

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

JUNE EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

June 1

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Not Just for UUs: Leading the Beloved Community."

Religious leadership entails a responsibility to seek the wellbeing of all people, and the planet as a whole.

June 8

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Affirming Same Sex Marriage for Over Forty Years."

Same sex marriage is a current issue in politics, but UUs have had an increasingly general consensus about the issue for decades.

June 15

Rev. Roger Mohr

"The Creative Cosmos."

The universe is in the process of continuous becoming, an ongoing creation in which we are active collaborators.

June 22

Worship Committee

"Juneteenth: Civil Rights Celebration."

Reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act into law, and the impact it has had on us.

June 29

Danny Rebb

"Flower Communion: The Earth Laughs in Flowers."

Just as individual flowers form a bouquet more beautiful than the sum of its parts, our congregation formed by the covenant we share is better able to liberate truth, radiate kindness, and love courageously more than all of its members individually.

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

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.**



President's Letter

I have just come from the all-church picnic, held at Shelter 12 right near the swimming area on Belle Isle, and organized in large part by members of the young adult group at First UU.

It was a year and a half ago that twelve young adults met in my living room to ascertain their level of interest in forming a young adult group in the church, the kinds of activities they were interested in, and what each person was willing to do to help bring this about. At first there were occasional get-togethers and potlucks in member homes. Then meeting dates were set for the third Sunday of the month, following the church service.

The energy of the group blossomed with the highly successful 'In-Grounds Café' during Noel Night, service projects such as building tactile tools for blind children, and most recently an ambitious food drive. The idea for an all-church picnic evolved from the Choir Fest last February with ten participating UU churches from southeastern Michigan. How about a picnic? Would you be interested in participating? Yes and yes!

As I watched Matt Friedrichs, Joel Batterman and Beth Bailey be recognized for their role in planning and executing the picnic, I couldn't help but think back to that meeting in my house when the groundwork was laid for building community among the younger members of the congregation. But that community building has extended to all of us and to our fellow UU congregations. There were about 120 of us at Shelter 12 from First UU, Paint Creek, Emerson, Birmingham, Northwest and probably other churches. Some came early and helped with weeding at the Conservatory. Some set up for the picnic and started the grills. A whole bunch fanned out across the island for the Scavenger Hunt. A lot of us sat and conversed after enjoying an incredible assortment of food. A book table of UU publications attracted buyers. Babies played on a blanket. It was an amazing day.

The energy we experienced on Belle Isle is reflective of the energy that's emerging throughout the First UU congregation. Thanks to the involvement of so many of our members, we should expect a future of continued growth and development and expanded visibility in the wider community.

Marsha Bruhn

The Rev's Room

As I write this month's newsletter article, I am sitting in the closing session of Gamaliel's National Clergy Leadership Training. Gamaliel is the parent organization for MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategies Enabling Strength), which is an organization dedicated to social justice, especially regarding race and class. Many of our members have been or are involved, and two of our young adult members (Matt Friedrichs and Joel Batterman) are actually employed by MOSES in truly missional work in the city of Detroit and the larger region. MOSES is a significant expression of the ministry of First Unitarian Universalist Church.

I admit that over the last two or three years of my work in Detroit, MOSES has been peripheral to my attention, and Gamaliel has not been on my radar at all. I have been busy helping to get the church back on track, not to mention just trying to get a basic map of the multi-dimensional funhouse that is Detroit and SE Michigan. The functioning of First Church has been, and will continue to be, my very highest priority. For me, First Church is indeed first.

Ostensibly, despite some remaining challenges and issues, we are fortunate to have done a great deal to reverse the decline of the church. I believe that if we can resolve some financial and facility issues, we may well be able to achieve sustainable growth into the foreseeable future. And with growth comes the challenge of developing opportunities for ministry for our members and for our church as a whole. It is my belief that Unitarian Universalists need to consciously live out their religious commitments in practical commitments to action in the wider world, for the sake of the world and for *ourselves*.

As we move into the next church year, know that I am thrilled with the progress of the church. In many ways, ministers are limited in their spiritual evolution by the functioning of their churches, even as the spiritual wellbeing of church communities limit, and are limited by, the spiritual wellbeing of their members. A church that is struggling simply to hold off their own pain and fear forces a minister to focus on that too, usually, and most ministers are pulled down to the functioning level of their churches. It is the basic premise of Ubuntu – if one is stronger we are stronger, but in the same way, if one suffers, we all suffer. First UU is growing stronger by the day, and that allows me to grow stronger as well, to find a deeper and more profound personal spirituality, and therefore offer to you



The Rev's Room (continued)

a deeper and more profound ministry. As we continue on our path together, may we each and all be blessed with one another, and to share that blessing with the world. First Church is a blessing to all of us.

