

**February
2019
Edition**



Newsletter
**First Unitarian-Universalist Church
of Detroit**

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

February 3rd — “On Henry Louis Gates, Jr.”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

One of the most important historians and interpreters of African American lives is Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University and host of the beloved PBS series *Finding Your Roots*. Today, we will explore the biography and legacy of Gates’s public intellectual work.

February 10th — “The Promise and the Practice: Unitarian Universalism’s Black History”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

Today’s service will explore the history of African Americans in the Unitarian Universalist movement, from 1860 to the present.

February 17th — “Immolation and Identity”

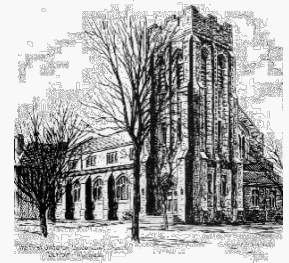
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

One of the moral quandaries of the Vietnam War era concerned the Buddhist monks who immolated themselves in protest of the war. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh corresponded with each other on this issue, providing a rich Christian-Buddhist dialogue on the comparative religious ethics concerning this topic. Our congregation felt the effect of this issue most acutely when one of our members, Alice Herz, immolated herself in March 1965 in protest of the escalation of the Vietnam War. Alice’s daughter, Helga, was a longtime member of UU Detroit as well, active in the peace movement. There is a plaque on the fireplace mantel in the house lobby dedicated to Helga. Our service today will explore the memory of this form of protest.

February 24th — “Jim Crow Detroit”

Jamon Jordan, Guest Speaker

Segregation, sharecropping, lynchings, and the intense racism of the Jim Crow South led to the Great Migration. Detroit would be a major destination for African Americans leaving the south. Jamon Jordan will speak on this era in which African Americans created and became a part of the historic communities of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, where they founded churches, schools, civic institutions, as well as 350 Black-owned businesses. And learn how it was destroyed by local, state, and federal policies of urban renewal and interstate highways. His talk will take us right up to the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements of the 1950s and ‘60s.



4605 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313-833-9107
www.1stuu.org

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

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 [Welcoming Congregation](#)

We believe [Black Lives Matter](#)

We stand in [solidarity with Muslim communities](#)

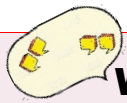
We are a [Member](#) of the [Unitarian-Universalist Association of Congregations](#) — in the [MidAmerica Region](#)

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Music Director: Todd Ballou

Board President: Dan Hale

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote [seven Principles](#).



Words to live by

The poet Mary Oliver died on January 17th. She was embraced by [our denomination](#). Our UU hymn book, "Singing the Living Tradition," includes three poems by Mary Oliver: *Wild Geese* (#490), *Morning Poem* (#536), and *To Live in This World* (#696). Mary was chosen to give the [Ware Lecture](#) at the UUA General Assembly in 2006.

In her January 17th show, Krista Tippett, host of *On Being* (also a [Ware Lecturer](#)), revisited a [2015 interview of Mary Oliver](#). During the original 2015 broadcast, Mary read her poem [Wild Geese](#):

"You do not have to be good. / You do not have to walk on your knees / for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. / You only have to let the soft animal of your body / love what it loves. / Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. / Meanwhile the world goes on. / Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain / are moving across the landscapes, / over the prairies and the deep trees, / the mountains and the rivers. / Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, / are heading home again. / Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, / the world offers itself to your imagination, / calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting — / over and over announcing your place / in the family of things."



Announcements

We love musicians!

UU Detroit is a place where we welcome congregational participation in our Sunday morning music, and it is time to refresh the ongoing invitation. Our services are very diverse, so there is sure to be a place for all voices, instruments, genres, and styles.

Our choir always welcomes singers, and they typically rehearse on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays, 9:00am-10:30am in the sanctuary. Although we meet early, rehearsals are packed with diverse music, teamwork, vocal exercise, jokes, and intellectual discussions. Come and sing with us or come and listen. No audition is required.

If you are more of an idea person, you can share your musical knowledge and experience through music suggestions and ideas. If you know the perfect song for UU Detroit, let us know. You can preview upcoming topics at the church website. Follow [worship services](#) to find upcoming services, with a [draft order of service posted on Thursdays](#) that includes musical selections. To see upcoming services further in advance, follow the [2019 speaker schedule](#). If you have a friend to invite to the church, advance information about the topic and music is especially useful.

