

FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: LIBERATE TRUTH - RADIATE KINDNESS - LOVE COURAGEOUSLY

JULY 2015 EDITION

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

July 5:
Julie Brock

“Unitarian Universalist Theology.”

The very name of our religion is derived from two major tenets of our historical belief systems; God is one entity, rather than a trinity, and universal salvation exists. We still hold the name Unitarian Universalist, but these beliefs are no longer at the core of who we are theologically. Does UUism have a core belief system? How do we live collectively and believe differently? Do we hold common things sacred?

July 12:
Julie Brock

“The 7th Principle.”

Beyond what we believe, how are we connected? How do we depend on one another and on the earth? Are there images or language we can use that evokes meaning and purpose for all when talking about these things?

July 19:
Kim D. Hunter

“Detroit Musings” series

Kim D. Hunter is life-long Detroit, raised in a working class, African American family and is currently employed in media relations for social justice groups. He has served as Poet-in-Residence in several Detroit public schools through the InsideOut Literary Arts Project. He co-directs the Woodward Line Poetry Series. His work has appeared in *Rainbow Darkness*, *Abandon Automobile*, *Triage*, *Hipology*, *Metro Times*, *Dispatch Detroit* and *Graffiti Rag*. He has published two collections of poetry: “borne on slow knives” (Past Tents, 2001) and “edge of the time zone” (white print inc, 2009). He was awarded a Kresge Literary Fellowship for 2012.

July 26:
James Perkinson

“Detroit Musings” series

James Perkinson is a long-time activist and educator from inner city Detroit, where he has a history of involvement in various community development initiatives and low-income housing projects. He holds a PhD in theology from the University of Chicago, with a secondary focus on history of religions, is the author of “White Theology: Outing Supremacy in Modernity” and “Shamanism, Racism, and Hip-Hop Culture: Essays on White Supremacy and Black Subversion,” and has written extensively in both academic and popular journals on questions of race, class and colonialism in connection with religion and urban culture. He is in demand as a speaker on a wide variety of topics related to his interests and a recognized artist on the spoken-word poetry scene in the inner city.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2015- 2016

Officers

President:

Katbe Stevens

Vice President:

Paul Chislett

Immediate Past

President:

Marsha Bruhn

Board Secretary:

Danny Rebb (incoming)

Treasurer:

Dan Wiest

Board Members At-

Large:

Joel Batterman

Matt Friedrichs

Dave Vailliencourt

Staff

Music Director:

Todd Ballou

Office Administrator:

Alexis Mitchell

Social Hour

Coordinator:

Marcellis Lewis

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



Letter from the President...

Now that my two-year term has come to an end, I've been reflecting on how much I've learned in the interim about the congregation and the inner workings of the church! Kathe Stevens did a wonderful job in her "Snapshot of Our Growing Church" in the annual report to the congregation, so I'm not going to focus too much on the many ways in which we have grown together as a congregation as evidenced by our membership, finances, attendance, committees, events and outreach.

As I stated in my president's report in the annual report, it's the people, of course, who make us who we are. It's the person who greets you at the church door, who sits next to you on the pew, who holds your hand in the closing "squirle," who chats with you in the social hour. It's those of you—and that's everyone—who in ways large and small contribute to being a member of this church. As I shared with you at the Annual Congregational Meeting, I wish there had been time to recognize each and every one of you and personally thank you for your contributions to our church community. From John Angry's 8:00 AM arrival to set up the Chancel for Sunday service, to 2:00 PM when Sean McAde has washed coffee hour's last cup, to Mark Schwing updating the Cass/Forest Street sign for next week's service, a flurry of activity has gone on behind the scenes to provide the worship experience.

Given our limited staff, especially this past year, the work of the church has fallen on all of us, and how fortunate we are to have so many committed members to step into what are really big shoes. No one could have asked for a better board to work with the past two years—Vice President Danny Rebb, Secretary Kathe Stevens, Treasurer Dan Wiest, Sally Borden, Joan Smykowski, Matt Friedrichs, Paul Chislett, and Joel Batterman. I was able to call upon them at any time for advice and support. The same can be said for our committee chairs, of which we now have many. Finance has had a particularly challenging time addressing current and past obligations, and I've appreciated the extra help we've received from Bob Lauer on the budget and monthly finance reports.

I think it bears repeating how connected I've felt this past year since joining First UU 40 years ago, in part because of the connections the church has made in the past year with social justice issues—water shut-offs, the Montgomery bus boycott, same sex marriage, LGBTQ, Women Walking Woodward for Peace, Juneteenth. I've felt more connected to our roots as Unitarian Universalists. Thank you to everyone who has brought these out of the media and into our space.

While the role of president can be a daunting one, I'm confident that we're in good hands with Kathe Stevens and the incoming board. We're once again in a time of change. I'm grateful to Rev. Mohr for his contributions to our development the past several years and his recognition that we're ready to move ahead under new leadership. We should be hearing soon from the Interim Search Committee as to options for ministerial services while we move forward with the process to search for and attract a settled minister.

