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# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

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

July Edition

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

July 7

Rev. Roger Mohr

### “Negotiating With the Cosmos.”

In a sense, all of life is a process  
of coming to terms with it.

July 14

Rev. Roger Mohr

### “Growing Together.”

Following up on our First Church  
leadership retreat, what are the  
priorities for our church this year?

July 21

Lacey Kohlmoos from the  
Citizens Trade Campaign  
More details at a later date!



July 28

Rev. Roger Mohr

### “Beyond the Politics of Identity.”

Political action has been defined  
by demographic categories, but  
those classifications are less use-  
ful than in the past.

## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2013-2014

### Officers

**President**  
*Marsha Bruhn*

**Vice President**  
*Danny Rebb*

**Immediate  
Past President**  
*Sally Borden*

**Board Secretary**  
*Kathe Stevens*

**Treasurer**  
*Dan Wiest*

**Board Members At-  
Large**  
*Matt Friedrichs*  
*Joan Smykowski*  
*Cynthia ZurSchmiede*  
*Sean McAde*

### 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 President's Corner

I wanted to give you an update on some things that have been happening since our congregational meeting in May.

At our last board meeting the board formed a finance committee to work with our treasurer Dan Wiest and we also formed a development committee to work on raising funds and improving our financial outlook. We will announce all the members of these two committees in the near future, but work has already begun on developing some fund-raising activities.

In addition, our beloved longtime member Eiko Takemoto was moved by her family to an assisted living facility near Kalamazoo Michigan. Eiko had agreed to the move recognizing that it was not good for her to continue to live by herself in her longtime Detroit home near Woodward and 6 mile.

The Takemoto family has generously donated her home to the church. Since many of her family no longer lives in Detroit, they felt it was easier for them to donate the home to the church with the church making decisions about what to do with the property. After much discussion, the board decided to sell the home while having someone live in the home to keep it secure. Sean McCade has generously been living in the house to keep it occupied. Marilyn Mitchell is managing the property while Marsha Bruhn contacted realtors to put the house on the market. Marsha and I met with a representative from ReMax Realty on Friday, 6/21/2013 and I signed the necessary papers to list the house for sale. Marilyn and Sean are the contact people to help show the house and hopefully we will be able to sell it soon, but continuing to keep someone staying in the house until it's sold.

While these activities will likely help increase the church's bottom line, it is important that everyone pay their pledge by June 30 when our fiscal year ends. If you have not yet made your pledge for the coming year please contact Marilyn Mitchell or myself to do so.

So we have much to look forward to as we continue to grow in membership. This is the last column I will be writing as your president. I hope I have helped keep you informed about the church. I feel it was an honor to serve as your president.

Sally Borden  
President

## The Rev's Room

This month, we begin the planning and organizing that will give shape and direction to the next year. Our board has been elected, incoming members oriented, and I am excited to see how the systemic dynamics function with the new personnel. Even as we will miss the members who move on to other responsibilities, we have lots of fresh energy and talent on the board and in the church, and I am looking forward to good things this year. We have several solid committees up and working, with more in the wings awaiting development, pending our goals for the year. I don't think I've ever seen a better start to a third year of ministry, in my experience. First Church is in a remarkably strong position as we begin the new church year!

I am beginning my third year of ministry with you, the first of my four year developmental ministry agreement. There are **five goals** that are part of our developmental ministry plan. First, continued steady **growth** and recruitment of new members. Second, developing a **stable ministry**. Third, continued **organizational restructuring** and improved communications. Fourth, **leadership development** with a focus on young adult leadership. And fifth, improved relations with **the UUA** as a whole. We are making considerable progress on all of these fronts, and this seems comfortably within our abilities, at present. As we move forward this year, these goals will be part of the planning process.

But really, these goals are just another way of saying, "Our goal is to build a healthy church." These are indicators of the underlying health of our congregation. The problem is not setting goals, or all churches would just set their goals and that would be that. The bigger issue is the ways we find to make those things happen. For instance, in my experience, short term membership growth is pretty easy, really. But healthy, sustainable growth is much more of a challenge. Right now we are seeing rapid growth, which means that we are doing something right. But the larger question is whether we can create the systems so that growth strengthens and builds the church, even as it nourishes the membership as a whole.

So here is the take away. Right now, we are experiencing very significant success. But that is now, and must be handled well to last. The major goal this year is to continue to build the organizational processes and systems to make that success sustainable.

Namaste! Rev. Mohr

## Activities Coordinator

Dan's the Man. All 4 of them !

