

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

SEPTEMBER EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

September 7

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The Art of Breathing.”

There are many different kinds of spiritual practice, and many of them focus on breathing. Why is respiration a spiritual question?

September 14

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Progressive Missionaries.”

First Church is at the heart of an attempt to organize regional progressives into an active and powerful voice in Michigan. Want in on that?

September 21

Rev. Roger Mohr

“The Gift of Listening.”

As we build relationships and connections, we build power. But relationships depend on our ability to discern another person's interests. We have to learn to listen.

September 28th

Girl Scout Sunday Trailblazers: Meet UU Women Who Changed the World!

1st UU welcomes Girl Scouts from the neighborhood to learn about Unitarian-Universalism and examine leadership in some of the most groundbreaking women of the 19th and 20th centuries. UUs and Girl Scouts alike will notice the similarities between the UU principles and Girl Scout Law.

October 5

Rev. Roger Mohr

“Cultivating Peace.”

In our world, there seems to be a continuous roar of issues and information, usually presented as a crisis. It is no wonder if we are anxious and unhappy. We need to create a zone of quiet and rest for ourselves.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2014-2015

Officers

President

Marsha Bruhn

Vice President

Danny Rebb

Immediate

Past President

Sally Borden

Board Secretary

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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.



President's Letter

I'm sitting down to write my monthly letter to the congregation after coming out of another very full and fruitful meeting of the Board of Trustees. Usually, summer is the time to take a break, but certainly not this year. The momentum continues to build within the church as we develop and refine our programming and stretch to incorporate new activities.

One interesting upcoming activity concerns the "beta-testing" of a new UUA program of outreach strategies to explore UU "brand identity", or as Kathe Stevens wrote in her report to the Board, "how Unitarian Universalists are perceived in the world." What are the tools that will help to improve that perception and further the UU mission? She will be joined by Al Acker and Deanna McGraw, all of whom will participate in an introductory webinar preliminary to scheduling three workshops in September or October for church members. We talked a lot about the church's vision and mission at the July Leadership Retreat and how the proposed goals and action steps meshed with our stated vision and mission. This initiative is intended to assist us with furthering our mission (*liberate truth, radiate kindness and love courageously*) in the context of our local community.

And speaking of the Leadership Retreat, we have yet to further refine the goals and action steps that emerged by the end of the retreat. We're at the end of August and two months into this fiscal year, and don't yet have a work plan—although some members are moving forward on segments of it. We expect to remedy this in the near future with a follow-up meeting.

Thanks to the work of the Board, the Treasurer, and the willingness of the congregation to make some hard decisions, we have a working budget of just over \$107,000 for this year. The good news is that we have total pledges of just over \$82,000, representing 79 pledging units out of a current census of 97 congregants. The less-than-good news is that, due to staff and treasurer turnovers beginning in 2010, some obligations were missed. One is a \$600 payment to the IRS due to 2010 W2 forms not being filed. The other is a potential \$5000 payment to the City of Detroit for withholding taxes since 2011 (exclusive of penalties and interest). A letter pleading our case has already been sent to the IRS, and one will follow to the City.

Because of these, I'm glad that the Development Committee is creatively exploring fundraising opportunities to support the general fund. I hope many of you will be participating in the "Discovering UU're Midtown Scavenger Hunt" to be held in conjunction with Dally in the Alley on Saturday, September 6. You know how much fun people had at the picnic!

President's Letter (continued)

Some of you have offered fundraising ideas also. Some of you have said you didn't know there was a procedure for initiating a fundraiser. To remedy this, we expect to have a Fundraising Policy in place by the next Board meeting on September 10. This is important because we need to ensure that fundraising activities are consistent with our vision and mission, focus resources on our highest priorities and the church budget, and avoid overburdening the congregation with requests for money. The policy will lay out the process for applying to the Development Committee, the type of information that's requested, the review criteria, and guidelines for sharing the net proceeds. We want your ideas; we also want to ensure that there is some structure to guide their implementation.

I hope by the next newsletter that I will have dug out from the aftermath of a flooded basement and will have some order restored to my home. I hope the same for those of you who suffered through the flooding of August 11th.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Labor Day!

