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## First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

# September Newsletter

September 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 9

## Worship @ UUAU

### Congregational Links

#### UUAU Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAU](#)

[UUAU.org](#)

#### Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

One Worship Service at 10:00am on September 6  
followed by Social Hour.

Two Worship Services begin on September 13  
at 9:30am & 11:30am.

### September 6, 2015

**"Far Distant, Barely Imaginable..., Future"**

#### CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE

**Worship: 10:00am**

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music

Lindasusan V. Ulrich, M.Div., Consulting Minister

Our pathway for celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of our Congregation was to "revere the past, but trust the dawning future more." Our presence today will be offered as the past for these children as they create a future beyond our imagining. With what and how can we equip them well for the Journey ahead?

The Service will include a Child Dedication Ceremony. Dedication will take place pending written confirmation by families. Questions? Contact Aaron Gibson, programs coordinator at [aaron@uuaa.org](mailto:aaron@uuaa.org).

### September 13, 2015

**Water Communion: An Ingathering for All Ages**

**Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am**

**BEGIN TWO SERVICES**

**Congregational Meeting: 1:00pm**

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music

Lindasusan V. Ulrich, M.Div., Consulting Minister

The Chalice Singers

All of us together: all ages, all perspectives.  
Gather and join in, sing and reflect.

Bring a wee bit of water to add to the common bowl  
or use a bit of water from our UUAA well.  
Welcome back our Chalice Singers.  
Invest the members of our Board of Trustees.  
Celebrate the regathering of our Congregation as we  
begin the new church year!

### September 20, 2015

#### Trust the Power

Two Worship Services: 9:30am and 11:30am  
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister  
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music

Tributaries flowing into rivers grow powerful. Voices  
joined grow powerful. Flowing, singing, moving from  
the past toward the dawning future, can we learn to  
trust the power? As our Spiritual Growth and  
Development year begins today, let us revisit lessons  
about fear, trust, and power.

### September 27, 2015

#### Deep Calls to Deep

Two Worship Services: 9:30am and 11:30am  
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout - Director of Music  
Theresa Rohlck - Worship Associate  
Lindasusan V. Ulrich, M.Div. - Consulting Minister

Once rivers have joined forces on their way to the  
mighty sea, to what end do they channel all of that  
strength? As water crises around the globe become  
more frequent and this critical resource becomes  
commodified, how will we focus our collective  
strength? Join us as we search for ways to respond to  
water's call for justice.



## Gleanings

### Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All,

My column is always titled, "Gleanings." There are times when  
my column is of a whole, one message., but my preferred mode  
is to gather the bits and pieces from various levels and corners  
of Congregational life, hence: gleanings.

**Puppy Journal.** Celeste and I have a new puppy. This one is a  
keeper, not one of the puppies Celeste has raised that go on to  
careers as service dogs. This is a family member. "Charlie" is a  
Red Standard Poodle. At four months, he is sweet, small,  
reddish-mahogany colored, and not quite housebroken.

Which naturally leads to my having extended morning times with him in the back yard. Less laundry for me, less franticness for him. Currently, Charlie is teaching me about anxiety, distractions, and the blessings of calm focus. The little fellow has had a lot of change in the past ten days. He seems overwhelmed by anxiety. Input coming at him from every direction. He loses focus, he pees from anxiety, or forgets to finish what he is in mid-crouch to accomplish.

Charlie and I are working toward that particular calm that comes from being able to focus deeply on one thing at a time. Wish us Luck!

**Seasons of Planned Experimentation.** It is part of my vision for our Congregation that we harvest from the airy informality of summer worship a stretch of creative experimentation. Wow. I am delighted and gratified by the diligence, intelligence, and craft brought to our gathered time this summer.

I write this as we are going to print with Order of Service #11 of 13 for Summer 2015. And my hopes are realized. We have cultivated and gathered a broad variety of voices to represent our Congregation. Our voices have spoken carefully and well. And the singing? Words fail as my heart fills with strength and purpose.