Sharing that blessing is the path for our evolution. Next year, I think we will be ready to begin our collective ministry, as a congregation. We are ready for new beginnings, in general, even as we clear away some of the old patterns and procedures. We are growing in many ways, not just membership. There are some growing pains, of course, difficult choices and changes. But that is always part of growth – what used to work is not adaptive forever, and to evolve often means making some sacrifices. We are beginning to gain a new sense of meaning, significance, ministry, dignity, and mission. That is my priority. This year, I believe that we will be ready to share that blessing.

Namaste,
Rev. Mohr

Food Drive

The Outreach Committee is excited to announce the beginning of an ongoing food drive (should we call it a FUUD Drive?). We will be collecting nonperishable food items to support the Cass Community United Methodist food program. Collection will take place every Sunday during coffee hour, and the food will be delivered to Cass Community on a weekly basis. Our goal is to collect 455 items before the end of 2014. That may seem like a lot, but it's only 5 items per congregation member!

The program we will be supporting prepares over 20,000 hot meals each week for families and individuals who need them most. Please read the following guidelines to ensure that your donations are best aligned with the program's needs: Nonperishable items only. Please avoid soups. (Canned soups are great for pantries that provide take-home boxes to families; but are not appropriate for preparing large meals with.) Staples are most needed (rice, flour, sugar, etc.). Canned veggies and meats are needed. Peanut butter and jelly are needed.

Membership Committee News

We Welcome Our 100th Member to First Church

The congregation of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit officially became 100 members in May 2014. Members and friends attending the service were thrilled that our newest member is Rev. Roger Mohr. To the total surprise of the congregation, Rev. Mohr stepped forward to become a member on the May 11, 2014. We welcome Rev. Mohr as our 100th member!

One Member Anniversary for June

We welcomed Dale Adcock in June 2013 as member of First Church.

Visitors to First Church in April and May 2014

As our congregation continues to practice radical hospitality, we welcomed the following visitors to our Church in April and May 2014. Please continue to reach out to our visitors before and after services.

G. Brand, Detroit, MI

K. Graham, Warren, MI

M. Hathaway, Detroit, MI

A. Houseknecht, Ferndale, MI

L. Laney, Trenton, MI

W. Miller, Las Vegas, NV

F. and B. Nelson, Morgantown, WV

S. Pressley, Detroit, MI

S. Pruitt, St. Clair Shores, MI

J. Revesz, Trenton, MI

L. Thompson, Detroit, MI

B. Valentine & M. Gregor, Detroit, MI

S. and D. Wadge, Sandusky, MI

B. and T. Zamborsky, Ferndale, MI

Thank You to Our Greeters Who Practice Hospitality for May 2014

What is radical hospitality? It's what we practice at First Church! We welcome everyone, with a warm smile or handshake. All of us are greeters in our growing church community. Thank you, to the following greeters for May 2014.

Beth Bailey

Marsha Bruhn

Marilyn Mitchell

Kathe Stevens

Sally Borden

Dale Compton

Glenn Maxwell



Membership Committee News (continued)

2013-2014 Pledge Year Ends June 30, 2014

The 2013-2014 pledge year ends on June 30, 2014. All members, and most friends, made a pledge for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to help support the mission and values of our Church. Please make sure to fulfill your total financial obligations to our Church. Yes, our membership is growing, but we still need your fiscal support. You may increase your financial support at any time.

The new fiscal year starts July 1, 2014. When making your financial contribution of record, please be sure to include your name on the envelope or check. Our Church needs your increase pledge to match our increase financial obligations for the new year.

Finding Your New Church Home

Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism Session to Be Held June 1st at 12:30 pm

The decision to become a Unitarian-Universalist is a personal one. We are a church community made up of members who have different beliefs, and we acknowledge those differences and embrace them. Members do not have to renounce other religious affiliations or practices.

If you are interested in learning more, join us for the next Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism session on June 1, 2014, at 12:30 pm in the mansion/Memorial Hall.

Getting Involved Session

Be Part of a Church Committee, Group or Activity

June 22, 2014 at 12:30 pm

Attending the worship service on Sunday is a very special experience, but most members and friends find that, over time, it is not enough to sustain their commitment to the church. We encourage members and friends to attend the next Getting Involved session to learn about our various groups, committees and activities. Our next Getting Involved session will be June 22, 2014, at 12:30 pm, in the mansion/Memorial Hall. We hope you'll become involved!

ACTIVITIES by Sherry A Wells

You walk into the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. The lights are on.

You see the tall candles and candle snuffer on the white runner gracing the altar table. Numbers of the hymns and responsive reading are on the wooden rack next to the minister's pulpit.

If you look closely, you'll see glasses of water on that pulpit and on the table across the way for the Cantor and Worship Leader. In front of the podium on the left are two healthy green plants—that's where the extra water from those three glasses is poured after the service.

The Worship Leader notices that the Order of Service is already atop the pulpit, but may not have noticed that it is taped—when fans were used, it tended to blow off.

On the back of the Order of Service is a list of ushers, who had been recruited in advance, and are not the same ones every week, though most often you'll see the name John Angry.

