

# FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT NEWSLETTER

  
SEPTEMBER  
2017  
EDITION

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule ...

### September 3rd — "Working for a Greater Good"

*The Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman, Guest Speaker*  
Typically, in a city like Detroit, a celebration of Labor Day evokes hard hats and assembly lines, but when I was a member of the UAW, I worked in a public school for emotionally-impaired children in Inkster. Traditional concepts of "labor" have changed as off-shoring and mechanization advance, but what about all the other ways we work? Are these labors of love and necessity worthy of celebrating too? I think so.

### September 10th — "More Inter-Religious, Increasingly Secular"

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*  
This summer, I was scheduled to lead a workshop at the UU General Assembly which would explore how we are concurrently, as a nation, both more inter-religious and increasingly secular. I will offer a sermon-sized examination of this topic.

### September 17th — "The Reformation"

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*  
In this 500th year since the beginning of the Reformation, we will explore what happened in the world of belief at the time of the Reformation, and how that continues to affect us today.

### September 24th — "What Do We Stand For?"

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*  
Every now and then, it is important to talk about the current environment of the church and society. Who are we and who are our neighbors? What are the deep needs that we can answer and what are the ones that we are not equipped to respond to meaningfully? What ought we be and what ought we do?



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[www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org)

## Inside This Issue

HIGHLIGHTS: Dally In The Alley — Choir Opportunities — Rev. Murray's Installation — Update on Flowers — Membership Committee Table — Our Members

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**INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR REV. MURRAY**

**Saturday, September 23**

Info on [p 3.](#)



## About Us ...

**UU DETROIT IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN-  
UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS —  
[WWW.UUA.ORG](http://WWW.UUA.ORG) — IN THE MIDAMERICA REGION —  
[WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG](http://WWW.MIDAMERICAUUA.ORG)**

We are creating **spirituality** and **community** beyond boundaries, working for more **justice** and more **love** in our own lives and in the world; we practice **radical hospitality**.



The symbol of our faith is a **Flaming Chalice**. 

We affirm and promote **seven Principles**.

We **welcome** you as **individual people**, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, religious background, marital status, family structure, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socioeconomic status.

We have been at the corner of **Cass and Forest** for over a century ... **our** Universalist and Unitarian **roots in Detroit** go back over **185 years**.



### Our Vision

First Unitarian-Universalist Church is an urban center in **Detroit** for spiritual renewal and social justice.

### Our Mission

First Unitarian-Universalist Church strives to be an expanding **transformative** community whose mission is to **liberate** truth, **radiate** kindness, and **love** courageously.



We are a [UUA-recognized](#) **Welcoming Congregation**

We are a proud **member** of the **Cass Corridor Commons**.



**Black Lives Matter** to Unitarian Universalists.

## FIRST UNITARIAN- UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2017–2018

### OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT  
*Dan Hale*

VICE PRESIDENT  
*Nathan Strickland, Jr.*

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
*Kathe Stevens*

BOARD SECRETARY  
*Danny Rebb*

TREASURER  
*Bob Lauer*

### TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE:

*Maysel Brooks*  
*Joel Fortgang*  
*Dan Secrest*  
*Dan Wiest*

### STAFF:

MINISTER  
*The Rev. Dr. Stephen  
Butler Murray*

MUSIC DIRECTOR  
*Todd Ballou*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
*Nancy Shattuck*

CHILD CARE PROVIDER  
*Julia Cuneo*

ACTING SOCIAL HOUR  
COORDINATOR  
*Omar Davis*

**WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY  
SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM**



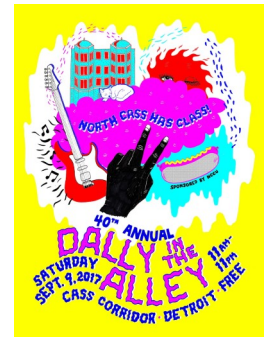
## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

### SPECIAL FLOWER DONATIONS — SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

On September 3 & 17 and October 1, 15 & 29, our chancel flowers will be donated by **Susan Matthews**, who has been attending UU Detroit for the past few months. We'll follow our usual process ([see p. 7](#)) for providing flowers, but Susan will be providing the flowers, rather than Lencha Acker. **Thank you, Susan!**

### DALLY IN THE ALLEY — SEPTEMBER 9

UU Detroit will continue its presence at the 40th Annual [Dally in the Alley](#) on September 9. Stop by and converse or help lend a hand staffing. Meet up with old and current friends. It's the best people watching event of the year. We will attempt to get the same vicinity as the last several years on Forest just west of Second. Contact Dan Wiest ([dfwiest@comcast.net](mailto:dfwiest@comcast.net)) if you are available to help with staffing, setup, or breakdown.