Marsha Bruhn

The Rev's Room

Ministry in Detroit is not for the weak or weary. Sometimes ministry in Detroit feels like being the guest of honor at a tractor pull. Everyone ties a chain on an appendage and tries to drag the church leadership in a different direction, at the same time. This summer, it seemed every week brought another crisis demanding our care and commitment. Who could possibly keep up with it all, researching, planning, and taking meaningful action on every issue? Yet we tried, and I know our souls ache from the attempt.

A little confrontation over my own clarity of will and mission was exactly what the doctor ordered, for me. So I went to a leadership training class put on by the Gamaliel Foundation, the group that first hired Barack Obama as a community organizer. The training is seven straight days of emotional and intellectual challenges, with meetings lasting from nine to nine, every day. Trainers got in my face and demanded that I explain our mission and how we intend to achieve it - in concrete, actionable terms - over and over again, for a week. Those exchanges can get loud. There is a significant emotional demand placed upon the participants as they explore their work and motivation. Demons must be confronted, and ghosts must be appeased. That may seem intense, and it is. It is designed to be



The Rev's Room (continued)

a sort of leadership boot camp, challenging us to make our imaginary projects into real action.

From my point of view, two things became apparent. First, I LOVED the demands of the training. Honestly, the emotional challenge was a bit of a break from ministering in Detroit; it was restful to just have a few people leaning on me to get me to talk about my own ministry and mission, even if they were unfriendly about it, in tone. I have rougher interactions than that over lunch, most days. There is no 'free lunch,' especially in this tough city we love and call home.

But second, the training showed me what we, as UUs, could accomplish here in the region. Gamaliel's trainers did not move me until I saw what our congregation and our community had to gain from engaging them. I was at a meeting one evening where the Gamaliel affiliate in Illinois successfully "pinned" (gained agreement to a policy statement from) a number of politicians, including the governor of the state.

We CAN have an influence on political decisions. All we have to do to exercise our power and influence is -- claim it.

MOSES is Gamaliel's local affiliate, and they are asking me to organize regional clergy for progressive political action. I see the value of that project, and our role in it, for myself and for the church and its incredibly deep team of leaders. Together, we can build a presence and platform for regional UUs, as progressives, to have a voice and influence in regional policy decisions. That is the commission given to me by the First Church leadership this summer, and I intend to make it so. Let us take the lead in our region.

But first, we have to gain a sense of common vision and direction. Our leadership is planning to advance programming to train our leaders to become powerful voices in the Detroit metro area. We need to develop an intention for our region that is consistent with our Unitarian-Universalist principles. What do we want the region to become, to say and do? We have an opportunity to become the center of power and action in our region. We will all be part of that vision.

Namaste.

Rev. Mohr

Update from the Social Outreach Committee

I. Marriage Equality in Michigan

On August 6th the 6th circuit court of appeals in Cincinnati began hearing arguments on the legality of Michigan's [and three other states] ban on same sex marriage. The state of Michigan took the case to appellate court after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that Michigan's ban on same sex marriage was unconstitutional. Michigan's case is particularly significant because of the number and depth of testimonies given earlier in Judge Friedman's court.

The Social Outreach Committee will continue to track the progress of these hearings and keep you informed.

II Water Shut Offs in Detroit

On July 30th the Social Outreach Committee held a town hall meeting in the sanctuary on the water shut offs in Detroit. Forty people attended including representatives invited from the ACLU, The Peoples Water Board, The Rosa Parks Institute, Wayne State University, The Water Class Action Alliance, and MUUSJN. DWSD declined to attend.

- After much discussion, those present reached the following consensus:
- DWSD must improve its service.
- Affordability plans must be in place.
- Privatization must be avoided.
- The strategic solution must address regional concerns on water issues. Everyone, not just Detroit, must share the responsibility of paying for the infrastructure upgrades that benefit the entire region.
- Until the Water Department "gets its act together", it needs to turn the water back on.

III. Minimum Wage Increase

The issue of a minimum wage increase in Michigan will not appear on the November ballot. However, the Michigan legislature has voted to increase Michigan's minimum wage to \$9.25 per hour with COLA over a three year period beginning September, 2014. This minimum wage increase still leaves low income workers with a salary below the poverty level.

