

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

JULY EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

July 6

Dan Secrest

"The Arc of Justice and the Golden Age of Capitalism."

The moral arc of the universe may bend toward justice. Yet many of us are frustrated that corporate power reigns supreme in the 21st century, eclipsing democratically elected governments in many respects. How might these be reconciled in the near future?

July 13

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Speaking Truth WITH Power."

In postmodern culture, truth was understood ironically, with every truth understood as a power claim. But the power of truth was often lost in irony.

July 20

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Blinded By the Blight."

Detroit has achieved international fame for its abandoned buildings. But it is important to see beyond the ruins.

July 27

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Walls, Fences, and Gates."

It has been said that good fences make good neighbors. A major challenge for every organism, and organization, is to set appropriate boundaries.



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2014-2015

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

Joel Batterman

Paul Chislett

Staff

Minister

Rev. Roger Mohr

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Office Admin

Tamara Halliburton

**Worship Services held
every Sunday
at 11:00 a.m.**



Letter from the President...

I want to express my appreciation to those of you who were able to be present for the continuation of the Congregational Meeting on June 15 and the vote on the 2014-15 budget. Thank you for recognizing the reality of our financial situation and coming together to deal with it. Thank you for your pledges of support. Your action has helped the Board meet one of its primary goals this year—adoption of a realistic budget.

I was appreciative, too, for the many comments from the congregation at the meeting because they reflected the passion our members have for this church and the people who matter to us. Out of this process has come some constructive thinking about how to enhance our finances to make certain that the budget that was adopted will be reached.

Here are my dreams for 2014-15:

- Create a stable church home.
- Remove any uncertainty around remaining at our current location.
- Ensure that the original agreement with EMEAC is honored to its fullest extent.
- Find a solution to the Prentis lot that addresses upgrades, maintenance and revenue.
- Achieve continued growth and vitality to enable First UU to carry out its mission.
- Enable the church to fulfill its mission in a more widespread fashion.
- Identify the expectations of the membership and our capacity to meet them.

While these are my dreams, they will become part of the dialogue in the upcoming Leadership Retreat as others offer their own dreams for consideration. As we say at the start of each Board meeting, “We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love.”

Marsha Bruhn

The Rev's Room

And away we GO! It is time to begin the next year of evolution for First Church. It promises to be interesting, at least. I think we have the opportunity this year to move beyond self-preservation mode and into a more constructive and mission oriented future. I do not believe that churches exist simply for the edification of their members. The church has an important social role as the progressive voice of society, advocating for the community as a whole, and creating a center of organizational leadership for the people beyond our walls. This year we shift focus to the mission of this church: We are an urban center for social justice and spiritual renewal, not just for Detroit, but for our entire region.

The end of the last church year did bring some difficult news for us. Financially, we have been used to deferring our budget shortfalls, relying on the Trust to cover the gap between what we spend and what we receive from our members and other sources. In the past, that gap has been large enough to make the question of a balanced budget a moot point. But this year the combination of a severely depleted Trust and a strong message from congregational leadership raised the issue of a balanced budget to the top of our priority list. Fortunately, a balanced budget was in fact within our reach. We observed our commitment to democratic process, and the congregation voted to support the board's budgetary recommendations. We made some difficult sacrifices and painful choices.

I think it is important, even as we move forward, especially as we move forward, that we acknowledge that we are also grieving. We were forced to eliminate two staff positions, the Sunday coffee hour support (Kevin), and the cantor (Gwen). That was not an easy choice, certainly not a consensus decision. I don't believe that we should simply brush off the feelings of those who disagreed with the decision to discontinue those positions. After our congregational meeting in June, I realized that I was grieving for the staff who lost their roles and income, for the church, for the sorrow that was involved in just disagreeing among ourselves. So much depends on listening to one another, building a sense of being together and sharing a vision of who we are and what we are trying to achieve.

As we move forward into the new church year, we should remember that evolution does not come without suffering. But that does not mean that our suffering is trivial, or that our grief is not real. Rather, we may offer one another the traditional Hindu blessing, "Namaste": I salute the Divine within us both. We may not agree in detail. But we see one another as fellow seekers, co-creators of the Cosmos. We are joined by our hope for a better tomorrow as a result of our work together. That is the faith we share.

