

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

MAY EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

May 4

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Calm Down. Aim. Hit the Ball."

In general, progress in any endeavor is more a matter of conscious discipline and consistent practice than of sudden inspiration or instinctive reactions.

May 11

Rev. Roger Mohr

"The Flame of Hope, the Chalice of Community."

As First Church develops a vision of regional leadership, it is up to us to create a church that offers a model of spiritual wellbeing.

May 18

Rev. Roger Mohr

"We Are Getting Better and Better."

The idea that people can freely choose to improve themselves and their world is the radical theological premise at the core of Unitarian Universalism.

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.

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

The house parties for this year's canvass are over, and we owe a great deal of thanks for the graciousness and hospitality of those who offered their homes to the many members and friends of First UU who attended. The hospitality stretched from the contemporary Midtown condo of Kathe Stevens and Glenn Maxwell, to the warm comfortable Dearborn home of Nancy Owen Nelson and Roger Ziegler, to the historic Henry Ford home in Boston Edison of Marilyn and Jerry Mitchell (including a tour of the house), to Sharlene Gage's condo on the 12th floor of 1300 Lafayette with its grand view of the Detroit River and refreshments by an owner of the former Opus One.

In past years, before I became active again in the church, I passed up the house parties—just made my pledge for the following year. Now I know what I missed. As treasurer and president, Dan Wiest and I had parts to play in all of them this year. Rev. Mohr had to miss one due to illness, but the three of us were happy to participate and appreciated the opportunity to get to know more of you better. I hope you got another glimpse of us as well.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the work of Joan Smykowski and Kathe Stevens in their outreach to the membership and preparing very helpful pledge materials. I felt they "had my back" throughout the process.

For those of you who didn't attend, I suggest you think about the two questions that were asked of each participant at the canvass meetings as you consider your pledge for the coming year: 1) What makes you feel good about the Church? and 2) What role(s) have you played in helping the Church in what it is becoming? I summarized a number of the responses to the first question in last month's newsletter. The breadth of the roles mentioned in response to the second question was enlightening—things members had been involved in that I'd never heard of or had long forgotten. I'm energized by the leadership and vitality that are emerging in new committees and programs. Your involvement is key to our ability to move forward as a church, at whatever level is best for you. As one member stated about why she feels good about the church: "The positive direction that it's going... good people, good ideas, and good leadership."

Warm wishes to you as we (finally!) move into spring,
Marsha Bruhn

The Rev's Room

May is a challenging month for First Church's leadership, as it is the month of the annual meeting. In May we report to the congregation on the last year, what we accomplished, what we could have done better, what we learned, how much and in what ways we evolved, or failed to do so. Fortunately, this has been a remarkably successful year, with huge progress on almost every front. We have grown in terms of membership, and will very probably report one hundred members at the annual meeting. Even better, I am very pleased with the general excellence of our new members, who bring such a wealth of resources to our church. Several of our new members have already taken responsibility for positions of leadership within the church, chairing committees and coordinating projects. And all of our new members are people I am proud and pleased to see among us. That is outstanding!

Moreover, I am just as proud of how First Church is doing organizationally. Even more than the membership number, the ability of a congregation to function as an organization is a huge accomplishment. Those of you who have attended the house parties for this year's canvass have already heard the long list of accomplishments from this year, as we have established and achieved so much that even a brief synopsis will not fit in my allotted space. I am very impressed with First Church's ability to organize and excel. As I have said before, you are awesome!

But one more thing is on leaders' minds as we move into May. This is also the month when we put together the budgets for next year. You have probably heard from a number of sources that when we started clearing the income and expenses from the building off of our projections, we have found a significant annual budget deficit. That has been the major concern for church leadership this year, as it should be a concern for us all. May is the month when the finance committee will put together its budget proposal for the board, and which the board will present to the congregation at the annual meeting.

We are hopeful that our projected income will be sufficient to cover our expenses next year. But if pledge income does not increase enough this year, be prepared for some difficult choices to be made. Next year's budget *must* be in the black, as we do not have reserves to continue to run a deficit. As we continue to grow, assuming we continue to grow, our financial picture should improve, and



The Rev's Room (continued)

hopefully this will become less of a crisis subject for the church. What does that look like? Well, long term it means that we would be generating enough income to consider expanding staff positions and programming, perhaps. But in the near and mid-term, it is much more likely that as we move from the red to the black, the first year or two will be about rebuilding our financial reserves so that we are not facing the sort of month to month concerns that are our present reality.

In summary then, as we approach the annual meeting, know that I am very pleased and proud of First Church. We are poised to resume our place as the Chalice Church, offering the Flame of leadership in our city and our region. But first, we have to get our financial house in order. Just think of it as an opportunity to be that much more excellent. This is an amazing congregation!

Namaste! Rev. Mohr

Membership Committee News

Why Invest in the Future at First UU?!

You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted freethinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

You want to support a Unitarian-Universalist Church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwells upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle and how great is the hunger for what is good.