Thank you for the confidence you placed in me as your president. I look forward to continuing with the board as past president and doing my best to help address the needs of this church.

Marsha Bruhn

Membership Path

At the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, we believe membership begins the journey of a deeper commitment. Newcomers are always welcome in our congregation. 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 religious affiliations or practices.

Introduction to First UU

The Introduction to First UU sessions are usually held the first Sunday of most months, at 12:30 pm, in the “mansion.” The session will answer any questions you have and share a brief history of the Church.

Upcoming dates are:

- July 2015—there will not be a session
- August 2, 2015—12:30 pm
- September 6, 2015—12:30 pm
- October 4, 2015—12:30 pm

Getting Involved

Learn about the committees, groups and activities offered at the Church. The sessions are held at 12:30 pm, usually in the “mansion.”

Upcoming dates are:

- July 19, 2015—12:30 pm
- October 18, 2015—12:30 pm

Membership News

The First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit is one of the most multicultural churches in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Multiculturalism means nurturing a religious community where people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures see their cultural identities reflected and affirmed in every aspect of congregational life—worship, fellowship, leadership, governance, religious education and social justice.

Multiculturalism means that we create religious homes where encounters between people of different cultural identities intersect with Unitarian Universalism to create a fully inclusive community where, in the words of a vision statement adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Leadership Council, “all people are welcomed as blessings and the human family lives whole and reconciled.”

Multiculturalism means that one cultural identity does not dominate all other identities; that people are able to participate in their faith community without denying or hiding their cultural identities, that the role of cultural identity is part of pastoral and prophetic ministry; and that leaders have the competency to understand how multiple identities and socialization influence values, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and interactions with others.

We welcome each other into shared community just as we are;

We welcome the many ways that people define, express, and experience the Holy and respect what is considered sacred in our diverse cultures;

We understand public witness and all social justice work as ministry in partnership with communities to make the world more compassionate, equitable and just—a place that is safe, nurturing, supportive, and fair for all people;

We support communities and individuals in their search for truth and meaning—and a sense of aliveness—in their quest to make a positive difference in the world;

We offer mutual aid and comfort through life's challenges in ways that meet everyone's cultural, as well as personal, needs;

We recognize that there are many cultural languages that manifest worship, fellowship and pastoral care.

Thank You to the
Outstanding Greeters and Ushers
of First Church for June 2015

John Angry
Joel Batterman
Margaret Beck
Sally Borden
Sharlene Gage
Collin Gillis
Anita Jones
Carolyn Ludwig
Bob Neale
Glenn Maxwell
Aletha Oberdier
Nathan Strickland
Dan Wiest

To volunteer as an usher or greeter, please contact Glenn Maxwell at detroitglenn@gmail.com

To sign up or check which date you volunteered for, please visit: <http://www.1stuu.org/Worship/worship.php>

New Member Sundays

A monthly celebration of the new members who have signed the Membership Book. Upcoming dates are:

August 9, 2015

September 13, 2015

October 11, 2015

November 8, 2015

December 13, 2015

For more information please contact Regina Hollingshead at regina.hollinshead@gmail.com

I'm Interested In Joining the First UU. What Should I Do Next?

We encourage you to attend a variety of services; join us for activities and attend our Introduction to First UU, usually the first Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm. There are three requirements to becoming a member:

- Sign the Membership Book (the second Sunday of each month),
- Make a financial pledge to the Church and/or
- Make a contribution of record to the Church.

For more information, please contact Regina Hollingshead at regina.hollingshead@gmail.com.

Famous Unitarian Universalists

A number of notable people have considered themselves Unitarians, Universalists, and, following the merger of these denominations in the United States in 1961, Unitarian Universalists.

Abigail Adams (1744-1818) — Women's rights advocate and first Second Lady and second First Lady of the United States.

Tim Berners-Lee (born 1955) — Inventor of the World Wide Web.

E.E. Cummings (1894-1962) — Poet and Painter

Madelyn Dunham (1922-2008) — Grandmother of U.S. President Barack Obama

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) — Unitarian minister and Transcendentalist

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850)-Journalist

Gary Gygax (1938-2008) — Game designer and creator of Dungeons and Dragons

Roman Hruska (1904-1999) — Conservative Republican Senator from Nebraska

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) — Third president of the U.S.

Gyorgy Kepes (1906-2001) — Visual artist

Viola Liuzzo (1925-1965) — Civil rights activist and mother

George MacDonald (1824-1905) — Scottish author and poet



Church Announcements and Events

First UU Board Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

July 8 – Whole Foods Community Room 7:00 - 9:00 pm

August – 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 the Board Secretary at secretary@1stuu.org.

Vespers Wednesday

Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the church “mansion.”

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 Sundays: Welcoming New Members.

This is a regular 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 bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com for more details.

Church Announcements and Events

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 First 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 two 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.

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 would like to sign up, please visit the signup sheet on our website at 1stuu.org/Worship/worship.php, see Alexis after the service, or send an email to webmaster@1stuu.org!