### SINGING OPPORTUNITY BEGINS AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 10

The UU Detroit Choir is currently taking the summer off and will start up with regular rehearsals after Labor Day, on Sunday, September 10. Anyone interested in singing is welcome to join us. **Regular rehearsals are at 9:00-10:30 AM, typically on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.** The choir performs music to compliment the diverse services at 1<sup>st</sup> UU church, while dabbling in music theory, vocal technique, and clapping. This season, we will be repeating favorites such as "Live Your Dream" and "California Dreamin'" while learning the classic by J. S. Bach, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." As a UU organization, we are also prone to lengthy and inappropriate discussions about politics, word pronunciation, and the best way to arrange the chairs. It is worth getting up early on Sunday morning! For more information, feel free to contact your music director, **Todd Ballou**, at [usicdirector@1stuu.org](mailto:usicdirector@1stuu.org).



### REV. MURRAY'S INSTALLATION AS SETTLED MINISTER — SEPTEMBER 23

We will install The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray as our Settled Minister on **Saturday, September 23, 2017, 11:30 AM** in the Sanctuary. The ceremony will be followed by a luncheon in the social hall. Invitations have been mailed to members and friends. The Installation Committee is **Dessa Cosma** (chair), **Nancy Owen-Nelson**, and **Kathe Stevens**, with **the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray** consulting. We're planning a grand celebration to install Rev. Murray as our Settled Minister. We look forward to celebrating with you!



## Committee News ...

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Members of the Social Justice Committee have reached out to our neighbor across the street, the Wayne State University Islamic Center of Detroit, to explore how to work together.

If you are interested in helping drive social justice in our congregation, please contact chair **Nathan Strickland, Jr.** or join us on the **first Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:00 PM** in the Parlor.



### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE STAFFING A TABLE EVERY SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, OR OUR CHURCH, PLEASE STOP BY TO CHAT.**

Chair, **Dessa Cosma**, leads the committee; **Sally Borden** helps to conduct the "Intro to UU Detroit" classes; and **Glenn Maxwell** organizes our greeters and ushers; **Maysel Brooks**, **Joel Fortgang**, **Deanna McGraw** and **Sharon Mills** round out the committee. Thanks to all of you for your interest in keeping our radical hospital thriving!

See [p. 6](#) for details on our "Intro to UU Detroit" class which is scheduled for **October 15**.

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**VISION:** UU Detroit will be a healthy and active community, featuring efficient, respectful, interesting, and consistent electronic communication throughout the week. Electronic communication will support our face-to-face gatherings, and vice versa. We will be a caring community with well-coordinated means of keeping people without computers and smartphones in the loop. Smaller groups will prosper within our larger community, with many using niche communication technologies, yet also staying connected with the mother ship. With regard to the larger community, we will be accessible and well organized in collaborating on larger goals and in sharing experiences and ideas.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit our web page: [Communications Committee](#).

**TO VOLUNTEER:** Speak to chairperson, **Dan Secret**, at 313-580-7082 or send an email to [communications@1stuu.org](mailto:communications@1stuu.org).

### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA EMAIL

**Anita "Ruby" Jones** compiles church-related announcements into a weekly email digest, which she sends each Friday via the church email group, so the announcements will be fresh in our minds for Sunday activities and discussion. Send your announcements to [announcements@1stuu.org](mailto:announcements@1stuu.org).





## Member News ...

### ROBERT JOHNSON

On August 13, Nancy Owen Nelson, Chair of the Care Committee, spoke with **Robert Johnson** on the phone. He was very happy to hear from her and gave this update:

He's in much extreme pain in his feet due to neuropathy. He's getting treatment, but with limited success at this time. He has been wanting to attend church but has not felt well enough.

Kathleen is doing well.

Robert and Kathleen are also dealing with a number of family medical issues.

Robert cares about his friends at First UU Detroit!

He welcomes phone calls (preferred to Facebook and/or email).

Here are his numbers: 313-799-2667 –or– 313-559-3367.



**PHOTO:** Robert at 2016 UUA General Assembly.

### JERRY WILLIAMS

It is with profound sadness that we let you know that long-time UU Detroit member, **Jerry Williams**, has died. Efforts are continuing to locate Jerry's next-of-kin and to arrange a memorial service. We're working with leadership at the UAW Local 600 retirees chapter (in which Jerry was active) and Jerry's neighbors and friends. We'll keep you updated on progress.