Reverend John Wolf, retired Senior Minister at All Souls in Tulsa

Canvass Meetings a Success

Thank You to All the Hosts and Hostesses

The Spring 2014 Canvass Meetings were successful. A special thank you to the hosts and hostesses who volunteered their time and homes for the meetings. The members of the Canvass team, were thrilled with the enthusiasm displayed, especially when the challenge was made to increase 2013-2014 pledges by 10%. Money isn't easy to talk about, but the hospitality of our hosts and hostesses made it easier. Thank you!

Membership Committee News

Pledges To Be Honored

There has been some confusion about when the pledge year begins and ends. The pledges are on the same calendar as our fiscal year: July 1st - June 30th. Please continue to make your 2013-2014 pledge until June 30, 2014. You can increase your pledge at any time. We will be starting the next pledge year on July 1, 2014. The total Church community is looking forward to all of us making our pledges into reality with donations.

If you have not completed and submitted your pledge form for 2014-2015, please see Tamara in the office or visit our website: www.1stuu.org to print a copy.

Becoming a Member of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

The Membership Journey Begins a Deeper Commitment

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. Membership is voluntary and does not require renouncing other religions or practices.

To help you discern whether or not the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit is your church home, please join us for the Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism Session at First Church. The sessions are held, in Memorial Hall on the following dates:

Sunday, May 4, 2014-12:30 pm

Sunday, June 8, 2014-12:30 pm

(No session in July 2014)

Sunday, August 3, 2014-12:30 pm

If you would like to know about activities, programs and committees, please join us for a Getting Involved Session in Memorial Hall, on one of the following dates:

Sunday, May 25, 2014-12:30 pm

Sunday, June 22, 2014-12:30 pm

(No session in July 2014)

Sunday, August 24, 2014-12:30 pm



Membership Committee News (continued)

Welcome to Our Newest Members

April 2014

Brad Bierwith of Highland Park
David Vaillencourt of Ferndale
Irene Brisson of Detroit
Brianna and Trevor Zamborsky of Ferndale
Deanna McGraw of Roseville

May Membership Anniversaries

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

May 1977 - 37 Years

Al Acker
Lencha Acker

May 1981 - 33 Years

Dan Secrest
Andee Seeger

May 1984 - 30 Years

Arthur Gabhart

May 1996 - 18 Years

George Thottakath
Sandra Thottakath

May 2005 - 9 Years

Elayne Sikelianos

May 2008 - 6 Years

Edward Collins
Felice Rizzo

May 2011 - 3 Years

Sherry A. Wells

By-Laws Revision

Pursuant to Article X of the By-Laws, the Governing Board intends to place a revision to the By-Laws of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit on the agenda for a vote of the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held in May 2014. The change is to Article III, Section 1, membership requirements, as follows:

“Section 1. Membership is open to all interested persons who: are at least sixteen (16) years old; sign the membership book; make a monetary pledge of support; and/or make a financial contribution of record. We welcome all who are in general agreement with Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes without regard to considerations based on sex, sexual identity or orientation, race, ethnic identity or national origin, economic status or level of ability. No test of belief shall be imposed as a condition of membership.”

Only the first sentence is changed, the second and third sentences are unchanged. There are no other changes to the By-Laws.

The change is intended to remove the requirement that (in addition to signing the membership book) to be a member one must sign a pledge form **AND** make a monetary contribution of record. In the revision, in order to be considered a member, a person who has signed the membership book then needs to make a contribution of record **OR** sign a pledge form.

Members are strongly encouraged to make a written monetary pledge of support to help the Governing Board determine its budget for the next fiscal year. The intent of the revision is to offer membership to those who are, for whatever reason, unwilling to sign a pledge form but who make regular monetary contributions to the church. With this change, we are able to recognize as members those who support our Church budget in whatever way is comfortable for them.

Article X—Amendments – states that the Church By-Laws “may be amended at an Annual Congregational Meeting or any Congregational meeting of the Church called for that purpose, provided that notice of the proposed amendments has been given in the call of the meeting, and that the quorum and voting requirements are met.”

The Governing Board honors and appreciates our members and their support.



First UU Church Nominating Committee Report

Per the bylaws of First Unitarian Universalist Church, the Nominating Committee consists of five members and is responsible for nominating candidates for Board officers, Trustees, delegates to the General Assembly and Heartland District, and Nominating Committee. Three of its members must have served in elective office.

The Congregation will be asked to vote on the nominations at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, May 18. The Committee is recommending the following candidates, and has obtained the consent of each nominee:

Board President (one year term): *Marsha Bruhn* (second term)

Board Vice-President (one year term): *Danny Rebb* (second term)

Trustees at Large (two year term):

- Joel Batterman
- Paul Chislett

2015 Nominating Committee (Three of whom have served in elective office)

- Lorenza Acker
- Colleen Dolan-Greene
- Rhonda Rogers
- Elayne Sikelianos
- Corrine Streicher

Delegates for the UUA General Assembly:

- Joel Batterman
- Julie Brock

Delegates for the UUA MidAmerica Regional Assembly:

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The 2014 Nominating Committee is available to answer any questions of the Congregation: Colleen Dolan-Greene, chair; Lorenza Acker, Elayne Sikelianos or Margaret Wilkie.

