

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

November Newsletter

November 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 11

Congregational Links

UUA Links:

[Make a 2016 Pledge](#)
[Calendar of Events](#)
[Social Justice at UUA](#)
[UUA.org](#)

Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)
[Standing on the Side of Love](#)
[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Dir. of Worship & Music

Join us for Worship - 9:30am and 11:30am

Reminder - *Clocks 'fall back' one hour on the morning of Sunday, November 1*



I left the church at 7:15 this evening, hopped into the tiny sedan of a certain Melissa. I was intent on a slow dog walk at home; she, on an explanation. She apologized for the delay. She just couldn't find where I was. I made little of it, but Melissa was adamant. She was accustomed to knowing the city with confidence. She'd lived here for thirty-five years, she told me, driven a school bus for the previous twelve. Now an Uber driver, she baffled at just how unfamiliar the roads seemed to her once fall hit. "There's something about it getting darker at 6:10pm that just throws me."

I had just been filing papers in my office until I was sure 6:30 had come. I glimpsed the clock for confirmation of my masterful conductor-ly timing, only to discover I had overshot the mark by half an hour!

In solidarity and in seconds, we waxed the biggest questions we could fit into a cab ride:

- How do familiar ways suddenly perplex us when the sun wanes?
- How can you know a road for years, and with blackened skies, instantly not.

"It's certainly not easy," I offered.

"It seems, if you to drive in Michigan, you have to learn the whole state twice."

So often, those of us with the privilege of seeing eyes
learn to lean on light
to see, to decide the next turn.

- What strength can be gained when present sight dims a larger vision?
- What does a dark night's journey teach us about roads we thought we knew?
- How can we possibly handle unanticipated turns?
- Where on earth would we even begin?

Together, throughout November's worship, we focus the practice of pilgrimage,
weaving beloved community into our walks for justice,
growing wisdom to learn well at new corners,
to learn together,
to learn the road again.

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All,

PLEASE HELP with our planning for 2016. What we can offer, how far we can extend, who we can welcome..., all that rests on the results from the October ABC: Annual Budget Campaign. Your help comes through pledges of financial support for 2016. Pledge forms are available on line and in the church office. Everyone is invited to be a part of building our beloved community.

UNCHANGED in all our internal reorganizing are the ways we hold open for receiving information and requests for PASTORAL CARE. To reach a Minister for Pastoral Care please use email: pastoralcare@uuaa.org. Also, phone messages may be left with an office volunteer at 734-665-6158. Pastoral Emergency messages are collected at 734-506-8822.

In recent years, information received went directly to Rev. Mark and was reviewed with me for follow-up. Currently, all that information comes directly to me. I then review it all with Lindasusan Ulrich before follow up.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION is the staff reduction and reorganization segment of planning through which I intend to bring our Congregation into the practice of being both sustainable and affordable. Real progress is being made. But we are just a few weeks shy of being able to document the changes. Please look forward to more

reporting on all that later in the fall.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER. Thank you all for walking with me in the wearing and sharing of the buttons that read: Black Lives Matter. As we each learn more about what the movement is..., and what it is not..., we become stronger participants in dismantling the racism that is epidemic in our culture. Each tiny conversation we have moves us toward our goals.

QUESTIONS? November 15th, after second service, is the next scheduled President+Senior Minister Q+A session. We will be in Jackson Chapel to offer time for any and all questions you may have about our congregation. I look forward to chatting with you then if you have more questions for me.

My Love Abides
Rev. Gail



Upon Reflection Lindasusan Ulrich, Consulting Minister

I've always loved putting together worship services - that intersection of spirituality, creativity, and presence represents a particularly sacred set of crossroads to me.

As you might guess, then, the chance to be part of creating worship experiences as tightly woven and meaningful as the ones here at UUAU has me over-the-moon excited. I love the deeply collaborative process we're living into, where ideas bounce among the planning team members and spark new connections and possibilities.

Sometimes, the place we land looks little like what we'd expected at the outset. For example, we started structuring one service based on the verses of a particular hymn, but by the time the dust settled, that hymn no longer worked as part of the overall flow. So we cut it and saved it for another day.

By following the energy where it wants to go...by being in conversation and working with intentionality...by folding in a love of the craft...by approaching what we do with gratitude and humility...the whole becomes far greater than the sum of the parts.

Part of what makes this an exciting time at UUAU is that we're looking to bring this same paradigm into every corner of congregational life.

Where do spirituality, creativity, and presence take you?

Peace,
Lindasusan



Board of Trustee News

President's Message
Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to November, the month we are reminded to be thoughtful about what we are thankful for. I am always thankful for my husband and two sons. I have a beautiful and caring daughter-in-law. My parents, siblings and in-laws make up my close family. But this season is a particularly special season. Bob and I were given permission to announce this week that our son Max and his wife Lenore are expecting a baby in early May. Wow, does this news change things for us or what? A grandchild.....my heart just got a lot bigger because, as we UU's know, there is more love somewhere, and I think it's coming my way!