As we honored two of them (for starters) recently during the service, I couldn't help but recall how much activity coordination Dan Wiest and Dan Secrest have done. Dan's worked on Noel Nite and decorating, coffee hour, Dally in the Alley booth, sound booth and taping the services, the Nain Rouge--which last epitomizes the way he works: he sees an opportunity and either handles it on his own, or invites others to join him, contributing time, talent and their own ideas as well.

Dan Secrest has the same attitude--he sees that a procedure would be helpful if typed up or modified for the Worship Committee or website or emailing each other and goes ahead and does it, inviting feedback.

Dan Rebb saw that we needed help getting squircled on Sunday AMs and stepped right in. I've seen him assisting in other areas, too, and I doubt he needed to be asked those times, either.

So when I met a first-time visiting couple from Ferndale and learned he was a Dan (Chicklas), I gushed about how much I like Dans because they see the need and step right in. Melissa said this Dan is like that, too. I've already seen him doing that--carpooling, greeting and more.

To paraphrase Will Rogers, I never met a Dan I didn't like.

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

## I Close My Eyes

I close my eyes, and my heart o'erleaps the depthless chasm of time and space, and I am home again and young again. I close my eyes and my heart sees again what my eyes once saw.

The sun laughs jeeringly from above as I bend wearily over the full cotton balls that look like four-fingered hands clutching soft yielding snow. Heat crowds in and covers me. The visible horizontal waves shimmer over the fields. In the distance, the white and brown and green of each straight row converge into one indistinguishable riot, that separates again as I move forward.

The makeshift straps on the heavy burlap bag are beginning to cut into my bare shoulder. As it grows heavy, I lean farther forward lest I get pulled off my feet. I feel a sharp pain as one bare foot comes to rest on a jagged rock that juts from the burning red-orange clay...but I must move on.

My fingers become organs of sight as I reach to snatch clean each plant in turn. Sweat pours down, salting my eyes and leaving an uneven trail behind me like an ice wagon on city streets. I breathe faster and faster. The bag hangs heavier...but I must go on.

I hear a sound and look up into the scorched air. A vulture, his wings tightly clasped against his black body, is hurtling forward against an indifferent backdrop of blue to be about his unholy task. I come back suddenly to earth as I heel the cold slither of a snake across my foot, but he is gone with a faint rustle...and I must move on.

I gasp with relief as I notice that I am standing on my shadow. I shade my eyes and look up to be certain that the sun is at its zenith, then turn, lift the bulging bag upon my back, and walk with labored steps between the rows.

I stretch exhausted beneath the nearest tree and slowly munch the hard unseasoned bread on which lingers a faint smell of ants. I close my eyes and dream with a quickened heart beat of the dollar I shall have earned when day is done.

*Written by church member and Head Usher, John L. Angry, while attending Northwestern High School in 1946 at age 16.*

## Church Announcements and Events

### **Ann Pawlik**

Ann Pawlik, First UU Office Administrator for many years, passed away Thursday, June 6, 2013, after a long illness. She is survived by her longtime partner, Wayne Kovacs. Private services will be held. Condolences may be sent to Wayne at: 7404 Park Ave., Allen Park, MI 48101

### **T.C. Latham**

Via the media, we learned that T.C. Latham, who had a history with First UU, passed away last September and his body had been left in the county morgue due to no funds for burial. Thanks to people who care, T.C. is now at the Perry Funeral Home on Trumbull and Warren.

Various groups are accepting donations to bury T.C. If you wish to do so, please see Kathe Stevens in coffee hour. Checks should be payable to First Unitarian Universalist Church with "**T.C. Latham**" on the memo line. To donate later, mail the check to First UU, Attn.: Kathe Stevens.

The cut-off date for donations is July 15. A memorial service is also being planned. Many thanks.

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

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

August 14	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
September 11	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**

Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the **2nd** Wednesday each month.

### **Singing Circle**

Wednesdays at **7:00 pm** - Singing Circle at the church. Open to all. Contact Gwen Foss book-doctorgwen@gmail.com for more details.

## Church Announcements and Events

### **FIRST Sundays: Intro to FUUD**

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!

### **SECOND Sunday: Welcoming New Members**

This is a normal service, but we also include a time to invite our new members to come forward, present themselves to the community, and sign the membership book. This is an important ceremony honoring those who have chosen to identify themselves with our values, our tradition, and our community. Make them feel welcome among us!

### **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.

### **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!

### **Amnesty International**

Amnesty International is a global movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights. Amnesty International meets at 1st UU on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. Contact Dan Wiest for more information.

