly or a District conference, a member must have signed the book, made a pledge of support and made a contribution of record within 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The date of the Annual Meeting has not yet been set, but it will occur on a Sunday in May.

Accordingly, if you have been considering joining the Church, please do so before the Ides of March (mid-March). Member orientation is available after social hour on the first Sunday of each month, and new members are welcomed into the Church on the second Sunday of each month. Due to Rev. Mohr’s travel schedule, if you want to join in February, you may wish to wait until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, when he is back in the pulpit. Let me know your preference. We will keep the potluck on the second Sunday.

Look for a revised member-friend directory to be published in the coming weeks. Let Tamara know if you have a new address, phone number or email by contacting her at [info@1stuu.org](mailto:info@1stuu.org).

Marilyn Mitchell  
Membership Chair

## Activities Coordinator

Sunday afternoons have so many excellent Midtown options for enjoying together. Each time, we've had a different grouping of us. Getting to know each other better on the walk is as much a benefit.

And Rev. Mohr strongly believes that the development in Midtown will increase our membership, too, so, don't be bashful about mentioning that the "gang" of us are from 1st U.U. (We've already taken advantage of opportunities to do so.)

The Detroit Institute of Arts is free to those who live in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb counties, except for special exhibitions. [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

It's Detroit Film Theatre is \$6 with the 5-punch card. Most films start at 2 p.m. Between Feb. 24 and April 21, there are 5 films which deal with spiritual and/or social justice issues to spark further conversation. [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

The Detroit Historical Museum is now free, too, and has been revamped. It may take 2 afternoons to see it all. And the same with:

The Charles Wright Museum of African-American History, which has free Second Sundays. Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. will be Without Consent: The Story of Henrietta Lacks, whose cells created much medical research. Free with RSVP.

Cass City Cinema is only \$5 for films which receive great reviews by our congregants.

It appears that there's only one more WSU Faculty Recital on a Sunday this semester--Feb. 17.

Detroit Soup (I almost made it in Jan.) is usually the 3rd Thursday on Grand Blvd. near Russell. For \$5 you get dinner and the chance to vote of one of 3 or 4 businesses looking to improve Detroit. It was on NBC News and in the Huffington Post!

Plus keep checking the Order of Service insert for details and more activities.

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. is Singing Circle; 2nd Wed. is Al Acker's very fine Vespers.

Let's go together !

Sherry A Wells

[esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net)

248-543-5297

## Church Announcements and Events

### **1st UU Board Meetings**

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

February 13	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
March 13	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
April 10	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm

All are welcome at board meetings. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact Kathe Stevens, Board Secretary at [kathestevens@gmail.com](mailto:kathestevens@gmail.com)

### **Vespers Wednesday**

Wednesday evening Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the **2nd** Wednesday each month. Our February Vespers with Al Acker will feature the poetry of Richard Blanco, the poet who wrote and delivered the poem at this past Inauguration of Barack Obama, with specially selected (by Al) music. In the Parlor.

### **Singing Circle**

Wednesday **7:00 pm** - Singing Circle at the church. Open to all. Contact Gwen Foss [gwenfoss@netrek.net](mailto:gwenfoss@netrek.net) for more details.

### **Monthly Young Adults Meeting**

Join young adults from the congregation and beyond to discuss the development of this new social and community group within First UU. They meet on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 in Memorial Hall.

## **Church Announcements and Events**

### **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.

### **Andee Seeger**

You've probably noticed, but Andee Seeger hasn't been in attendance as often on Sunday mornings lately. Although she's not always up to attending church, she is always up for a phone call and some TLC, She'd love to hear from everyone (313)882-1113.

### **Sunday Worship Service**

The Worship Committee generally plans for Sunday worship service to run for about 1 hour. However, the Worship Committee does allow our speakers to take a few more minutes if needed to finish their point. So as a general guideline, please plan for Sunday worship services to end between 12:00 and 12:15pm.

### **Acknowledgements**

If you have a milestone or visitor to introduce, please write the message and put it in the \*visitor-milestone box \*in the narthex (foyer at back of church) or give it to any usher to deliver for you.