Namaste,
Rev. Mohr

What Makes Unitarian-Universalism Unique? Why Consider Joining?

Our congregations freely gather to live out a democratic faith.

Every human being is holy and is called to the tasks and joys of love.

We do not limit the truth of God (even to the word "God") but live in openness and belief in human freedom and dignity.

Our creed is kindness.

We celebrate the gift of life, and join in taking on the sufferings of this fragile world.

We are this generation's bearers of an eternal message, drawn from ancient springs, that truth must grow, enlarge, and glow in creative freedom.

Revelation is not sealed. It is lived anew in every heart.

Reverend Stephen Kendrick

Welcome to First Church's Visitors May and June 2014

As we continue to practice radical hospitality, we welcomed the following visitors to our Church:

Crystal from Detroit

Daniel from Detroit

Shannon from St. Clair Shores

Sean from Roseville

Thank you for visiting us!

Your Membership Journey Steps to Joining the First Unitarian- Universalist Church of Detroit

Newcomers are always welcome in Unitarian-Universalist congregations. There is no formal conversion process, so becoming a Unitarian Universalist is simply a matter of self-identification. We see membership as a journey.

To help you discern whether or not the First Unitarian-Universalist Church is right for you, we encourage you to attend a variety of services, join us for activities and attend our Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism session usually the first Sunday of the month. We also have a Getting Involved session, the fourth Sunday of certain months. At the Getting Involved session, leaders of groups, activities and committees share information and volunteer needs. Both meetings are held at 12:30 pm, in the Memorial Hall/mansion.

Friends and members are invited to both sessions.

Upcoming dates for Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism:

- Sorry, we're taking July off.
- August 3, 2014, 12:30 pm
- September 17, 2014, 12:30 pm

Upcoming dates for Getting Involved:

- Sorry, we're taking July off.
- August 24, 2014, 12:30 pm



Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

July 9	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
August 13	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
September 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

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.

Vespers Wednesday

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

Singing Circle

Wednesdays at **7:00 pm** - Singing Circle at the church. Open to all. Contact Gwen Foss bookdorgwen@gmail.com 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.



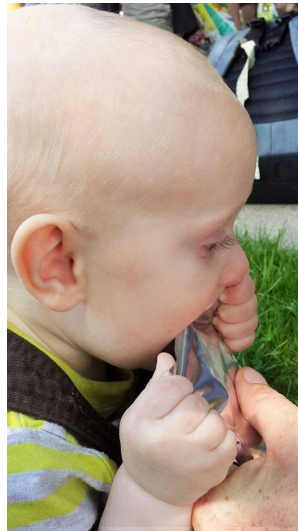
Church Pictures - UU Regional Picnic

Unitarian Universalist Regional Gathering at Belle Isle - May 24, 2014

pictures taken by Danny Rebb, Kristin Leinhos, Beth Bailey, and Kathe Stevens



Church Pictures - UU Regional Picnic



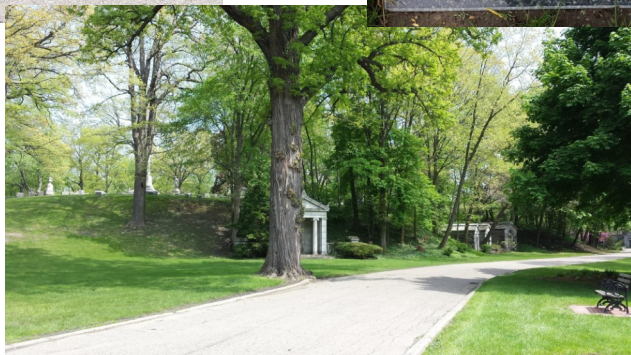
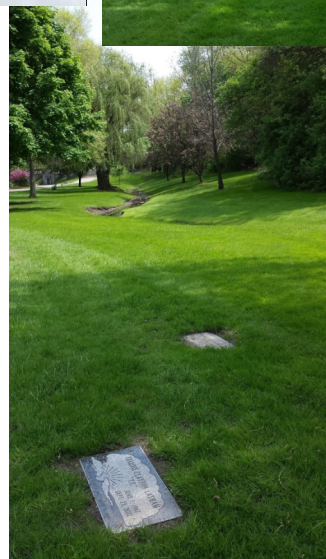


Church Pictures - TC Latham

TC Latham's headstone has been installed. Kathe Stevens stopped by to pay her respects and get some photos to share with you.

