

**July  
2019  
Edition**



# Newsletter

**First Unitarian-Universalist Church  
of Detroit**

## Upcoming Sermon Schedule

### July 7<sup>th</sup> — “Research & Spirituality”

*Irene Brisson, Guest Speaker*

How can the spiritual search for truth and meaning be figured as a sort of research project? In short, what are questions to ask ourselves and others in this pursuit?

Reflecting on the practices of scientific inquiry, I consider the role of repetition in spiritual traditions. Intersecting the writings of physicist Michael Faraday, poet T.S. Elliot, and the biblical Ecclesiastes, I offer a meditation on time, inquiry, and return in the pursuit of knowledge -- sacred and profane.

### July 14<sup>th</sup> — “Children in Cages”

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

The humanitarian crisis at the American southern border is becoming an increasingly horrific situation. As families seek asylum in the United States, their children are separated from them, kept in deplorable conditions, sometimes shipped away to entire other parts of the country, with no system for how to reunite them. Today, we will focus on this issue and how we, as a faith community, might step into the fray in addressing this situation as part of our focus on immigration issues.

### July 21<sup>st</sup> — “On Faith and Science”

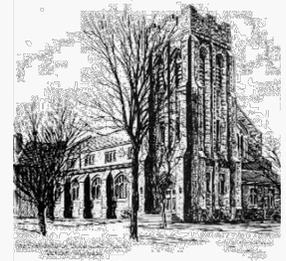
*The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister*

I want to take on the often-utilized false dichotomy of religion and science, which creates the impression that people of faith by practice reject science, and that scientists by virtue of their worldview must eschew faith. To quote Shakespeare's Hamlet, “There are more things in heaven and earth... Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

### July 28<sup>th</sup> — “Values in Space”

*Joel Batterman, Guest Speaker*

*Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Firefly*, and other science fiction hits are set in the far reaches of outer space. But they're so popular because they speak directly to our own world's most pressing ethical and spiritual questions, although the answers they give are markedly different. What are the insights and blind spots of each approach, and might they help this troubled planet find its way forward?



4605 Cass Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313-833-9107  
[www.1stuu.org](http://www.1stuu.org)

Our congregation-wide focus is  
[Immigration](#)

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](#)

**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.

**Minister:** The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

**Music Director:** Todd Ballou

**Board President:** Dan Secret

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



## Words to live by

“Where's your church?”

“We're standing in it.”

“But this is a bookstore and it's a Friday.”

“Yes, but you might also choose to see it as a cathedral of the human spirit – a storehouse consecrated to the full spectrum of human experience. Just about every idea we've ever had is in here somewhere. A place containing great thinking is a sacred space.”

— Forrest Church, [A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism](#)

## Announcements

### Support for Rranxburgaj family

We have participated in a letter-writing campaign in the past for [Ded Rranxburgaj](#), who remains in sanctuary at Central United Methodist Church to avoid deportation. Over [600 letters](#) were submitted to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. **Rebecca Cooke** was invited by [Michigan United](#) to read her letter at a demonstration at the Detroit offices of ICE last year.

Here's another opportunity to support the Rranxburgajs, who have no means of support without Ded's salary: you, your friends, loved ones, and community members are invited to join the family at a [benefit dinner](#) on **July 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 6:00-8:00 PM at Central United Methodist Church, 23 E Adams Ave in downtown Detroit. Tickets are \$25 and available [online](#) or from **Glenn Maxwell**, 248-219-5873.

### Viola Liuzzo statue

Detroit artist [Austen Brantley](#) is creating a sculpture of civil rights martyr **Viola Liuzzo**. The official unveiling is Tuesday, **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 11:00 AM, at the [Viola Liuzzo Playground](#), 20087 Winthrop St in Detroit, off Greenfield and M-10/Lodge Fwy, just south of 8 Mile Rd. Viola Liuzzo

was attending UU Detroit when she heeded the call of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr to help with the Montgomery bus boycott during the civil rights movement. She was murdered in Selma, AL in March 1965.