Kudos to all who attended and gave body to the summer Congregation. My deepest bow of respect to Glen Thomas Rideout, Allison Halerz, theresa rohlck, Leah Tame, and Deborah Casamatta for steadfast attention to craft. You have held our Congregation in tender care. You have set the bar high for those who follow. And I, for one, could not be more pleased. You inspire and encourage me. Thank you, All.

**Hello and Good Bye.** Hello to Lindasusan Ulrich, our Consulting Minister for 2015-2016. Lindasusan has jumped off to a strong start in her work to assist me in re-visioning the roles and placement of staff for UUAA. I asked her to record what surprised her in her first few days on-site. She presented me with a four-page report that captured us crisply and accurately. Already I am encouraged to be working with her in this capacity.

Fond and tender farewell to our Associate Minister of the past seven years. Rev. Mark Evens will return from vacation in time for a staff lunch, more pastoral care tracking, on-boarding and training with Lindasusan, and a Farewell Celebration of Cake and Well Wishes on September 6th, right after the Worship Service. Mark has requested that our gifting be directed toward gathering donations toward a "very smart" new smartphone to assist him in his new tech writing work. Please send donations to the Church Office or through the Offering baskets and indicate "Rev. Mark Gift" in the memo.

**The Extra Mile.** So many UUAA volunteers and staff folks could be named with this heading. But as I type, Ed Lynn has finished meeting with Don Winsor and Dave Hall for a project to ensure that we get internet access that keeps us from dropping emails, crashing web sites, and freezing Google Docs when we try to load them. Carolyn Barber is getting our worship recordings organized for future use. Deborah Casamatta just left for an appointment; she'll be back later to work on this newsletter. Debra Golden is here working on curriculum for SGD. And, Aaron Gibson passed up happy hour with his wife to finish a graphic project we tossed to him at 4:30pm. It is now after 5:30, past the regular end of the work day for all these folks. And still they are

here, moving us forward toward our goals, toward our vision of what Unitarian Universalism can be in Ann Arbor. My deepest thanks to all.

My Love Abides  
Rev. Gail



## Upon Reflection Lindasusan Ulrich, Consulting Minister

Introductions are a funny thing. What information should I include? What can wait until later? Should I lay out some basic history or give more of a snapshot of personality? There's no one-size-fits-all solution, of course, but as I sat down to create this handshake built through words, I found myself with little to offer but quietness.



I think this comes in part from the fact that as your new Consulting Minister, I'm in a mode of listening intently right now. I'm giving my curiosity full rein and absorbing all I can while my perspective is still fresh. Ideas and opinions will come in due time. For now, my main focus is learning about you.

One thing we have in common is that like this congregation, I'm also in a time of transition. My family and I just moved here after a year in St. Paul, MN. Settling into a new home seems to come with an endless list of changes. There are utilities to switch on, drivers' licenses to switch over, pieces of furniture to switch around, and a 3-year-old to watch switch hit in the yard. We're still figuring out the rhythms of this place where we've landed, much less who we are within it.

To adapt Gail's phrase about crisis, though, never waste a good disorientation. The world opens up when the phrase "the usual way" no longer applies. And when you have the kind of potential for transformation that exists here at UUAU, removing some of the guideposts can help you venture into territory ripe for exploration.

Whatever else may be in flux, I can tell you for sure that I'm delighted to be here and grateful for the opportunity to share this stretch of path with you. I look forward to meeting you all.

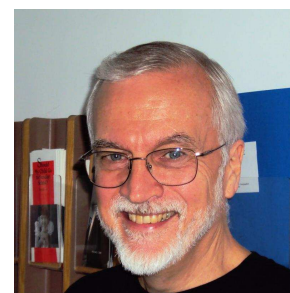
Peace,  
Lindasusan



## Church Business Ed Lynn, Interim Administrator

Lots happening during the summer at UUAU.

First, many thanks to the Green Building Committee of the Congregation for the installation of 24 additional solar panels on the roof over the Social Hall. 48 panels had been installed on the roof in 2011. The Committee covered the panel cost and installation; 90% of the savings generated by the panels will be used to repay these costs. When the 90% share of savings



has covered all the upfront costs, the panels will be donated to the Congregation, which will then enjoy 100% of the savings. UU Principles in action! Many, many thanks.