## Church Announcements and Events

### **Join the Worship Committee!**

The Worship Committee is where much of the creative work of the church takes place. As such, it provides a fun and rewarding opportunity for church members to participate in the life of the church and contribute to our mission and vision. We are open to new members and look forward to working with those interested to match volunteer interests with committee roles and responsibilities. If you are interested in learning more, please contact one of the current committee members.

The Worship Committee (worship@1stuu.org): Lencha Acker, Todd Ballou, Kathleen Jacobs Johnson, Robert Johnson, Mary Lou Malone, Sean McAde, Reverend Roger Mohr, Nancy Owen Nelson, Danny Rebb, Dan Secret, and Elayne Sikelianos.

### **1st UU Walking/Running Team**

Rev. Mohr is interested in starting a team of walkers and runners to participate in local races. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Mohr.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Weekly Order of Service Deadline**

Have an item/event to be included in our weekly Order of Service? We'll do our best to include it, although printed materials have significant space limitations. Send your information to office@1stuu.org by **4:00 pm Thursday**.



## Church Announcements and Events

### **Bicyclists of the world...**

Hats off to the increasing number of bicyclists attending functions at First UU. Please don't spoil our ability to condescendingly look down upon our auto-addicted brethren with less than careful choices in where we park and lock our bikes. Please do not bring bikes inside the buildings where it may block access or cause egress problems (especially for the disabled). When parking outside, please do not place the bike on the inside of the ramp. The outside of the ramp is fine as long as it does not block through-ways. Until more permanent facilities are provided, it is suggested that we use the playground for our parking space. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Plea for Pledge Contributions**

As was projected at the Annual Congregational Meeting, First UU is experiencing a cash shortage as our fiscal year winds down. A possible bridge to close out the year and help us make it through summer (which is traditionally a slow period for contributions), the Board of Trustees suggests that those who are able please pay "ahead" on your pledges. Instead of paying an even amount over the next 12 months, you can pay a large amount (or the entire amount) early. It is hoped that future fund raising plans will overcome any shortages that this plan might entail for later months. Contact Dan Wiest with any questions.

### **Donation Letters**

It is not unusual for members to generously donate food, appliances, services or other items to First UU and then not ask for reimbursement. Letters may be provided upon request itemizing donations so that they may be taken advantage of for tax purposes. Please provide receipts to the office admin to receive the proper documentation.

### **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.

### **August Newsletter Deadline**

Saturday, July 20th

Next issue covers August 1 - August 31, 2013

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to [office@1stuu.org](mailto:office@1stuu.org)

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network

invites you to attend

**Standing Up for Reproductive Justice**

an interfaith voice for women, men and gay communities

Saturday July 13, 2013

9 – 4 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit MI 48201

*Workshops on:*

Religious roots for reproductive justice work

The impact of reproductive INJUSTICE on women, men and gay communities

Resources for educating your congregation

Legislative updates and advocacy training

Rep. Vicki Barnett, Challenges Ahead for Reproductive Justice

Continental Breakfast, Lunch & Free Child Care

\$15 (or \$5 for students and low income persons)

Register online at: [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org) or call 248-549-5170

CO-SPONSORS: Equality Michigan, Mothering Justice, Michigan Conference – United Church of Christ; Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network; National Council of Jewish Women – Michigan; and Planned Parenthood – Michigan.

This workshop made possible by grants from the UU Funding Program and the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

# JULY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00pm - Singing Circle	4 Happy Birthday Mildred Robinson!	5 Happy Birthday Ruth Seifert!	6
7 11:00am - "Play-time, Play-space, Play-mates." 12:30pm - Intro to FUUD	8 Happy Birthday Julie Brock!	9	10 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Singing Circle	11	12 Happy Birthday Edie McKnight!	13
14 New Member Sunday 11am - "Detroit Future City." 12:30pm - Potluck	15 7:30pm - Amnesty International Meeting	16	17 7:00pm - Singing Circle	18 Happy Birthday Trey Greene!	19	20
21 11:00am - "Finding Your Voice." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting	22	23 Happy Birthday Ed Collins!	24 7:00pm - Singing Circle	25 Happy Birthday Stuart Smith!	26	27
28 11:00am - Sermon Information TBA	29	30	31 7:00pm - Singing Circle			



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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## Community Announcements and Events

### **Detroit Farm and Garden Free Classes**

Detroit Farm and Garden hosts a number of free classes each season; classes run from 1-3 p.m. Contact them at 313-655-2344 for more information or email [detroit-farmandgarden@gmail.com](mailto:detroit-farmandgarden@gmail.com) to be added to their monthly events and classes listserve.

### **Upcoming Classes**

Organic Lawn Care - July 21st

Hard-Scaping, Patios and Walkways - August 18th

Composting - September 15th

Fermentation - October 20th