### Getting to Ye\$ Canvass Campaign

If you haven't yet pledged for the 2019-2020 church year, or would like to change your pledge, please visit our website at <http://1stuu.org/Finance/pledge.php>. There is an interactive pledge form which only takes seconds to complete, as well as background materials if you are interested in learning more about church finances and how pledged contributions are used. Alternatively, feel free to contact **Dan Secrest**, chair of our annual pledge drive, via telephone at 313-580-7082.

## Member News

### Welcome our newest member!



**John Van Camp** has signed our membership book! John has been involved with various other churches in the past, including Episcopalian and UU. He worked for Southwest Solutions for 45 years and retired as their Executive Director.

John feels that UU Detroit is a good fit for him and enjoys the services and the people. He now lives downtown. Welcome, John!

### Congratulations Gray-Chang family!

From **Sean Gray's** [Facebook page](#): “I'm excited to announce the birth of our second and final biological child! She came to us on June 2, 2019 after 41 weeks of pregnancy and 2 hours of labor. It seems like time flew by since we began planning to have these babies over a decade ago but **Stephanie Gray Chang** has only become more beautiful. Glad to be raising these young women to get about the business of burning down what remains of the patriarchy with a strong and brilliant woman like their mom.”



## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> John Angry!

This snapshot was taken during social hour at UU Detroit on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, by **Roman Nuñez**, while members of the choir, including **Sally Borden**, **Nancy Owen Nelson**, and **Dan Secrest**, were singing a version of “happy birthday” by **Lee Thume**, with Lee’s daughter, **Ann Esu**, making the fourth member of a quartet. **John Angry** in his straw birthday hat was honored for his 90th birthday (which was June 4th). Also in the picture is 91-year old **Bob Neale**, another longtime UU Detroit member.

*Happy birthday to our 90-year old friend!  
May the pleasures of your birthday never end.  
May its hours be filled with harmony and sweet surprise,  
Such as the love you see reflected from your dear ones’  
eyes.  
May this birthday be the best you’ve known thus far  
As we celebrate the person that you are,  
One so giving and reliable  
For whom it’s undeniable  
You’ve earned the right to celebrate, and how!  
So have yourself a happy birthday right now.*



(L-R) S Borden, N Owen Nelson, A Esu, B Neale, D Secrest, J Angry



B Neale (l) and J Angry (r)

Lee was kind enough to share the words to her song:

## Here from El Salvador

**Joel Batterman** and Julie Brock are sponsoring an asylum seeker from El Salvador through the [Santa Fe Dreamers Project](#). **Daniella Garcia Salamanca** arrived in Detroit on June 12<sup>th</sup>. UU Detroit Spanish speakers who welcomed Daniella at our service on June 16<sup>th</sup> were very much appreciated, especially **Carmen Malis King** and **Roman Nuñez**, who speak fluent Spanish. Roman took Daniella under his wing and shared a table and conversation during social hour. Daniella’s first priority is to learn English, after which she hopes to work on transgender rights. She promises to visit UU Detroit often!

## Get well soon

**Airlie Strasser** is recovering from successful open-heart valve surgery and welcomes your calls at **734-558-0409**.

## Constance C. Hart

Former church member **Connie Hart**, who was born November 7, 1929, passed away in the late fall of 2018 in Haverford PA. A musician who sang and played guitar, Connie was the author of new words to Hymn #18, “What Wonderous Love,” in our gray hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*. Connie identified publicly as a lesbian in the 1980s when it was unusual to be openly gay. She was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation. Connie gave her house in Detroit to the church when she moved out of state in the late 1990s and she left an additional monetary bequest in her will. We appreciate



Connie's generosity and convey our deepest sympathies to the family.

## UU Detroit's Got Talent

### Support Local Pot Dealers

Joan Smykowski is a member of [The Eastside Mud Slingers](#), a group of five friends from Pewabic Pottery. The Mud Slingers will be participating in the [Sunday Markets at Eastern Market](#), now until **September 29**. The group's pots may be purchased from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, usually in Shed 3.

Additionally, the Mud Slingers will be participating in the [Thursday Market](#) which is held **every third Thursday from June 20-September 19** from 5:00-10:00 PM.

Unlike the Saturday Market, the Sunday and Thursday Markets focus on arts and crafts from local artists. There are food trucks and some produce available. The Sunday and Thursday Markets have themes: Burger Battle (June 23), RiDetroit Gold Spoke (July 14) and Pizza Throwdown (August 15).