Vocalists, instrumentalists, pianists, organists, and drummers are welcome as soloists, song leaders, or as a complement to other musicians, our choir, and our congregational singing. Some rehearsal or planning is usually helpful. **March 24** and **June 23** before the service are ideal times for Todd to collaborate with musicians.

"There are numerous strings in your lute, let me add my own among them." [Rabindranath Tagore, *Crossing*.]

The easiest way to start is with an email to Todd Ballou at musicdirector@1stuu.org.

Herz documentary

Former UU Detroit [Alice Herz](#) is the subject of a [documentary](#), "Phoenix: The Life and Death of Alice Herz," which has been selected as the *Center for Independent Documentary's* sponsored [Film of the Month](#). Alice, an 82-year-old German Jewish immigrant, writer, and lifelong peace activist, immolated herself in March 1965 in protest of the escalation of the Vietnam War. Alice's daughter, Helga Herz, was a longtime member of UU Detroit, and continued her family's legacy by also devoting her life to activism. There is a plaque on the fireplace mantel in the house lobby dedicated to Helga.

If you have the financial resources, please consider a [donation](#) to help fund the documentary.

If you have memories of Alice or Helga, please let **Kathe Stevens** (kathestevevns@gmail.com) know so she can connect you with the director, Betsy Kalin. Betsy and crew will be in Detroit **February 15-18** to film and interview!



For those of you who won't remember Helga — she passed away in 2010, a few years after leaving Detroit to live with relatives in Maryland — here's a short [history](#):

Alice and Helga moved to Detroit from Germany in 1942. On March 16, 1965, Helga's mother, Alice, immolated herself on the corner of Oakman and Grand River in Detroit to protest the Vietnam war.

Helga was a librarian at the Detroit Public Library. She too was active in protests of the Vietnam War. After her retirement in 1978, Helga headed the library at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University, where her work has been compiled as the *Helga Herz Peace Archives*. She received the *Spirit of Detroit Award* and other accolades for her tireless volunteer work; she was active with the Detroit Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for many years.

In 2000, Helga won her appeal against the German government for reparations for the large family property in East Berlin that had been seized by the Nazis — and then sold the property, donating the proceeds to the German Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Don't miss Rev. Murray's February 17th sermon, "Immolation and Identity," which will explore this topic. **The documentary crew will be on hand to film that day.**

Woman, 82, Sets Herself Afire In Street as Protest on Vietnam

By DAVID R. JONES

Special to The New York Times

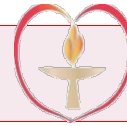
DETROIT, March 17—An elderly widow was in critical condition here today after setting herself ablaze on a street corner last night in protest against United States foreign policy.

Mrs. Alice Herz, an 82-year-old pacifist who friends described as intelligent and alert, was rushed to Receiving Hospital with second-degree and third-degree burns of the head and hands. She had poured cleaning fluid over herself on a Detroit street and ignited it.

Passersby beat out the flames. choosing the illuminating death of a Buddhist."

Mrs. Herz was born in Germany but fled with her daughter, Helga, to escape the Nazis. They first lived in France, where Mrs. Herz wrote articles for a Swiss newspaper. They lived for months in French and Cuban refugee camps before coming here in 1943.

Miss Herz, now a Detroit librarian, said today that she did not believe that her mother had done it "to satisfy her soul" or as "a kind of solace for depression, but as an attempt to stir



Member News

Nathan D. Strickland, Jr.

We're very, very sorry to tell you that that [Nate Strickland](#) has lost his long battle with cancer at the young age of 27. His sweet spirit and infectious laugh will be missed so much. The UU Detroit congregation sends its most sincere condolences to his parents, Nathan Sr. and Debra Strickland, brother Tony Strickland, and sister Nicole Strickland. Nathan Sr. and Debra had attended UU Detroit services with Nate somewhat regularly lately, and we were able to meet both Tony and Nic when Nate brought them to church. Condolences may be sent to Nathan Sr. and Debra at 2207 Ridgemont Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1380.

Nate's Facebook page has been turned into a memorial: [Remembering Nathan D Strickland](#). "We hope people who love Nathan will find comfort in visiting his profile to remember and celebrate his life."

Janice E. Berry

We're sad to report that longtime church member [Janice Berry](#) has died. Janice had not come to church very often in the last few years (she was 97 when she passed) but had been an integral member of the church for many years, with her husband, Jim. A memorial service is planned in the spring.

Wishing you well

Mary Lou Malone's son, **Andrew Malone**, sends this update: "After intensive rehab, Mary Lou's condition [after back surgery, Mary Lou is still unable to walk] has not changed. We are cautiously optimistic, but pragmatic and ready to accept whatever lies ahead.