We have a Congregational Meeting scheduled on September 13 to approve some proposed capital expenditures. This is the first step in a systematic and disciplined approach to assure that our facilities remain safe, current, and functional in the years ahead. There is additional information below, and there will be a Q&A in Jackson Chapel on Sunday, September 6. I realize that a new boiler isn't the most exciting topic (although roof repair to eliminate leaks and birds might qualify), but please attend the Congregational Meeting so we can make quorum and make progress on preserving a facility we can be proud of.

With the departure of Venus, we are transitioning the work of room reservation. We encourage everyone to continue to reserve rooms on the Congregational website ("[Request a Room](#)" at the bottom of the page on the right), and the new email contact will be [room@uuaa.org](mailto:room@uuaa.org). We may have some teething issues, so please be patient.

Thanks.



## Board of Trustee News

### Congregational Meeting Information Session \*Sunday, September 6

All are invited to an information session in advance of the Sunday, September 13 Congregational Vote. There will be an overview of proposed capital expenditures, with a Q&A period. Meet in the Jackson Chapel after wishing Rev. Mark farewell with cake in the Sanctuary. Questions? Contact Interim Administrator Ed Lynn [ed@uuaa.org](mailto:ed@uuaa.org) or 734-665-6158 or Board President Beth Hospadaruk at [president@uuaa.org](mailto:president@uuaa.org).



### Congregational Vote \* Sunday, September 13

At 1:00pm there will be a Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary to vote on upcoming capital expenditures.

Watch for background information offered in an email blast, this newsletter, and on a hallway bulletin board. Questions? Contact Interim Administrator Ed Lynn [ed@uuaa.org](mailto:ed@uuaa.org) or 734-665-6158 or Board President Beth Hospadaruk at [president@uuaa.org](mailto:president@uuaa.org).



## Congregational Meeting Information Ed Lynn, Interim Administrator

### Proposed Capital Replacement Plan Investment in 2015

#### Background

The strategic plan, Strengthen Our Connections, adopted in 2012 by the Board specifically names deferred maintenance as an important issue to be addressed. During 2013 an outside engineering firm conducted a study to determine what investments would be required to assure that our facilities remained safe, current, and functional. In 2014, a small UUAA team simplified that study to a ten-year horizon and added oversight recommendations, resulting in a Capital Replacement Plan (CRP), which the Board has reviewed and endorsed. As part of the approved 2015 budget,



\$53,043 was included as the initial funding for the CRP, and this amount was set aside in January.

The CRP included an investment cadence plan, considering the current state of each asset, its projected useful life, and when replacement or refurbishment should be planned. Tier I items, those requiring immediate attention, included the parking lot, the roof, and the boiler. Office equipment (copiers, phones, etc.) were not included in the study.

It was originally planned to replace the parking lot and boiler in 2015. An engineering firm was contracted to prepare a bid package for the parking lot. The cost for the package preparation (not to exceed \$39,000) was below the by-law requirement of congregational approval for annual capital expenses of more than \$50,000. It was planned to receive congregational approval for this work when we did plan to exceed \$50,000, and it would then be done as part of the approval for the parking lot and the boiler at a meeting during the summer. Upon approval, we would proceed with the projects.

On the advice of the firm preparing the bid, we decided to delay the parking lot project until next year. We had missed the industry "bid cycle" for 2015, so the cost of completing the project in 2015 might be 10% or more compared with doing the project in 2016. The delay also allows us to better plan other church events around the construction. Now, since there are other projects being proposed for this year, the delay requires us to obtain congregational approval of the bid package preparation cost this year, rather than with the parking lot investment next January.

**Proposal**

At the September 13, 2015 Congregational Meeting, approval will be sought for:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
New Boiler	\$55,000
Parking Lot Bid Preparation	39,000
Roof Repair and Maintenance	17,000
Comcast cable from Ellsworth Rd.	<u>15,000</u>
Total	\$126,000

These are fairly refined estimates. Firmer data will be available by the September 13 Congregational Meeting.

Each project is more fully described below.

**Boiler**

The main building boiler (located in a room under the Sunderland Library) provides heat for the west wing of our facility (the original building before the SGD wing). The SGD Wing operates on a completely separate system.