**PHOTO:** Jerry — second from right in the back row, wearing a black shirt — with members of his church community.



## Activities ...

### Singing Circle

Singing Circle is held every Wednesday at **7:00 PM**; open to all. Contact **Gwen Foss** at [bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com](mailto:bookdoctorgwen@gmail.com) for more details.

WEDNESDAYS AT  
UU DETROIT

### Vespers

Vespers runs from **6:00 - 7:00 PM** on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Parlor. See our website for more information: <http://1stuu.org/Worship/vespers/.vespers.php>.

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](mailto:worship@1stuu.org).

MESSAGE  
TOPICS

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you have a milestone (joy or sorrow) to share or a visitor to introduce on Sunday, 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 as part of our closing circle. Please note that announcements about meetings are more appropriate for coffee hour.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held from **7:00 - 9:00 PM**, on the second Thursday of each month at the Whole Foods Community Room. The dates of the next two meetings are **September 14** and **October 12**. All are welcome at Board meetings. Whole Foods Market is located at 115 Mack Ave (corner of John R), Detroit. If you have an item you wish to have included on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact **Danny Rebb**, Secretary to the Board, at [secretary@1stuu.org](mailto:secretary@1stuu.org).

### Sundays at UU Detroit

#### "Intro to UU Detroit"

Are you new to the Church, or just interested in learning more about our Church and tradition? The "Intro to UU Detroit" class offers introductory information on 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 Unitarian Universalist tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of UU Detroit. Please do attend: we are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us! The next class is **October 15**.

#### Welcoming New Members

Do you wish to come forward as a new member, present yourself 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. Let Membership Committee Chair, **Dessa Cosma**, know you're interested so we may welcome you properly! [dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com).

#### SECOND Sundays: Potluck

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to share with our UU Detroit community! As we add new members, it's 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.



#### SECOND Sundays: Networking

All congregants are invited to bring and share your personal business cards for distribution on the second Sunday of the month. Many of us would certainly like to be able to support businesses of fellow church members and if you feel the same, here is an opportunity to do just that. Contact **Ruby Jones** ([racedancer@hotmail.com](mailto:racedancer@hotmail.com)) for more details.



## Activities ... cont'd

### Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a global movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights. Amnesty International meets at UU Detroit on the **3rd Monday** of every month at **7:30 PM** in the Parlor. Contact **Dan Wiest** at [dfwiest@comcast.net](mailto:dfwiest@comcast.net) for more information.

### Care Committee

Help us to minister to each other. If you or someone you know is sick, in need of a pastoral call or other assistance, please let the Care Committee know by contacting its chair, **Nancy Owen Nelson**, at [nelnan@aol.com](mailto:nelnan@aol.com) to provide a network for communication and support. Other Care Committee members are **Sally Borden**, **Linda Darga**, **Edie McKnight**, and **Nathan Strickland, Jr.**

### Child Care

Child care is available during Sunday worship service with our child care provider, **Julia Cuneo**, in a bright, cheerful room in the back of the Church, off the Narthex. Volunteers are urged to step up to help with child care. See Child Care Committee Co-Chairs, **Sally Borden** or **Richard Hillier**, for details.

### Young Adults Activities

Visit the UU Detroit Young Adults Group Facebook page to learn about activities, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/young1stuu/> or contact **Aletha Oberdier** at [alethafaye@gmail.com](mailto:alethafaye@gmail.com) to join our Google Group.

### Check the Church Calendar!

There are so many interesting things going on at UU Detroit! Please be sure to check the church calendar before you schedule an event. You may access it at <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar.php>. If the day looks free for your event, you may reserve a room by sending an email to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@1stuu.org). Either webmaster Dan Secrest, office administrator Nancy Shattuck, or newsletter editor Kathe Stevens will get your room scheduled and get information about your event into the newsletter.

### 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 to donate flowers, please use the [Flower Donation Signup Sheet](#) on our website, see our Office Administrator, **Nancy Shattuck**, after the service, or send an email to [webmaster@1stuu.org](mailto:webmaster@1stuu.org)!



### Share our Facebook Posts!

Facebook events are being created on our Facebook [page](#) and [group](#) for sermons, Vespers, Membership activities, and other events. When you see a Facebook event about church activities, PLEASE SHARE IT on your newsfeed! Help get the word out about what's going on at UU Detroit.

### Do You Want To Know About EMEAC Events?

You can find out what's going on with East Michigan Environmental Action Council, the owner of our building and manager of the Cass Corridor Commons, by clicking on the [Latest News](#) tab at [www.emecac.org](http://www.emecac.org).