What does this have to do with this congregation and my role as president? Being a member of this congregation has helped and supported our family become who we are in so many ways. The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor has been home for the Hospadaruk's since 1990. The denomination has been Bob's spiritual path since he was a small boy growing up in Dearborn Heights. To have a faith that supports the journey of discovery and self-reflection of our individual religious path is priceless. We raised our sons here. We brought them to church every Sunday whether they wanted to come or not because that's just what we did. They looked forward to coming because they had friends here; they had friends here because they attended regularly. That's how it works! Attending since the ages of 3 and 4, there really was never a question of whether we would stay home in the comfort of the cozy living room or get dressed and come to church. We were involved, we both taught in their Religious Education classes, and when they became teenagers, we took over as facilitators of the YRUU group, doing so for several years. Listening, guiding, learning! We took large groups of teens on summer service project trips, to two General Assemblies, chaperoned many, many sleepovers (not sure why they are called sleepovers, since there was not much sleep going on) and youth Conventions, all because it's just what we do as parents.

Now my son is going to become a parent! What kind of father will he be? I know in my heart that he will be a GREAT father, for one reason: because he has been loved, supported and given a solid spiritual upbringing here at UUAA. This congregation did that because that is just what we do!

I believe in the depths of my soul that we are here for a purpose, this congregation is here for a purpose and if one of those purposes isn't to raise all our children into caring, loving, responsible adults then I missed the point and I don't believe that to be true. I support this congregation in all the ways I am able; through my time, my commitment, my regular attendance and my money. I am proud to serve this congregation as the President. I hope you will join Bob and me in supporting the annual budget campaign so we may continue on with the work that has to be done. Preparing our youth for the world and helping to make the world a better place for our children and their children's children is no small task. For this and all of you, I am truly thankful!

Be well friends,
Beth Hospadaruk
2015-2016 Board President
president@uuuaa.org



Activities and Events

Turn Clocks Back * Sunday, November 1



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00am. So, turn those clocks back one hour. For those who forget...the building will open at 8:30am. Worship Services will begin at 9:30am and 11:30am followed by Social Hour.



Accessibility Team Workshop * Sunday, November 1

The Accessibility Team and Well-Being Education present the "Making Meaning of Disability" workshop to be held from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. During this inter-generational workshop share personal experiences with inclusion, listen to a skit written and performed by YRUUs, and discuss three models to better understand the concept of disability. Explore how this applies to the Congregation. Bring family and friends. Questions? Contact Els Nieuwenhuijsen at elsni@comcast.net.



Interweave Forum * Sunday, November 8



"Transgender Identity & Issues" will be discussed with Rachel Crandall, LMSW, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Transgender Michigan. She will help deepen the understanding of transgender people and the issues they face from 1:00 to 2:00pm in the Jackson Chapel. Rachel is a licensed psychotherapist specializing in transgender issues who consulted for corporations, government agencies, and universities. She runs the Transgender Michigan help line, the only transgender help line in the US: (800) 842-2954 x102, rachel@transgendermichigan.org. This forum is sponsored by Interweave.

Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.



Food & Justice * Sunday, November 8



Join the Mindful Eating Coalition and Climate Action Group at 1:00pm in Fahs Chapel for a special Food Justice program with Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice (ICPJ). In addition to a general conversation about the myriad of social justice issues that exist within the food system,



ICPJ will specifically focus on why food waste, both personal and institutional, is a climate problem and what can be done to help solve the problem. The hour long program will kick off with a guest speaker and include interactive discussion and specific calls to action for individuals and groups.

Co-sponsored by the Mindful Eating Coalition and the Climate Action Committee. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.



Dream Team * Sunday, November 8

Bring dreams and a sense of adventure as new landscapes are explored. Tap into sources of creativity and find guidance through Active Dreaming. The group will re-enter dreams and learn to bring back information for healing and transformation. All are welcome. The dream group meets the second Sunday of every month 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the Brown Room.

Questions? Contact Julie Tumbarello at info@dreamingjulie.com.

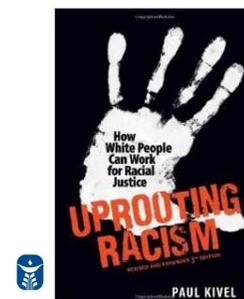


Challenging Racism * Sunday, November 8 & Tuesday, November 10



Chapter V of Paul Kivel's *Uprooting Racism- How White People Can Work for Racial Justice* will be discussed. There will be no sessions on Tuesdays November 1 and 3. Do join in. Bag lunches are welcome. Edie Croake will facilitate.

Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Interweave Potluck & Film Night * Friday, November 13



Congregants are invited to attend the 6:00pm Potluck. Bring a dish to share. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. The 7:00pm film, *Growing Up Trans* will be followed by discussion. Just a generation ago, it was adults, not kids, who changed genders. But today, many children are transitioning, too -- with new medical options, and at younger and younger ages. Frontline takes viewers on an intimate and eye-opening journey inside the struggles and choices facing transgender kids and their families. Everyone is welcome to join in a night of fellowship and film followed by thoughtful discussion.

Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.



Women's Breakfast * Saturday, November 14

It's time again, for women of UUAU to get together and solve the world's problems over breakfast. Join at 8:15am at the Classic Cup Cafe on Jackson Road, across from the UM Credit Union. Think about joining for good conversation and great fun. Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.



Alpha House Host Week * Monday-Sunday, November 23-29

The next Host Week at Alpha House, a shelter for homeless families, will be during the week of Thanksgiving from Monday, November 23 to Sunday, November 29. Ninety volunteers are needed. Volunteers will provide meals, serve and clean-up dinner, play with kids, stay overnight, and serve as Day Hosts. Sign up at the Alpha House table during Social Hour or sign up [here](#).



Questions? Contact Angela Barber, Alpha House Coordinator at abarber@gmail.com.



Announcements and Notices

2016 Annual Budget Campaign

Building a Sustainable Future.

The 2016 annual budget campaign (ABC) kicked off in October. Co-chairs Ginny Preuss and Cathy Olson started the process by drafting an affordable budget for 2016 which funds Congregational priorities. To support that budget, the Budget Campaign

Committee set a goal to achieve \$915,000 for the stewardship campaign without a second ask.

Please take some time to reflect on what this Congregation means and make a 2016 pledge commitment. And, "Thank You" to the 147 households who have already pledged \$473,000 toward our goal.

Questions? Contact Ginny Preuss at ginnylpreuss@yahoo.com.



Crop Walk Update



UUAA surpassed all past records in fundraising for Crop Walk. Connie Frederick, a major fundraiser, along with James Todd, Chair of Crop Walk at UUAA, and the Mindful Eating Team collected \$5,650. Walkers included James, Connie, Guala Lauzzana, and Merrill Crockett and their grandchildren. Next year, Connie Frederick will become Chair of the Crop Walk, with James Todd continuing to offer support. Thanks to all those involved for a very successful effort to help "End Hunger One Step at a Time." Questions? Contact Social Justice Council Co-Chair, Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Hospitality Hosts Needed

Have a gift for hospitality? Those who enjoy creating a welcoming atmosphere are treasured. Be a part of a team that has given a face to the UUAA core value of Community. The behind-the-scenes tasks include kind smiles and making warm coffee during a memorial service reception. Interested in representing the Congregation? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org.



Mindful Eating Coalition

Food Gatherers (FG) Farm Project Finale

The team has concluded efforts on the farm for the 2015 season - and what a bountiful season it was. Volunteers contributed more than 560 hours of physical labor on this project between May and October, producing beautiful, delicious and nutritious food that was donated to Food Gatherers.



Donations for 2015 were 2,800 pounds of produce, and \$3,340 from sales at the roadside stand.

The project is one of 21 properties and organizations contributing to FG through their Faith and Food program, and Farmer Bill's property actually produced one third of the total amount raised by all 21 groups.

The farm project is run completely by volunteer efforts, and the Monday and Thursday "regulars" - those who consistently showed up week after week - helped keep this project going throughout the year. They deserve a deepest appreciation. Those regulars include: Cathy Muha, Mike Muha, Ricardo Wyatt, Guala Lauzzana, Ken Clein, Merrill Crockett, Kirsten Mogbo, Connie McGuire, Margaret Pekarek, Nancy Biehn, Lisa Olsen, Annika Olsen, Eleanor Smith and Colleen Crawley. Other volunteers throughout the season were Beth Hospadaruk, Mary Ann Camron, Mark VanKempen, Tim

Richards, the LePottier Family, Sara King, Jennifer Crooker and family, Kimberly Blevins and family, Bob Hospadaruk, Kathy Edgren, Jaye Starr and Mustafa, Julie Dybdahl, Umut Alis, Munira Albabtain, Shreen Kayal, the Thomas-Palmers family, Melinda McKay, Steve Nason, Eileen Wright, Vanessa Campbell, and the members of Stone Circle.

Sincerest thanks to all.

Questions? Contact Colleen Crawley at ccrawley59@gmail.com.



Partner Church

Summertime means holidays and relaxing for most of the people. The Szentivánlaborfalva-Kézdivásárhely congregation had an eventful period in the summer of 2015.



The congregation had a trip with almost 30 people to Szejkefürdő, near Székelyudvarhely, to the world summit of the Unitarians. It is one of the biggest events of the Hungarian Unitarian church with guests from USA and Hungary. For the first time in the history of this meeting the congregation had

communion with all the people gathered there.