Mary Lou has moved to Genesis House, 29140 Murray Crescent Dr, Southfield, MI 48076, 248-854-7523. In May we will determine the best place for her to live permanently. She welcomes visitors, cards, emails, texts, and phone calls. Please make plans in advance before going to see her in person. **Mary Lou's cell phone is 313-213-5538**. She cannot access her voicemail, so do not leave any messages. Thanks for all of your love and support!"



We speak up

UU Detroit member Susan Matthews' letter to the editor, [Bankrupt in America?](#), was published in the *Free Press* on December 30th. Susan wrote about donating to a nonprofit organization helping to care for refugees, using her income "to make up for the awful acts of our once-great country." She wondered how she will be able to afford to live here, financially or morally. We appreciate our vocal members!

Rev. Murray's letter, [Church members show compassion](#), about our care for a homeless woman who came to the church, was published in the *Free Press* on January 27th. "My work often is to be a spiritual leader for others, but some days, some wonderful days, I have the experience of being inspired spiritually by the people themselves. What a joy to work with such a community of love, justice, hope, and kindness as this." Thank you, Rev. Murray.

UU Detroit's got talent

We have members who are musicians, authors, poets, potters, photographers ... and more! Email **Ruby Jones** at announcements@1stuu.org to publish information about your events or news about your art in our weekly email digest. Please help us let everyone know what's going on!

Great BIG HURRAH for volunteers

Our church runs smoothly because of our many volunteers: a special BIG HURRAH to **Dan Wiest**, who has taken on most of the shoveling this winter, including shoveling the *entire Forest parking lot* on January 27th.

Board & Committee News

The Board of Trustees Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit has called a special meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, **February 10 at 12:30 PM** in the Social Hall. This special congregational meeting will be held to hold a vote to **elect replacements to serve on the Nominating Committee** and **amend the bylaws**. Please mark **February 10th** on your calendar and attend this important meeting.

Community



Semester in Detroit

The Cass Corridor Commons hosts the University of Michigan's program, [Semester in Detroit](#). **February 15-17** is orientation weekend at the Commons for this semester — about 22 students will be gathering in the Parlor, Social Hall, Kitchen, and 3rd Floor. On Saturday the 16th they'll be having their community dinner in the Social Hall.

"Semester in Detroit transforms U-M students through reciprocal relationships with the people, organizations, and neighborhoods of Detroit. By living, learning, and working in the city, our students engage with community leaders in transformative work - strengthening themselves as well as the wider region." Welcome to a new semester in the D!

UU Detroit birthdays!

2/6	Russ Lorraine
2/7	Nathan Strickland*
2/7	Michelle Peters
2/7	Kathleen Jacobs Johnson
2/8	Dave Valliencourt
2/9	Eric Gardner
2/18	Charles Davis
2/18	Al Acker
2/21	Arne Johnston
2/26	Chloe Lundine

*Nathan passed away on January 24 but we've left notice of his birthday so we may take a moment to observe a life lost much too soon.

Vespers

For the January 23rd vespers, poetry mavens, Al and Lencha Acker, offered *An Evening with Mary and Billy*, featuring poetry by Mary Oliver (serendipitously) and Billy Collins with music to match.

The next monthly vespers is **February 27th** at [Henry Ford Village](#) at [15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn, MI](#), from 6:00-7:00 PM on in the Library Reading Room, which is accessible from the Great Lakes entrance. The Library is labeled 13 on this [campus map](#).



“Share the Plate” Sunday

Our January 27th *Share the Plate* recipient was Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (“[BLUU](#)”). We have supported BLUU in previous *Share the Plate* Sundays but this particular donation was part of your Board’s commitment to participate in the [congregational giving component](#) of the UUA “[Promise and the Practice of our Faith](#)” campaign, pledging the equivalent of **\$10 per UU Detroit member**.

Denominational News



MidAmerica

Winter 2019 Chalice Lighter Call: The goal of the Chalice Lighter program is to help fund specific growth projects of MidAmerica congregations by pooling together a number of donations from Unitarian Universalists across our region. Over the years, projects have consistently been funded from all corners of the region. The deadline to donate to this year’s Winter Call is **March 31st**.

To get details and to donate to the 2019 Winter Chalice Lighter Call go to the [Chalice Lighter webpage](#) and click on the *Donate* option of your choice; or write a check payable to **MidAmerica Region**. Please note “Chalice Lighters Winter 2019 Call” or “Annual Donation” in the memo line and send it to the MidAmerica Region, 2355 Fairview Avenue, #312, Roseville, MN 55113.