### Cass Corridor Commons News

UU Detroit is part of the [Cass Corridor Commons](#), a multi-use nonprofit green space and community hub that embodies principles of shared space, environmental justice and social justice principles. The Commons' [Facebook page](#) has up-to-date information .



## Policies and Procedures ...

### So, You've Been Wondering About UU Detroit's Policies and Procedures?

*Featured policy and procedure of the month: [EMEAC Board Representative](#)*

In June 2016, your Board of Trustees approved a [Policies and Procedures Manual](#). The need for a manual became apparent from several different sources as diverse as the Planning Committee to our staff, from individual congregants to the Board itself. The P&P may be found on the first page of our website, 1stuu.org. Click on any title in the Table of Contents in the manual to go directly to that policy.

We're going to feature a summary of a P&P every month in the newsletter so you may get to know how UU Detroit operates!

— **Planning Committee**

**POLICY STATEMENT:** Selection process and policies for UU Detroit's Congregational Representative to the Board of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council.

**RATIONALE OR BACKGROUND:** Pursuant to ¶10 of the May 25, 2011 Memorandum of Understanding donating UU Detroit's property to EMEAC, UU Detroit shall have a Congregational representative on the Board of EMEAC.

The procedures set out for selection of the UU Detroit representative to EMEAC's board are straightforward. They have been refined by agreement between EMEAC and UU Detroit.

The UU Detroit Board of Trustees will select potential candidates for Congregational Representative. Once candidates are identified, they are presented to EMEAC for its selection. The UU Detroit Board will formally appoint the person chosen by EMEAC. If there is a vacancy, the UU Detroit Board will follow this same process to appoint a new Congregational Representative.

The term is from the date of the appointment until notified by EMEAC of a necessary change, or until the position is vacated, or the UU Detroit Board of Trustees feels a new Congregational Representative is needed.

To represent UU Detroit on EMEAC's board, you must have been a member of UU Detroit for at least two years prior to the appointment, as membership is defined in Article III of the by-laws of the Church. The policy sets out requirements which, if not met, would result in revocation of the appointment.

The policy also requires that, in order to effectively represent UU Detroit, the Congregational Representative meet with the UU Detroit Board President, or the full Board of Trustees, to discuss issues — at least quarterly or whenever important issues arise — and that regular written reports be provided to the UU Detroit Board.

We're dedicated to our relationship with EMEAC. Our current Congregational Representative on the EMEAC Board, **Lencha Acker**, has served for several years. Thank you, Lencha!



[CLICK TO RETURN TO FIRST PAGE](#)





## Calendar ...

**All events take place at UU Detroit, 4605 Cass, unless otherwise indicated**

View the UU Detroit calendar at <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar.php>

### Sunday, September 3

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "Working for a Greater Good" (The Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman, Guest Speaker) — Sanctuary



12:30 PM: *Planning Committee Meeting* — Parlor

### Wednesday, September 6

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

7:00 PM: *Social Justice Committee meeting* — Parlor

### Sunday, September 10

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM: *EJAM training in Social Hall* — Coffee Hour in Parlor

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "More Inter-Religious, Increasingly Secular" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary

12:00 PM: *Potluck Sunday* — Social Hall

### Wednesday, September 13

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

### Thursday, September 14

7:00 PM: *UU Detroit Board of Trustees meeting* — Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack Ave at John R, Detroit

### Sunday, September 17

9:00 AM: *Choir Practice* — Chancel

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "The Reformation" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister) — Sanctuary

### Monday, September 18

7:30 PM: *Amnesty International* — Parlor

### Wednesday, September 20

7:00 PM: *Worship Committee meeting* — Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Social Hall

### Saturday, September 23

11:30 AM: *Installation Ceremony for The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray* — Sanctuary

1:00 PM: *Installation Luncheon* — Social Hall

### Sunday, September 24

11:00 AM: *Worship Service* "What Do We Stand For?" (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister)

### Wednesday, September 27

6:00 PM: *Vespers* — Parlor

7:00 PM: *Singing Circle* — Sanctuary

### Sunday, September 10

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: *Annual Leadership Retreat* — location TBD; will be emailed



The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray



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### FIRST UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DETROIT

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201

... in the Cass Corridor Commons ...

Please visit us at [www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org),  
email us at [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org),  
or give us a call at (313) 833-9107.

## Deadlines & Office Hours ...

### 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 [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto:officeadmin@1stuu.org) by **12:00 PM Thursday**.

### Newsletter Deadline

#### Wednesday, September 20th

Next issue covers October 1 — October 31, 2017

No submissions accepted after the deadline — send items to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@1stuu.org).

### Office Administrator Work Schedule

**Nancy Shattuck** works every Sunday from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.