Peace through service,
Colleen Dolan-Greene
Nominating Committee Chair 2014

UU Regional Spring Gathering - May 24th

Beth Bailey is excited to announce the details for the upcoming South East Michigan Regional UU Spring Gathering at Belle Isle State Park. Many of you have already heard the beginning planning details of this event and have already started to get excited for the event. Here are the official details:

Event information:

UU Regional Spring Gathering

Saturday, May 24, 2014

10am - 3pm; Shelter #12 Belle Isle, Detroit, MI

The day kicks off at 10:00am with a group service project to help keep Belle Isle beautiful and clean. A lunch of hot dogs and hot meat-alternatives will be served with pot luck style sides. Activities provided by congregations will follow lunch.

Cars will need a State Park Recreation Passport tag or a \$9 day pass to park on the Island. Info on the tag: <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1585-236164--,00.html>

If you are interested in supporting the event, please review the 'needs list' below and let Beth know how you would like to contribute. (Please contact the office for Beth's contact information.)

Needs List (Items)

Plastic Serving Gloves: 1 box
Yellow Mustard: 3 large bottles
Ketchup: 6 large bottles
Pickle Relish: 1 large bottle
Diced Onions: 5 lbs
Tofu/Meat Substitute Hot Dogs: 50 count
Hot Dogs: 160 count
Hot Dog Buns: 18 12 ct bags
Bottled Water: 6 cases (210 bottles)
Cola: 5 2-liter bottles (40 servings)
Diet Cola: 5 2-liter bottles (40 servings)
Clear Lemon Lime Pop: 5 2-liter bottles
Kids Juice Boxes: 40 boxes
Ice: 154 lbs
Charcoal: 22 lbs
Tray to hold cooked dogs: 3 count
Trash Bags: 1 roll
Serving Tongs: 4 sets

Please note: In addition to the items listed above, we are seeking pot-luck style sides and games/activities.

Thank you for everything you do!



Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

May 14	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
June 10	Memorial Hall	7:00 - 9:00 pm
July 9	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.

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.

Fundraiser at the Hilberry Theater

If you've reserved tickets for our May 10th fundraiser at the Hilberry Theater, please make sure you get payment for your tickets to our office administrator, Tamara Halliburton, as soon as possible. Tickets are \$35 and you may pay with cash, or check made payable to First Unitarian-Universalist Church. We look forward to seeing you for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the home of Glenn Maxwell and Kathe Stevens starting at 6:30 P.M. Then we'll walk next door to the Hilberry for a production of *August: Osage County*. Details on our website www.1stuu.org. We have only a few tickets left!

Church Announcements and Events

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 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.

Vespers Wednesday

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

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.

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.

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.



Church Announcements and Events

Mildred Robinson Lessons of Marriage

James and Mildred Robinson celebrated their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary in March. It was a lovely event with lots of great stories and fond memories. After many people spoke, Mildred shared her Lessons of Marriage.

Mildred Robinson's Lessons of Marriage

- 1. I'm not always right.**
- 2. My way is not the only way or the best way.**
- 3. His input is valuable.**
- 4. His well-being, safety and good health are important to me.**
- 5. Be real about forgiveness. Never hold grudges. Realize that we are growing and learning.**
- 6. Know that love encourages our forgiveness.**
- 7. He is my very best friend that I value, trust, love, and appreciate.**

And then Mildred added:

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:

Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Fill each other's cup, but drink not from one cup.

Give one another of your bread, but eat not from the same loaf.

Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each of you be alone,

Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

From "The Prophet" by Khalil Gibran

MAY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 11:00am - "Calm Down. Aim. Hit the Ball." 12:30pm - Intro to Unitarian-Universalism	5 Happy Birthday Mary Lou Malone!	6	7 7:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday Alma Margaret King!	8 Happy Birthday Jerry Mitchell!	9	3 10 6:30pm - Hilberry Theater Fundraiser
11 Welcoming New Members 11:00am - "The Flame of Hope, the Chalice of Community." 12:30pm - Potluck	12	13	14 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	15	16 Happy Birthday Todd Ballou!	17 Happy Birthday Andee Seeger!
18 11:00am - "We Are Getting Better and Better." 12:30pm - First UU Annual Meeting	19 7:30pm - Amnesty International Meeting	20	21 7:00pm - Singing Circle	22	23 Happy Birthday Felice Rizzo!	24 10:00am - 3:00pm - UU Regional Spring Gathering at Belle Isle
25 11:00am - Sermon TBA 12:30pm - Getting Involved at First UU Session	26	27	28 7:00pm - Singing Circle	29 Happy Birthday Valerie Lauer!	30	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**.

June Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, May 20th

Next issue covers June 1 - June 30, 2014

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org