Before our winter returns, get out and enjoy our great Michigan summer and fall with the talented Joan and her friends!

### Picture this

Danny Rebb's photographs will be exhibited at the [Artists' Society of Dearborn Summer Showcase](#) at the [Padzieski Gallery](#), 15801 Michigan Ave and Greenfield in Dearborn, from **July 11-August 8**. The *Summer Showcase* opening reception is on Thursday, **July 11<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-8:00 PM. You can follow Danny's artistic success on Facebook at [Danny Rebb Fine Art Photography](#).

### UU Detroit maker

Steven Curtin will be exhibiting and playing DIY music projects at [Detroit Maker Faire](#), "a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do." [Tickets](#) are available online for Maker Faire, which is **July 27-28** at The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. We've enjoyed Steve's music

at our worship services, which he has enhanced with his guitar playing and drumming. Steve's Maker Faire presence should be a lot of fun!

## Board & Committee News

### 2019-2020 leadership teams

At our May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> annual congregational meetings we held elections, accepted the [2019 Annual Report](#), and approved a budget. The approved budget may be found in the Annual Report.

Congratulations to **Dan Secrest**, our new Board president.

Thank you to **Dan Wiest**, who will continue as Vice President.

Three new Board members, **Steven Curtin**, **Scott Lehto**, and **Jody Wise** will join **Martha Bogner** as trustees-at-large. Martha will be on the Board for the second and last year of her two-year term. Thank you!

Martha and **Elizabeth Lehto** will serve as delegates for 2019 General Assembly. We're looking forward to hearing about your experiences at GA; thank you for representing UU Detroit.

A big thank you to **Dan Hale**, who has finished his two-year term as President. The Board will have the pleasure and profit of Dan's institutional knowledge for the next two years while Dan serves as Immediate Past President.

The 2020 Nominating Committee is: **Suzanne Baker**, **Joel Batterman**, **Daniel Horrigan**, **Elizabeth Lehto**, and **Glenn Maxwell**, with **Dave Vaillencourt** as alternate. We appreciate your important job to find leaders for our future.

**Kathe Stevens** will step down from the Board after eight years of service, first as Secretary, then as President, and last as Immediate Past President. She'll still be around in her capacity as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee and as one of your Newsletter Editors.

Our Church is sustained by the dedication of its members. Thank you to all who serve, in whatever way you do.



## Community

### Herz documentary update

Director Betsy Kalin writes, “As some of you know, I’m working on [Phoenix: The Life and Death of Alice Herz](#) — a documentary about Alice, a peace activist who was erased from US history for her act of self-immolation to protest the Vietnam War. She was mentioned in The Washington Post yesterday! [The [article](#) was published on May 30] After Arnav Gupta’s self-immolation death this week, the article asserts that these are unmistakable acts of protest and we need to be listening: ‘82-year-old Alice Herz, after returning from a demonstration against racial violence in Selma, Ala., walked to a street corner in Detroit and set herself on fire. She had been protesting, marching and writing against the war in Vietnam and racial segregation in the American South. She had told her friends and family she was not being heard.’ This is another example that the time is right for our story! Please help us to tell it.”

**Alice Herz**, and her daughter, **Helga**, were longtime members of UU Detroit. Alice immolated herself in March 1965. The documentary explores her life and death while questioning why she has been erased from history as both an intellectual leader of the twentieth century and as a courageous woman effecting social change.

### Migrant children installation

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, UU Detroiters showed up to pound stakes and mount stuffed toys on the Commons’ lawn at the corner of Cass and Prentis for an installation representing migrant children separated from their parents. The story was featured in the [Detroit News](#) and the [Metro Times](#). The latter reported:

“A woodland of hundreds of toys, dolls, teddy bears, and other stuffed animals are spread throughout the front lawn of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in the Cass Corridor, with a large banner hanging across the

background that reads, ‘For the thousands of separated immigrant children.’”

“The installation [is] a poignant visual representation of the thousands of children who have been separated from their families under the Trump administration.”