Care Committee

The Care Committee addresses pastoral cares of our church community. It is chaired by Nancy Owen Nelson. Other members are Sally Borden, Edie McKnight, and Nathan Strickland. Please contact Nancy Owen Nelson, nlnan@aol.com or call her at 313-914-3475, if you would like a member of our Care Committee to reach out to you in a time of need.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mildred	Robinson	7/4
Ruth	Seifert	7/5
Julie	Brock	7/8
Edie	McKnight	7/12
Walter III	Greene	7/18
Edward	Collins	7/23
Stuart	Smith	7/25

** There will be birthday cards available to be signed on the first radiator on the right of the sanctuary near the hallway door.

Church Announcements and Events



Michigan UU Social Justice Network Call to Action:

WATER WALK from DETROIT to FLINT

Water Justice Advocates will depart from the Spirit of Detroit Statue, following a 10:00 Rally, on July 3 to bring further attention to the injustices surrounding clean, safe and accessible water. We are asking our UU congregations to join in the action. We welcome walkers to join the march for the full walk, or part of any day. We are also looking for attendance at major stops and rallies along the way. As information develops on the route and events it will be posted at <http://www.peopleswaterboard.org/> where you will also find more details about the issues we are facing.

Please Save the Dates and find an opportunity to be involved- there will be many! If you have questions or ideas of how to support the walk, please contact: jennifer.a.teed@gmail.com

Welcoming Congregation Bulletin

The June issue of the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Welcoming Congregation Bulletin" may be found at http://org.salsalabs.com/o/1272/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=1301281. The bulletin contains tools, actions, stories, and news to help congregations build welcoming and inclusive communities.

Snapshot: General Assembly 2015 in Portland, OR

Delegates Joel Batterman and Kathe Stevens just returned from [GA 2015](#). Watch for the August newsletter where we'll be reporting more fully on the Opening Celebration and banner parade, familiar faces at the convention center, business matters and our votes, the impromptu Supreme Court marriage decision celebration and *Black Lives Matter* die-in, Closing Celebration and joyful good-byes, and our other wonderful experiences.

Joys / Concerns

The esperantists presented at the service on June 28. On behalf of all the members of Esperanto-USA thank you to Sherry Wells for the brave and inspiring work of inviting and making happen our national convention in Detroit.

Welcome to all the June visitors!

Sandra Tolbert
Janice & Alex Morgan
Meri Slaven
Caroline Maun
Maher Alhaj
Radwan & Gladys Dabaja
Franco and Maria Constantini
Cheryl Greene

Raymond Brisebois
Bill Harris
Enrique Ellenberg
Chris Nelson
Brandon Weiner
Sean Athey
Colleen & George
And welcome to all those who did not sign in!

Joys / Concerns

Our daughter Alena Acker, who grew up in this church, was recently married to Jim Dingilian.

Submitted By: Al and Lencha Acker

Visiting from Missouri was Theresa Weidner. Theresa is the daughter of Tim Bailey and Joan Smykowski. And let's not forget her sister Beth Bailey.

Visiting from Rochester, NY: Moritz Wagner, member at Universalist Church of Rochester, NY.

Carmen Mendoza King was with us. She has returned from San Francisco, California after completing her Masters there.

Welcome back to Marsha Bruhn. We missed you! For full details about Marsha's exciting summer, see her during Coffee Hour.

Great job picnic committee - Beth Bailey, Aletha Oberdier, Nathan Strickland and Matt Friedrichs.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the Annual Picnic on Belle Isle. Well done, Young Adults!

Joel Batterman would like to honor the memory of his grandfather Ivan Mason, who would have turned 99.

Nathan Strickland was just named a 2015 Detroit BME Leader for his work in black male engagement in Detroit and dedication to his work at LGBT Detroit. Along with it he won a \$10,000 grant to continue his work.

Happy Father's Day to all the dad's, granddads and those who are father figures! Thanks!

Greetings from Meri Slaven, jazz vocalist and recording artist - friend of Nancy Owen Nelson.

Hello. I am a long time member of 1st UU Church in New Orleans. I am in town helping my son who just graduated from college and moved here and is getting settled in his new city.

Submitted By: Henry McCarthy

The poet Eleni Sikelianos, has just finished a poetry project among the Lakota Sioux of South Dakota.

Greetings from Janet Conboy from Missouri, college friend of Nancy Owen Nelson.



First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, which has a long history of activism and is an affirming and welcoming congregation, is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice, whose members strive to liberate truth, radiate kindness and love courageously. We are located in the Cass Corridor Commons in Midtown.

**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

Message Topics

Remember, the Worship Committee is always open to new ideas for speakers and for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an idea for a speaker or a sermon, please do feel free to share it: worship@1stuu.org.

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**.

August Newsletter Deadline

Monday, July 20th

Next issue covers August 1 - August 30, 2015

No submissions accepted after the deadline.

Send items to office@1stuu.org