As you walk towards coffee, on the radiator are greeting cards for members with birthdays, anniversaries, post-surgery or otherwise recovering.

After coffee, if you leave through the Nartex (foyer) the doors are already locked, though exiting is easy.

All of this and more was done by our John Angry.

He also gives hearing receivers to anyone needing them.

Before the service, he walks through to clean up litter from any events of the prior day. Afterwards, he checks the pews for items left behind—Orders of Service and clothing, caps and bags—returning the latter to owners if he can find them.

A few years ago, I followed John around one morning to write this kind of article. I could not keep up with him. With impending eye surgery, John asked me to write this up in case he couldn't make it to church following it afterwards.

Even so, it has had to be revised—for additions, of course. And when we had to use the list one Sunday morning, it took four or five people to do what he does.

When we're talking "activity," he is the epitome.

John Angry turns 85 on June 4th. Let's celebrate him.



Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

June 11	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
July 9	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
August 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

FIRST Sundays: "Intro to First Church."

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.

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

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 bookdoc-torgwen@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.

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.

Margaret Beck's FUNdraising

Margaret buys group tickets for the Detroit Repertory Theatre, which saves each of us \$5 off at-the-door pricing PLUS enables her to give the church budget an additional boost at \$5 for each ticket she sells. Next show: Saturday, June 21st matinee at 3 p.m.

Check out www.detroitreptheatre.com for info. about the show and then contact Margaret at 313-882-7775 or during coffee hour after the service to buy your ticket for \$15.

After the play, our group will go to the Shangrila Restaurant.



Detroit-area choirs gather for music, community

Every other year since 2003, the choirs of many Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Detroit, Michigan, area have come together for a music festival. The latest was March 9 at First UU Church of Detroit.

At the first festival there were eight choirs; this year there were choristers from ten congregations, with a total of about 130 singers.

“This is just an amazing experience every time we do it,” said Al Acker, a longtime choir member with First UU. “The thing I like most is that my own choir on a good Sunday will have only twelve or thirteen members. To sing with a group of more than 100 is just such a wonderful experience. Also, we get to work with the music directors of other congregations. And once we’ve learned these songs we can sing them at other services throughout the year.”

It’s a lot of music to learn, he acknowledged. “That’s why we only do this every other year.” The choirs practice the numbers at home then gather Saturday for practices and lunch. They come back Sunday for the performance.

Acker said most of the 80 to 90 members of First Unitarian contributed to the concert by singing, providing and serving the lunch, helping with parking, or ushering. The concert is held in a different location every year.

In addition to First Unitarian, the congregations that participated are First UU Church of Ann Arbor, Birmingham Unitarian Church, Emerson Church UU, New Hope UU Congregation, Northwest UU Church, Paint Creek UU Congregation, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, UU Church of Farmington, and the UU Church of Olinda, at Ruthven, Ontario.

The original idea for the concert came from Todd Ballou, music director at the Detroit congregation and Anna Speck, the then-music director at Grosse Pointe. “It’s become one of the rare opportunities to get people together from all the area congregations,” said Ballou.

Special guests sometimes appear. This year Naomi Long Madgett, the poet laureate of Detroit, read some of her poems. UU songwriter Carolyn McDade led some of the songs several years ago. “Sometimes we can’t decide if this is a church service with tons of music or a choir concert with some speaking parts. This year it was more of a concert,” said Ballou.

Posted by Don Skinner at <http://tipsheet.blogs.uua.org/events/detroit-area-choirs-gather-for-music-community/>

JUNE 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 11:00am - "Not Just for UUs: Leading the Beloved Commu- nity." 12:30pm - Intro to Unitarian- Universalism	2	3	4 7:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday John Angry and Margaret Beck!	5 Happy Birthday Glenn Maxwell!	6	7
8 Welcoming New Members 11:00am - "Affirming Same Sex Marriage for Over Forty Years." 12:30pm - Potluck	9	10	11 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	12 Happy Birthday Margaret Wilkie and Sandra Thottakath!	13	14 Happy Birthday Nancy Owen Nelson!
15 11:00am - "The Creative Cos- mos." 12:30pm - Young Adults Meet- ing	16 7:30pm - Amnesty International Meeting Happy Birthday Anarosa Mendoza- King and Ann Harvey!	17	18 7:00pm - Singing Circle	19	20	21 3:00pm - "Endangered Species" FUNdraiser at the Detroit Repertory Theatre followed by dinner at Shangri-La
22 11:00am - "Juneteenth: Civil Rights Celebration." 12:30pm - Getting Involved at First UU Session	23 Happy Birthday James Robinson!	24	25 7:00pm - Singing Circle	26 Happy Birthday Carolyn Ludwig!	27	28
29 11:00am - "Flower Communion: The Earth Laughs in Flowers." Happy Birthday Dan Secret and Tim Bailey!	30					



**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, June 20th at **8:00 am**

Next issue covers July 1 - July 31, 2014

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org