Cass Corridor Commons, Cass @ Prentis

Thank you to **Dan Wiest** who organized the installation, to **Tim Bailey** who did the legwork, to **Suzanne Baker**, **Marloes Krabbe**, **Gerhard Krabbe**, **Nancy Owen Nelson** and **Roger Ziegler** who helped with setup, and to those who shared your photos on Facebook.

### From our neighbor

We were delighted to receive the following note after **Jennifer Teed** attended Iftar on the final day of Ramadan at our neighbor, Wayne State University Islamic Center. Jenny was joined by Rev. John Marsh, Interim Minister at the East Lansing UU Church.

*Hello/As Salaam Alaikum (Peace Be Onto/Upon You).*

*I would like to very quickly thank Jennifer and Rev. John for attending Iftar with us a few days ago. Our community was delighted and grateful, and we hope great neighborly tradition was born that we will continue.*

*On behalf of the Board of the University Islamic Center, Volunteers and the Community, we send love and thanks to all of you. Let's keep talking, even if our joint events are*



*not too frequent. Communication is a peace builder; it engenders mutual understanding.*

Wa Salaam,  
Alieu Darboe  
University Islamic Center  
Board Member and Volunteer Leader

### Motor City Pride parade

**Dan Wiest** organized another joyous and inspiring march through downtown Detroit in the 2019 [Motor City Pride](#) parade on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Carrying our banner down Griswold and Jefferson streets were (left-right) **Dan Horrigan, Kathe Stevens, Dan Wiest, Ruby Jones, Martha Bogner, and Roman Nuñez.**



K Stevens, R Jones, M Bogner, D Wiest, R Nuñez, D Horrigan

The late **Nathan Strickland, Jr.** was in our hearts and our thoughts as we marched. Hugs and tears were shared with Nate's mom, **Debra Strickland**, who was marching with Nate's employer, Community Health Awareness Group. Nate was one of the organizers of our participation in the Pride march last year. We miss him so much.

### Share the Plate

Our June *Share the Plate* guest recipient was **LGBT Detroit** (<https://www.lgbtdetroit.org/>), a Detroit based nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase awareness of and support to Detroit's dynamic LGBT culture through education and advocacy with integrity and pride. For over two decades, LGBT Detroit has been receiving unwavering support from neighboring communities in any capacity that promotes the wellbeing and integrity involved in fostering an environment conducive to lesbian, gay, bi and transgender individuals irrespective of race, culture or socio-economic status. The community support is manifested in their advocating, partnership, testifying before local and state legislators, providing safe gathering spaces where members of the LGBT community can interact without fear of persecution or bigotry. We support LGBT Detroit and its efforts to help raise the consciousness of our region.

### Vespers

June vespers at [Henry Ford Village](#) featured **Nancy Shattuck**, who presented a sampling of world-wide poetry in which the poets speak directly to higher beings...spirits. The poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins, Rumi, Emily Dickinson, Izumi Shikibu, and Jack Gilbert were accompanied by Indo-Persian instrumental music, a native American song to Wankan Tanka, "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen, and more.

The next monthly vespers is Wed. **July 24<sup>th</sup>** at [15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn](#), from **6:00-7:00 PM** in the Library Reading Room, which is accessible from the Great Lakes entrance. The library is labeled 13 on this [campus map](#).



## UU Detroit birthdays!

7/4	Mildred Robinson
7/5	Ruth Seifert
7/7	Regina Weiss
7/13	Daniel Horrigan
7/18	Walter Greene III

## Denominational News

### Support LGBT ministries

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President, writes: "Historically, faith communities haven't always been the most welcoming of places for LGBTQ people. Nearly thirty years ago the UUA set out to change that with a new program to guide congregations in becoming truly open and accepting of LGBTQ members and visitors: Welcoming Congregations."

UU Detroit first successfully completed the requirements to become a Welcoming Congregation in 1997; in 2015 we successfully renewed our status as a Welcoming Congregation. In 2018, the UUA instituted updated requirements to remain a Welcoming Congregation, *The Five Practices*. From the UUA Welcoming Congregation page:

"We wish to be bolder with our Welcome. Transgender Unitarian Universalists are still struggling to find community in UU congregations. Bisexual UUs suffer from invisibility while asexual, intersex, and polyamorous communities are wrestling with a progressive faith that does not privilege their truth. These and the many more social ills that plague our LGBTQ+ and TGQNB communities are calling us into a deeper commitment to insure that our Unitarian Universalist congregations are living into the Welcome that we boldly proclaim. As such, we are unveiling the The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal."