The Social Outreach Committee meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6PM. If you have any questions please contact Joel Batterman or Mary Lou Malone.



Membership News

Helping to Make the Next Generation of First Church Members

Making a Gift of Life Insurance

Some First Church members or friends may no longer need their life insurance that was purchased years ago to provide for children or other family members. If you are in this situation, you may want to name the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary. Any benefit First Church receives from your insurance will be excluded from your taxable estate.

If you name the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit as irrevocable beneficiary and owner of your life insurance policy, you are eligible for an immediate income tax charitable deduction equivalent to the policy's cash surrender value or replacement value. If additional premium payments are due, you can deduct those payments as charitable contributions.

Next Membership Book Signings

September 14, 2014
October 12, 2014

What Holds Us Together?

Our Principles

Unitarian Universalists hold the Principles as strong values and moral teachings. As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, "The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities."

- 1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- 2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- 3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- 4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- 6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

If this is the type of faith community that you self-identify with, please consider learning more about the First Unitarian-Universalism Church of Detroit at one of the [Introduction to First Church](#) sessions. Our next sessions are:

Sunday, September 7, 2014, 12:30 pm
Sunday, October 5, 2014, 12:30 pm

Membership News

Radical Hospitality Practiced at First Church During August

Thank you to the following Greeters and Ushers for practicing Radical Hospitality during August.

Beth Bailey
 Sally Borden
 Paul Chislett
 Eric Cortright
 Carolyn Ludwig
 Sean McAde
 Bill McKnight
 Edie McKnight
 Glenn Maxwell
 Sharon Mills
 Bob Neal
 Felice Rizzo
 Dan Rebb
 Kathe Stevens
 Sherry A. Wells
 Jerry Williams
 Brianna Zamborsky

September Membership Anniversaries

September 1997 - Ruth Seifert
September 2013 - Lon Herman

Thank you, for being part of our community.

Getting Involved

Sunday, October 26, 2014

One of the best parts of First Church includes being part of a group, activity or committee. Just coming to church on Sunday, may not be enough to keep you involved.

Learn about the various groups, activities or committees of the Church. You do not have to be a member to participate. All friends, members and group leaders are encouraged to participate in the next Getting Involved session on Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 12:30 pm.

Greeters and Ushers

Forgot What Date You Signed Up For?
 Would You Like to See What Dates Are Open?

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.1stuu.org/Worship/worship.php>

Look for the link to Greeter Sign Up Sheet.

Important Upcoming Membership Dates

September 7, 2014 - Introduction to First Church
 September 14, 2014 - Membership Book Signing
 October 5, 2014 - Introduction to First Church
 October 12, 2014 - Membership Book Signing
 October 26, 2014 - Getting Involved Session

Enlightened leadership is spiritual if we understand spirituality not as some kind of religious dogma or ideology but as the domain of awareness where we experience values like truth, goodness, beauty, love and compassion, and also intuition, creativity, insight and focused attention.

Deepak Chopra

Your Development Committee!

First UU's Development Committee was formed almost a year ago with a mission to fundraise and a charge to supplement the church's budget. Committee members are Kathe Stevens (Chair), Rev. Mohr (Ex Officio), Matt Friedrichs, Marilyn Mitchell, Eric Rattan and Corinne Streicher.

Fundraising is not only the committee's mission; it is mission critical for First UU. We hope the whole congregation will be engaged in the committee's work; the financial health of our beloved church is not just committee-centric, but community-centric.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, locations to be determined. We welcome your participation; please contact Kathe Stevens, kathestevens@gmail.com, or 313-675-1553, to get details on meeting time and location.

We're busy working on our next fundraiser (a Scavenger Hunt in conjunction with Dally in the Alley), having fun, and planning for the rest of 2014. Hope to hear your ideas!

Kathe Stevens, Chair

Church Announcements and Events

GEHHHHT RREADY TOO DALLYYYYYYYY!