The normal economic life of a boiler of the type we have is 14 years. This year the boiler will enter its 18th winter of use. It may last another year, or two. But if we have a complete failure in mid-winter, the turnaround for a new system will be at least 2 weeks, at premium prices, and with most of our building without heat (remember, the

SGD Wing is a separate system unable to support the main building). And if the failure happens on a Friday or holiday when the building is closed, the pipes can freeze and we have a bigger problem.

It is planned to replace one large boiler with two high efficiency smaller boilers (which provide automatic backup if one unit fails). We did look at replacing the system with geothermal, but the present system footprint is incompatible, and the cost would be prohibitive.

**Parking Lot Bid Preparation**

As mentioned in the Background, since we are requesting approval of annual capital expenditures over \$50,000, the congregational by-laws require that the cost of the parking lot study be included, since the cost of this study will be eventually capitalized with the cost of the parking lot, assuming approval. This approval is for the study only. It is planned to request approval of the parking lot investment at the January 2016 Congregational Meeting.

**Roof Repair**

The project includes repairing the caulk and flashing, especially around the skylights, repairing gutters, and removal of rust spots. Leaks will be fixed. In addition, closures will be installed at the rakes, eaves, and headwalls of the original building where birds now make their way into the Sanctuary.

**Comcast**

The building now uses AT&T phone and internet (DSL). Both systems are obsolete and increasingly non-functional.

Comcast recently became available in this area, but to install the system requires an underground cable from Ellsworth Road, which these funds will cover. We expect a significantly improved telephone and internet system, as well as lower communications bills, which now run about \$5,500 annually.

**Funding**

The following sources will be used to cover the costs of the proposed projects:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	('000)
CRP Funds set aside in January from 2015 Budget	\$ 53.0
Bequest recently received	22.7
Recent donation of stock to the Congregation	<u>9.8</u>
Subtotal	\$ 85.5
In the past 3 years, we have accumulated a combined budget surplus of \$50,649. It is planned to use part of that surplus to cover these investments.	<u>40.5</u>
Total Funding	\$ 126.0

**Memo: Potential Parking Lot Funding**

The parking lot will be expensive. Including all fees, we are looking at about \$550,000. If the parking lot had been redone this year, the plan was to refinance the mortgage.

That remains the plan.

If you recall, we had a mortgage of 7.25% when we began the Comprehensive Campaign. In the summer of 2014, we refinanced the outstanding balance at that time (about \$990,000) at a rate of 5.5%.

By the summer of 2016, when we will need to refinance to pay for the parking lot, our outstanding balance is projected to be about \$450,000. So we should be able to refinance to the same amount as our present mortgage (about \$1 million) and, if rates do not increase significantly, at a lower rate. Under these assumptions, our monthly mortgage payment will remain at, or lower than, our present payment of \$8,123.24.



## President's Message

### Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to September! I feel like September should be the first month of the year instead of January. September is the beginning of our "church year" with so much happening it feels like we're on the entrance ramp to a highway as we pick up momentum along the way and then BOOM, here we are, going full speed! It is an exciting time at 1st UU with new staff in place and people returning from trips, vacations, and summer break. Plans are being made for returning to two Services beginning on Sunday, September 13, along with SGD classes, Adult SGD classes, Chalice Circles, Social Justice programs, Gnomapalooza's, and much, much more.



Maybe some of you read more in the summer as it seems a good time to do so. My summer reading this year has been focused on leadership, inspirational messages, and learning about our own Church governance...don't get too excited, I know this sounds fantastic, so let me share one with you. From the UUA Bookstore, [Serving With Grace](#) by Erik Walker Wikstrom is a book where one can "Discover how to experience congregational work as an integrated element in a fully rounded spiritual life". Learning how I can balance this very important and sometimes great time consuming work with my life outside of Church and my own spirituality is of great importance to me. The practice of doing this work with Grace is certainly something I am striving for. I borrowed my copy from Rev. Gail, but you can check it out online, there is even a short webinar given by Rev. Wikstrom.