## Church Announcements and Events

### **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) .

### **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 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. Thank You!

### **Social Justice Anti-racism Kickoff**

Thurs., 7 p.m., Our Social Justice anti-racism kickoff. PBS’ Independent Lens: “More Than a Month,” filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman’s quest to end Black History Month--a humorous and provocative look at race in “post-racial” America. 60 min. film plus Q & A. The Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River in downtown Detroit’s Paradise Valley/Harmonie Park. \$10 includes a copy of the just-released DVD. Let’s carpool !

## 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.

### **Coats For Detroit's Children: Operation Warm**

Since coming to Detroit, I have been increasingly involved with the Detroit Rotary Club. Colleen and Trey asked me to join when I arrived, and I was honored to be asked to join. Since then, I have been very pleased to join other Rotarians in projects that range from the global efforts to end polio and to provide fresh drinking water around the world. More locally, Rotary is involved with efforts to increase Literacy, promote non-violent conflict resolution, identify and support young leaders in high schools and colleges, and more. I am privileged to be part of their good work.

Operation Warm is a Detroit Rotary project intended to help to provide disadvantaged children with new winter coats, and was featured in Rochelle Riley's column in the Free Press. The need is enormous. According to the agencies we have agreed to support, there is a need for at least 18,000 coats - 18,000 children will be without protection from the Michigan winter. In order to provide for our community's children we need your help. Twenty dollars will buy one coat. Will you help keep a child warm this winter? I am grateful for your compassion and generosity. Thank you! Rev. Mohr

To Donate to Operation Warm:

<https://donate.operationwarm.org/page/contribute/snuggle-rotary-in-detroit>

## **National Events**

### **2013 Heartland District Assembly**

April 12-13, 2013

Horizon Convention Center

Muncie, IN

*"Claiming the Future in Two Parts"*

This year's District Assembly will have two main components: conversations and decisions on the future of Heartland District, and conversations and reflection on the changing world of religion.

[http://www.heartlanduu.org/District\\_Assembly\\_Pages/assembly\\_home.html](http://www.heartlanduu.org/District_Assembly_Pages/assembly_home.html)

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## **Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**

### **General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations**

June 19 - 23, 2012

Louisville, KY

[www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

# FEBRUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Happy Birthday Lee Gaddies!
3 9:00am - Choir Practice 11:00am - "The Life and Works of James Baldwin	4	5	6 7:00pm - Singing Circle (in Parlor)	7 7:00 pm - Social justice racism project kickoff <b>Happy Birthday Kathleen Jacobs Johnson!</b>	8	9
10 9:00am - Choir Practice 11am - "What Would Jesus Do? Exploring Catholic Social Teaching" 12:30pm - Potluck	11	12	13 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Singing Circle 7:00pm - Board Meeting	14	15	16
17 11:00am - "Earth Faith." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting 3:00pm - WSU Faculty Chamber Recital, Bach, SW corner of Old Main. Free	18 <b>Happy Birthday Al Acker!</b>	19	20 7:00pm - Singing Circle	21	22	23
24 11:00am - "Urban Eco- village" <b>Happy 43rd Wedding Anniversary Marilyn and Jerry Mitchell!</b>	25	26	27 7:00pm - Singing Circle	28		



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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## First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Classified Ads

### Dear UU Friends,

Needing to raise income for my extravagant lifestyle; I turn to you for assistance. I offer two possible ways we may benefit each other. First, many know I make original hand beaded jewelry. I offer the chance to host a jewelry get together. I benefit from sales; you benefit from hostess gift. Jewelry repair is also available. Secondly, I have been a rep for a distinguished natural food supplement company for over 30 years. I know how such products are different from each other and I can help you understand this also. This company has a 50 year history of making environmentally friendly household products and naturally sourced food supplements.

I hope you will feel free to talk to me about any of this.

Sincerely and thankfully,  
Yvanne  
248-703-3971 or [yvanne1@comcast.net](mailto:yvanne1@comcast.net)

### Used books from honest book dealers.

TomFolio.com (Thanks from Gwen Foss!)

*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).*