Dally in the Alley will be rip-roaring its way to our neighborhood on Saturday, September 6. First UU will impress all with an enlightenment table from 11-6 and in a new twist...a hi-tech scavenger hunt using Midtown landmarks(?). There is no better place to people watch (and talk) than from our stationary yet dynamic hub. Our table will be supplemented once again with massage therapists and water relief for both human and beast. Your assistance is requested to staff the table, collect money at the Prentis lot and retrieve lost scavenger hunt participants. Please contact Dan Wiest or Joan Smykowski for more info but be patient as their lines will no doubt be ringing off the hook.

Discovering UU're Midown Scavenger Hunt

As part of Dally in the Alley street fair on Saturday, September 6, First UU Church is having a scavenger hunt, open to anyone who loves a fun challenge, while visiting new businesses, old haunts, up-and-coming spots and historical sites. A student (with valid ID) is only \$5; \$10 for others. Organized entirely by volunteers of First Church, starting times are 11am, 2 pm and 5 pm on the south lawn of the Church House on Prentis near 4605 Cass. Clues for the scavenger hunt will be shared via the Goose Chase app; Goose Chase works with iPhones and Android phones. (Printed clues will also be available upon request.). Detailed information and registration is at <http://uuremidtownhunt.eventbrite.com> which has all the info including a link to our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/events/729270803800785/>. Please circulate this information on your preferred social media using the tweets #Dally2014 and #uuremidtownhunt.



Church Announcements and Events

1st UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

September 10	Whole Foods Community Room	7:00 - 9:00 pm
October 8	Whole Foods Community Room	7:00 - 9:00 pm
November 12	Whole Foods Community Room	7:00 - 9:00 pm

All are welcome at board meetings. Whole Foods is located at 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit. 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

Vespers Wednesday

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

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.

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.

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.

Young Adults Activities

The first UU Young Adults group participates in 2 activities per month. To learn find out about upcoming Young Adults activities, visit us on facebook at: [groups/young1stuu/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/) or contact Beth Bailey to be join our Google Group.

Curiously Odd Movie Night

Robert and Kathleen are hosting a monthly movie night at their house. On Friday, September 26 at 7:30 pm, we will show What Dreams May Come starring Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding Jr. After dying, Chris (Williams) goes to heaven and befriends Albert (Gooding). After Chris learns of his wife's suicide, he decides to rescue her from Hell. We'll provide popcorn; you bring your beverage. Our 2 cats are very friendly. Seating is limited, so please RSVP at 313-799-2667. We are collecting donations for 1st UU church.

Share Your Voice - a sermon seminar for anyone!

This eight session seminar is an opportunity to practice telling your story in a collaborative environment. Participants will develop a sermon which they may share with the congregation. The group meets the second and fourth Monday of the month at 7pm, beginning October 13. Space is limited and participants must commit to attend all eight sessions. Please contact Beth Bailey at elizabethbailey88@gmail.com with questions.

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Happy Birthday Gwen Foss and Dave Williams!	3 7:00pm - Singing Circle Happy Birthday Gloria Williams!	4 Happy Birth- day Danny Rebbi!	5	6 Dally in the Alley Discovering UJ're Midtown Scavenger Hunt
7 11:00am - "The Art of Breathing." Speaker - Rev. Mohr 12:30pm - Intro to First Church	8	9	10 6:00pm - Vespers 7:00pm - Board Meeting 7:00pm - Singing Circle	11	12	13 Happy Birthday Toni Tront and Joan Smykowski!
14 New Member Sunday 11:00am - "Progressive Missionaries." Speaker - Rev. Mohr 12:30pm - Potluck	15 7:30pm - Amnesty International Meeting	16 Happy Birthday Arthur Gabhart!	17 7:00pm - Singing Circle	18	19	20
21 11:00am - "The Gift of Listening." Speaker - Rev. Mohr 12:30pm - Young Adults Meeting	22	23	24 7:00pm - Singing Circle 7:30pm - Development Committee Meeting Happy Birthday Stephanie Chang!	25	26 7:30pm - Curiously Odd Movie Night	27
28 11:00am - "Girl Scout Sunday Trail- blazers: Meet UJ Women Who Changed the World!" Guest Speaker Happy Birthday Sean Gray and Roger Ziegler!	29	30 Happy Birthday Maya Thottakath!				



**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**.

October Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, September 20th

Next issue covers October 1 - October 31, 2014

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org