For another inspirational experience, check out Rev. Allison Miller's Sunday morning sermon given at General Assembly this past June titled [Re-Storying Hope](#). The description of her sermon is "The stories we tell matter. They have the power to shape who we are and who we are becoming. We Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are blessed to draw from many sources. How do we choose stories that inspire us to live into the promise of our faith and up to the challenges of our time?" As we have been focusing on our own story this past year, we can be inspired by others, and this is one worth watching.

Your Board of Trustees has been meeting and planning and discerning about our future. We are building our work plan for the year which includes initiating the long awaited Communication and Collaboration Team. This team is similar to the old



Program Council that was in existence many years ago and brings lay leaders from many of our groups together around the table for the purpose of collaborating together (and communicating with each other). More information about this and the other items on our annual work plan as we finalize it this month. The Dawning Future looks pretty good!

Please join us on September 13 as we come together in a special Congregational Meeting to vote on upcoming capital expenses needed to maintain and improve our beloved home here at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. Our by-laws state if we plan to spend more than \$50,000 on capital expenditures in a given year, then we need Congregational approval. Learn more at our September 6 informational meeting. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Be well, friends,  
Beth Hospadaruk  
2015-2016 Board President  
[president@uuaa.org](mailto:president@uuaa.org)



## Spiritual Growth and Development

### Program Notes

**Aaron Gibson, Programs Coordinator**



I have been on the UUAU team for over a month now, and I am loving every minute of it. The energy surrounding this Congregation and the work toward making the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) program an amazing experience for our students is quite contagious.

The SGD summer program is coming to a close, and Program Assistant Debra Golden has been hard at work with volunteers to share lessons on UU "Suuper" Heroes highlighting Unitarian Universalists throughout history. Two weeks ago, volunteer Jim Lee taught a lesson about the late Superman actor, Christopher Reeve. The lesson showed students how Reeve was still able to be a Suuper Hero despite being confined to a wheelchair by starting his own foundation to help others. I slid in the back of the room while Jim was teaching, and the students loved it!

The official start day for the 2015-2016 SGD classes is Sunday, September 20th, and registrations are now open. Be sure to fill out a registration form for your child and either drop it off in our registration box near the Involvement Table, or place it in my office mailbox.

Please note that all guardians who are registering their child in the 8th grade "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) class must attend a mandatory parent orientation on Sunday September 13th from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Contact Jen Coffman, OWL Instructor, for more information at [jakary@umich.edu](mailto:jakary@umich.edu) or 734-945-0867.

Volunteers are really stepping up to fill the teaching slots, but there are still opportunities available. We are still looking to fill positions for the K-1st and 4th-5th grades during First Service, along with the K-1st, 4th-5th, 6th, 9th, and 10th-12th grades during Second Service. Any congregant who has been active in the Church for at

least a year is welcome to apply. Interested? Contact Aaron Gibson at [aaron@uuua.org](mailto:aaron@uuua.org).

Thanks so much.



## **SGD News**

### **Children's and Youth Ministry Team**

There are a lot of changes being made within SGD and the Congregation this year, but it is exciting to see how this transition will benefit our programming. In the absence of an official SGD director for the next year, the SGD committee will provide leadership to maintain and enhance the programming for youth. I is exciting to welcome Aaron Gibson, the new programs coordinator.

The SGD program simply does not exist without the community's support. At present three of the five members of the SGD committee have completed their two-year terms, and while they are staying put for the next year, the succession planning is beginning now. The committee meets one to two times per month on Sundays after the second Service. This position is much more "big-picture" and involves planning out the SGD year. The committee evaluates curriculum, supports teachers in the classroom, and most importantly recruits teachers for the SGD classes. Consider serving on this committee as a way to support the SGD program and youth.

There are still spots available for teachers. Teachers will be in the classroom two services per month, leading the lesson one service and assisting on the next. No need to be a professional teacher, just a member willing to take lesson plans from the curriculum book and bring them to a classroom of bright, young minds.

Teacher needs: All grades except for 7th and 8th. There is a shortage on teachers for K/1st grade at 11:30am; 4th/5th grade at 11:30am and 9th grade Coming of Age. Our K/1st grade curriculum is the absolute, most FAVORITE of the teachers, "The Web of Life". Read from Charlotte's Web, and find the interdependence all around. Lots of outdoor exploration opportunities.