The bottom line is a bit hard to read in the photo of the headstone, it says, "He tried to help with what he had," suggested by the person who spent the most time with TC in his later days. From conversations with others, Kathe would say that's a good epitaph.

For those of you who haven't had an opportunity to visit Elmwood Cemetery, Kathe included photos around TC's final resting place. He now has a neighbor; TC's headstone is lower in the photo. He's resting by a stream and a weeping willow. It's lovely and peaceful; TC would be happy, Kathe thinks. Thanks to all of you.



Church Pictures - 2014 Food Drive

With a grand total of 472 items collected we overshot our FUUD Drive goal by 17 items! Woo hoo! None of this would have been possible without the multiple people who gave generously and often. A big thank you to everyone who gave. Together we can continue to do great things!

If you still have items that you are interested in donating, please feel free to bring them by; however I will not be reporting out on our progress (for a little while at least!). Food insecurity is a continual reality that many families and individuals face; and our contributions can be just as continuous.

If you are wondering what our 'next steps' are for the FUUD Drive, here is a sneak peak at what might be coming down the line:

Targeted collection - We may deem a month the 'flour' month or the 'rice' month or the 'canned veggies' month and collect specifically for that item.

FUUD Drive Champions - For those who are interested in taking the next step in supporting our efforts you may choose to act as FUUD Drive champion for a month (or for a few months!). You would promote the drive (emails! Facebook posts!), collect the items, and deliver to the items to Cass Community.



Church Announcements and Events

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 suggested donation of \$20 is negotiable if your situation requires. Lencha Acker purchases the flowers each Saturday at Eastern Market and brings them to church. The donor takes the flowers home to enjoy and returns the vase later. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, see Tamara after service or send her an email. Thank You!

Acknowledgements

If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce during a worship service, please write the message on one of the index cards which can be found in the backs of the pews, and place the card in the offering basket during the collection. Milestones and visitor names will be passed to the minister for sharing with the congregation as part of our closing circle.

Announcement from Alena Acker

I am doing the New York City Triathlon this summer. I'll be swimming 1500 meters (about 1 mile), biking 40 Kilometers (about 24 miles) and running 10 Kilometers (6.2 miles) to raise money for a charity called CityKids. CityKids Foundation uses the arts as an engagement tool to help at-risk youth succeed in high school and go on to college. Anyone interested in supporting CityKids on my behalf can donate at:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/AlenaAcker/nyc-triathlon-2014>

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.

Thank YOU to the Gushers (Greeters + Ushers) and Ushers During June 2014

Dale Adcock	Joel Batterman	Sally Borden
Brad Bierwirth	Ed Collins	Eric Cortright
Muhammad Faiz	Nora Holt	Bill McKnight
Edie McKnight	Glenn Maxwell	Sharon Mills
Marilyn Mitchell	Bob Neal	Felice Rizzo
Corinne Streicher	David Vaillencourt	Dan Wiest
Brianna Zamborsky	Trevor Zamborsky	

JULY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 7:00pm - Singing Circle	3	4 Happy Birthday Mildred Robin- son!	5 Happy Birthday Ruth Seifert!
6 11:00am - "The Arc of Justice and the Golden Age of Capitalism"	7	8 Happy Birthday Julie Brock!	9 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	10	11	12 Happy Birthday Edie McKnight!
13 Welcoming New Members 11:00am - "Speaking Truth WITH Power." 12:30pm - Potluck	14	15	16 7:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday Dan Wiest!	17	18 Happy Birthday Trey Greene!	19
20 11:00am - "Blinded By the Blight" 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting	21 7:30pm - Amnesty International Meet- ing	22	23 7:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday Ed Collins!	24	25 Happy Birthday Stuart Smith!	26
27 11:00am - "Walls, Fences, and Gates"	28	29	30 7:00pm - Singing Circle	31		



**FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF DETROIT**

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI
48201

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

Church Announcements

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.

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.

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 **12:00 pm Thursday**.

July Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, July 20th at **8:00 am**

Next issue covers August 1 - August 31, 2014

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org