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First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

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

September Edition

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

September 1

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The Wisdom of Detroit.”

Detroit has among the deepest and richest histories of any US city. What have we learned?

September 8

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Waiting for God-ot.”

The play by Samuel Beckett is about time spent in waiting for someone else to arrive. Why do we wait?

September 15

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Better People for a Better World.”

A major theme last year was “Ubuntu,” the idea that we create one another in our relationships and our community. How does that inform and influence this year’s theme of “Integrity”?



September 22

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Fall: Our Shadows.”

In his poem “The Hollow Men,” T.S. Eliot writes, “Between the idea, and the reality, between the motion and the act, falls the Shadow.” With the growing shadows of autumn, we are invited to explore the shadows within ourselves, as well.

October 6

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Mad Hatter Day.”

Perhaps you didn’t know that the character from Alice In Wonderland had an official holiday. But a little madness has its virtues.

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.

Letter from the President

We like to think of summer as a time to relax and ease off on meetings and responsibilities, but your Board of Trustees has been busy! Topics at the August 14, 2013 Board meeting ranged from the more mundane (purchasing a new copier) to the visionary (planning for the church's 100th anniversary in 2016). Everything, however, was important in getting off to a good start in the new fiscal year. Here's a quick summary of some of the other action items.

- Referral to the Communications Committee to approve supplemental software to interface with QuickBooks to facilitate processing pledge payments.
- Designation of Board liaisons to the various committees to foster communication (Nominating, Sally Borden; Social Justice/Young Adults, Matt Friedrichs; Activities/Communications, Sean McAde; Worship/LGBT, Danny Rebb; Membership, Joan Smykowski; Development, Kathe Stevens; Finance/Building & Grounds, Dan Wiest).
- Approval of the budget for the Jazz Vespers Fundraiser.
- Confirmation of plans to participate in Noel Night and discuss with EMEAC the use of the social hall.
- Outreach to families on providing for childcare during the Sunday service.
- Designation of three persons to serve as UUA Administrators, to facilitate communication with the UUA (Dan Wiest, Marsha Bruhn, Tamara Halliburton).
- Solicitation of volunteers for the 1st UU table at the September 7th Dally in the Alley.
- Acceptance of the resignation of Cynthia ZurSchmiede from the Board, with regret and appreciation for her time served.

Now, take a deep breath and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Marsha Bruhn

The Rev's Room

My trip to New York for my D. Min. coursework was productive, and, as usual, I return to Detroit ready to apply what I have learned. As I have said, my doctoral project is about creating a spiritual growth program that does not depend on specific beliefs or dogma to be effective. My intent is to create a program that will help participants to become more self-aware, as well as creating the sort of relational environment to support their further evolution, both personally and publically.

The underlying idea is that we already have the tools to create a pretty effective program for personal development. Indeed, I think those tools are already well known to many helping professionals, and they are proliferating. The question is which ones to use, not their actual creation. The first step is to help people to discover and engage them.

But the second step is probably the one that concerns me more. Once we have the tools for self awareness, what do we do with ourselves? I am concerned primarily with helping people to develop self awareness so that they are better able to participate in relationship with the world. Thus, mere self knowledge is not enough. Self awareness is saved from narcissism by service. How do we apply our individual and collective wisdom in relation to the cosmos?

Because the Leadership Retreat specifically tasked me with the creation of a membership development program, this month we will begin with a prototype program for new members, designed by Marylou Malone and myself, titled, "Ascendants." This program will combine personality assessments with peer mentoring to provide a foundation of self knowledge and mutual support for growth in both personal and relational wellbeing. As we refine the program, we will extend it to established members as well. It is my hope that we can create something that will enrich our church through helping our members to discover and develop their own best selves.

Namaste! Rev. Mohr

Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

September 11	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
October 9	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
November 13	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

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!

Entertainment Books – Church Fundraiser

Margaret Beck has Entertainment books for sale! They are \$25 with the church earning \$5 for each book sold. We also get 2 free books worth \$50 after she sells 15 books. There are many great values in the Entertainment book - restaurants, activities, stores, hotels, car rentals, etc. They make great gifts. Please call Margaret Beck at 313 882 7775.

Ready to Dally?

Dally in the Alley is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 7 (rain date Sept 8) and First UU will once again have a table to confirm our continuing presence in Midtown/Wayne State/Cass Corridor. Volunteers are sought to staff the information table and patrol the parking lot while collecting fees. Hours will be from 11-7. For those of you not familiar with the Dally, Arts and Apples it ain't. There's no better place to sit and watch the fauna go by in the midst of the closest thing Detroit has to Gomorrah (see it before it's all gone!) While some churches might try to save the souls of the heathen, we tend to celebrate our reunion with them. Please contact Dan Wiest for available slots.

Church Announcements and Events

ASCENDANTS!

Wednesday, September 18, 6:00 p.m. Introducing the First Church *NEW MEMBERS PROGRAM*. If you have joined the church within the last year or two, and are interested in growing in your spiritual and relational life, we are beginning a new program targeted at helping you to evolve both individually and within the church and larger community. This will be a six session course meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:00, beginning September 18 and ending on December 4. Participation is limited, so please register to be included. Contact Rev. Mohr or Mary Lou Malone for more information.

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.

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

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.

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 bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com for more details.

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.

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 place it in the plate during the collection of the offering. For your convenience, there are forms at the end of each pew which can be used for this purpose.

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.

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.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00am - "The Wisdom of Detroit." 12:30pm - Intro to FUUD	2 Happy Birthday Gwen Foss and Dave Williams!	3 Happy Birthday Gloria Williams!	4 47:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday Danny Rebb!	5	6	7 11:00 am - 7:00 p.m. - Dally in the Alley
8 New Member Sunday 11am - "Waiting for Godot." 12:30pm - Potluck	9	10	11 11:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	12	13 Happy Birthday Toni Tront and Joan Smykowski!	14
15 11:00am - "Better People for a Better World." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting	16 16:30pm - Am-nesty International Meeting Happy Birthday Arthur Gabhart!	17	18 6:00 pm - ASCEN-DANTS! (New member series) 7:00pm - Singing Circle	19	20	21
22 11:00am - "Fall: Our Shadows."	23	24 Happy Birthday Stephanie Chang!	25 25:00pm - Singing Circle	26	27	28 Happy Birthday Sean Gray and Roger Zeigler!
29 11:00am - Sermon Information TBA	30 Happy Birthday Maya Thottakath!					



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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us a call at (313) 833-9107.

Church Announcements

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.

Faye Colling would like our church members and friends to be thinking ahead about plans for a celebration for the 100th anniversary of the 1st UU Church at Cass and Forest in 2016. This should be an event of such importance that we include Unitarians from the Boston General Assembly and involve people of city and state government as notable speakers.

October Newsletter Deadline

Friday, September 20th

Next issue covers October 1 - October 31, 2013

No submissions accepted after the deadline.