*The Five Practices* summarized:

1. Become a Welcoming Congregation — *done*
2. Welcoming Worship Services — *done*

3. Welcoming Days of Observance — *entered on church calendar for future planning*
4. Welcoming Congregation Module — *TBA*
5. Support a Welcoming Project — *TBA*

Your Board and Worship Committee have discussed how to implement *The Five Practices*.

Rev. Frederick-Gray asks us to consider a gift to support the UUA as we seek to be truly welcoming to all in our midst. [You can make a gift online](#), or by phone at (888) 792-5885.

### Rev. James Reeb

Alice Herz and Viola Liuzzo were mentioned earlier in this newsletter, both of whom died in March 1965. Another UU who died in March 1965 was **Rev. James Reeb** of Boston, MA. Like Viola Liuzzo, he was murdered in Selma, AL while answering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's call to clergy to participate in the Montgomery, AL bus boycott. National Public Radio presents a seven-part serialized podcast on Rev. Reeb's murder, *White Lies*, hosted by investigative journalists Chip Brantley and Andrew Beck Grace, in which they explore why Rev. Reeb's murder has not been solved for 50 years. Listen online at <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510343/white-lies>.

### Migrant justice

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's *Petition to Close Down the Homestead Child Detention Center* in Florida, signed by more than 100,000 individuals, was [delivered](#) to the U.S. Health and Human Services Department in Washington DC. UUSC members also demonstrated in front of Homestead, where 2,000 children currently are locked up. Follow UUSC migrant work at: <https://www.uusc.org/news/>.

### Save the date

The UUA will sponsor a **UU Conference on the Climate Emergency**, September 15-17 in Washington, DC. Details will be forthcoming as they are announced by the UUA.



## Church Life

### Communicate:

#### Send an email:

[Choir](#) (Todd Ballou)

[Email listserv signup](#) (Webmaster Dan Secret)

[Minister](#) (The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray)

[Newsletter](#) (Newsletter Editors Kathe Stevens & Nancy Shattuck)

[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 childcare](#) (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

**Rranxburgaj benefit dinner:** Tue., **July 2**, 6:00-8:00 PM, Central United Methodist Church, 23 E Adams Ave, Detroit (Glenn Maxwell)

**Potluck:** Sun., **July 14**, 12:00-1:00 PM — Social Hall (Tim Bailey)

**Amnesty International meeting:** Mon., **July 15**, 7:30-9:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

**UU Detroit Board meeting:** Sun, **July 21**, 12:30 PM–2:30 PM — Parlor (Dan Hale)

**Membership Committee meeting:** Sun, **July 21**, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM — Chancel (Deanna McGraw/Kathe Stevens)

**Vespers:** Wed., **July 24**, 6:00-7:00 PM — Henry Ford Village, 15101 Ford Rd, Dearborn (Dan Secret)

**Viola Liuzzo statue unveiling:** Tue., **July 23**, 11:00 AM — Viola Liuzzo Playground, 20087 Winthrop St, Detroit

**Social Justice Committee meeting:** Sun. **July 28**, 12:30-2:00 PM — Parlor (Dan Wiest)

### Weekly Sunday order of service deadline

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

### August newsletter deadline

Send items to [newsletter@1stuu.org](mailto:newsletter@1stuu.org) by Thurs., **July 20<sup>th</sup>** — the next issue covers August 1-31 — no submissions after the deadline



## 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](http://www.1stuu.org),  
email us at [officeadmin@1stuu.org](mailto: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; progressive politicians; icons of women's movements; promoters of workers' rights; LGBTQ pioneers; peace activists and martyrs; environmental champions; immigration reformists; trailblazing authors, poets, educators, scientists, architects, and musicians.

Seeking solace in community and a vision of how to put faith into action — from 19<sup>th</sup> century abolitionists to 20<sup>th</sup> century suffragettes to 21<sup>st</sup> century water warriors — we have lived out and continue to live out our Principles.

### OUR SEVEN PRINCIPLES:

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

### First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

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