There was also an indescribable experience in the Unitarian religious youth camp organized by three congregations: Szentivánlaborfalva-Kézdivásárhely, Sepsiszentgyörgy, and Árkos. The group spent five days in Árkos, in the community center of the village. With 86 children, ministers, religion teachers, and members of the congregations in attendance, everyone tried to get closer to God, the Unitarian faith, and world religions through worship, prayer, song, and dance.



The minister of the congregation would like to say that, "In this way too, we would like to thank you for all the support received from UUA and its members, and we wish God's blessing on our Partner Church members' life and work."

In faith,
Buzogány-Csoma István
Unitarian minister
Kézdivásárhely-Szentivánlaborfalva

Questions? Contact Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu.



Scrip Card Update

Scrip Cards 101:

Buying and using Scrip cards is an easy way for families to raise money for UUA. Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards.

Purchase gift cards at face value, then Carolyn Barber, the Scrip Coordinator, will order

those cards from Great Lakes Scrip and several local retailers at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for UUAA. It's really that simple.

When scrip gift cards are used at favorite retailers, funds are raised for the Congregation. There are over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using Scrip to pay for normal, weekly purchases, \$500 per year can easily be raised. It's time to put those shopping dollars to work.

Questions? Contact Becky Swank at bjswank@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



The following is an edited version of an article that was originally published in the Summer/Fall 2015 issue of *Rights Now*.

"It was a remarkable and disturbing coincidence that Cyclone Pam struck the South Pacific just as the World Disaster Relief Conference in Sendai, Japan, kicked off this past March. Vanuatu - a small chain of islands subject to rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, changing climate patterns, and extreme weather - bore the brunt of the storm. In the wake of the cyclone, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee provided vital support to people living with disabilities, who face significant barriers in accessing disaster relief.

After careful analysis and work with Oxfam Vanuatu staff on the ground, UUSC partnered with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP). VSDP has been offering community-based rehabilitation and early intervention services to disabled women and children for over 20 years. After Cyclone Pam, the loss of the VSDP building severely disrupted their services at a critical time when their clients were in the greatest need of support.

Within weeks of the disaster, UUSC provided VSDP with an emergency grant in order to ensure that the organization would remain operational. In the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, VSDP helped 382 disabled people access materials like tarps, medicine, and food. They also resumed early intervention classes in three communities to address the critical gap for children with disabilities."

To learn more about UUSC's ongoing work and partnerships, go to uusc.org.

Questions? Contact Becky Hoort for the UUSC News reporters at rhoort@umich.edu.

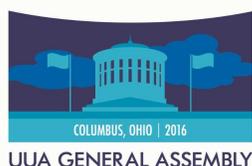


Get-Involved Survey

How many Unitarian Universalist congregants does it take to run a typical, two Service Sunday at UUAA? This question generates many punch lines that include coffee and the democratic process. All jokes aside, the answer is impressive. On average, 15% to 25% of Sunday attendees, or approximately 130 congregants when the choir is singing, are contributing their time and talents to make UUAA a special gathering place. The Chalice Singers, SGD teachers, Sunday Welcome Team members, Social Hour volunteers, worship assistants, and others provide the energy for welcoming, teaching, singing, and worshipping.

How can congregants contribute? Fill out a 2015-2016 Interests and Talents Survey to match interests with needs by [clicking here](#). Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org. 

Denominational Connections Team (DCT)



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2016 GA will be held from Wednesday to Sunday, June 22-26 in Columbus, OH. Most GA events will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, less than 200 miles from Ann Arbor.

The theme will be "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect." The faith world is increasingly becoming multi-faith oriented. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels: Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist, and non-theist no longer define how Spirit moves in our lives. GA will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides, but connects to an interdependent future that works for all.

The DCT will sponsor events to encourage Congregants to attend. The first events will be a Q & A about GA held between Services. There will also be Forums to discuss what GA is like and what it means to be a Delegate at GA. Watch the Weekly Bulletin for upcoming events. Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com. 

Church Office News

Building Hours:

Sundays: 8:30am-9:00pm

Mondays-Thursdays: 9:00am-9:00pm

Friday: Closed

Saturdays: 9:00am-4:00pm

*** The Building will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday from Wednesday, November 23 at 9:00pm to Sunday, November 27 at 8:30am.**

The Church Office will be open Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUA:

*** The deadline for submitting UUA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the 2015 December Newsletter is 9:00am on Wednesday, November 18. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.**

The deadline for submitting UUA event, news, and program notices for

inclusion in the Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website (uuaa.org) to webtech@uuaa.org.

Building & Office Team:

Ed Lynn, Interim Administrator, ed@uuaa.org

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org



Find us on Facebook 

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to deborah@uuaa.org by newsletter@uuaa.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103