UUA

General Assembly Ware Lecture: A distinguished guest is invited each year to address the annual UUA General Assembly as the **Ware Lecturer**. The UUA has announced that the [2019 Ware Lecturer is Richard Blanco](#). “Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role.”

The 2019 Ware Lecture is Friday, **June 21** at 7:30 PM PDT at the Spokane (WA) Convention Center. GA registration is required to attend the lecture in Spokane. The Ware Lecture will be streamed live on www.uua.org/ga.

Church Life



Communicate:

Send an email:

[Choir](#) (Todd Ballou)
[Email listserv signup](#) (Webmaster)
[Minister](#) (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)
[Newsletter](#) (Newsletter Editors)
[Office administrator](#) (Nancy Shattuck)
[Webmaster](#) (Dan Secret)
[Weekly email digest](#) (Ruby Jones)

Go to a link:

[Board Members & Committee Chairs](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Facebook group](#)

Community:

Send an email:

[Amnesty International](#) (Dan Wiest)
[Share personal business cards](#) (Ruby Jones)
[Sign the Membership Book](#) (Deanna McGraw)
[Suggest sermon topics](#) (Worship Committee)

Learn about us:

Send an email:

[“Intro to UU Detroit”](#) (Sally Borden)

Go to a link:

[Facebook page](#)
[History](#)
[Parking](#)
[Website](#)

Participate:

Send an email:

[Help with Sunday child care](#) (Sally Borden)

Go to a link:

[Flower Donation Signup Sheet](#)
[Greeter Signup Sheet](#)
[Visitor Table Signup Sheet](#)

Reserve a room:

Send an email:

[Sunday morning/afternoon or Wednesday evening](#)
 (Newsletter Editors)
[Other days](#) (Dee Collins — or call 313-556-1702)



Dates and Deadlines



Events located off premises and non-church events are in italics

Special Congregational meeting to select a new nominating committee and amend the bylaws: Sun., **Feb. 10**, 12:30 PM — Social Hall (Dan Hale)

Potluck: Sun., **Feb. 10**, 12:00 PM — Social Hall

Board meeting: Sun., **Feb. 17**, 12:30-2:30 PM — Parlor (Dan Hale)

Worship Committee meeting: Sun., **Feb. 17**, 12:40-2:40 PM — Sanctuary (Nancy Owen Nelson)

Semester in Detroit orientation: *Fri., Feb. 15 - Sun., Feb. 17* — Commons (Dee Collins of EMEAC)

“Phoenix: The Life and Death of Alice Herz” will be filmed: *Fri., Feb. 15 - Mon., Feb. 18* — Sanctuary (Kathe Stevens)

Amnesty International meeting: *Mon., Feb. 18*, 7:30-9:00 PM — Social Hall (Dan Wiest)

Social Justice Committee meeting: Sun. **Feb. 24**, 12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

Vespers: *Wed., Feb. 27*, 6:00-7:00 PM — Henry Ford Village, 15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn (Dan Secrest)

Weekly Sunday order of service deadline

Send your item/event to be included in our order of service to officeadmin@1stuu.org by **12:00 PM Thursday**

March newsletter deadline

Send items to newsletter@1stuu.org by **February 20** — the next issue covers March 1-31 — no submissions accepted after the deadline

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Ave at the corner of Forest Ave

... in the [Cass Corridor Commons](#) ...

Please visit us at www.1stuu.org,

email us at officeadmin@1stuu.org,

or give us a call at (313) 833-9107

Our history of fighting for civil liberties in the world and advocating for Detroit at home is long and strong. Our roots in Detroit go back over 185 years: Universalists first worshiped in Detroit in 1831, Unitarians in 1833. One hundred years later, an experimental union of the two congregations led to an official merger, preceding the national merger of the two denominations (in 1961) by 27 years.

Radical thinkers who worshipped, spoke, met, and organized within our congregations include ground-breaking African-Americans; civil rights crusaders and martyrs; progressive politicians; icons of women's movements, including trailblazing women lawyers and doctors; promoters of worker's rights; LGBTQ pioneers; peace activists and martyrs; environmental champions; immigration reformists; authors, poets, educators, scientists, architects, and musicians.

Ordinary people seeking solace and a vision of how to put faith into action — from 19th century abolitionists to 20th century suffragettes to 21st century water warriors — we have lived out and continue to live out our Sixth Principle: *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*



**SIDE WITH
LOVE**

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48201