Thank you for making UUAU a fantastic place to learn for youth.



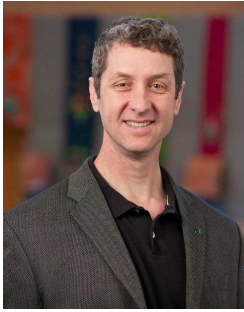
## **Activities and Events**

### **Senior Dinner \* Wednesday, September 2**

Come tell those tales of summer travel or relaxation at the monthly dinner at 6:00pm at Gourmet Garden. All are welcome and no reservations are necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



### **Farewell to Rev. Mark \* Sunday, September 6**



Join a Send-Off -In-Gratitude celebration of Associate Minister Mark Even's seven years of service. Gather during Social Hour for cake, good wishes, and presentation of a gift toward a "smart phone". Contributions toward this gift may be received through the Sunday collection with a check that has "Rev. Mark Gift" written in the memo line. Questions? Contact Ed Lynn at [ed@uuaa.org](mailto:ed@uuaa.org).



## Food Fight Potluck \* Friday, September 11

Join the Mindful Eating Coalition on Friday, September 11 for a family friendly "Food Fight" potluck at 6:00pm in the Social Hall. Bring the family, place settings, and a dish to pass. Play Food Jeopardy. Questions? Contact Merrill Crockett at [crockettmerrill@aol.com](mailto:crockettmerrill@aol.com).



## Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) \* Saturday, September 12



There will be a monthly meeting of the Ann Arbor Chapter from 12:45pm to 2:45pm in the Jackson Chapel. All are welcome to join for a dial-in call to a national CCL expert talk, followed by local discussion. For more information go to [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org). Questions? Contact Larry Junck at [ljunck@umich.edu](mailto:ljunck@umich.edu).



## Adult SGD Fall Catalog \* Sunday, September 13

Members of the Adult Education Advisory Team have been working with teachers and facilitators to finalize details of classes and events for the upcoming Fall Term, which begins Sunday, September 13 and runs through Friday, December 18. The Fall Catalog will be published both on the UUAU website and in paper form distributed in the Social Hall.

Register for classes by email or during Social Hour, starting on Sunday, September 13. Most classes and events will begin after Monday, September 14. Registration can still be made the day before the start of any class or event by email sent to the email address provided in the Catalog or online.

Questions regarding these dates and activities? Contact Charley Burleigh at [chburleigh@aol.com](mailto:chburleigh@aol.com).



## Climate Action Group \* Sunday, September 13




Climate Action Group Steering Committee meeting will be held in the Brown Room from 12:45 to 1:30pm. All members of the Climate Action Group and other Congregants are welcome. Bring ideas for actions to be taken to combat climate change. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at [ljunck@umich.edu](mailto:ljunck@umich.edu).




## Dream Group \* Sunday, September 13

Bring a dream and sense of adventure to explore new landscapes, tap into sources of creativity, and find guidance through Active Dreaming. Re-enter dreams and learn to

bring back information for healing and transformation. All are welcome. The group meets the second Sunday of each month from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Sunday, September 13 is the first group of the session and will be meeting in the Young Room. Questions? Contact Julie Tumbarello at [info@dreamingjulie.com](mailto:info@dreamingjulie.com). 

### **Men's Breakfast \* Saturday, September 19**

After a two month hiatus, the men's monthly breakfast is back. All men are invited to attend breakfast at 8:30am on the third Saturday of the month at Holiday's Restaurant. It is located at 2080 W Stadium Blvd across from the Post Office. Enjoy good food and make new friends. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904. 

### **Gimme Shelter Benefit \* Friday, September 19**



Support Alpha House from 6:00pm to 9:30pm at the Gimme Shelter Benefit located in UM's North Campus Research Complex. This is the major fundraiser for Alpha House, which provides emergency shelter for homeless families in Washtenaw County. Other services provided by Alpha House include Housing Placement Assistance, Children's Services, and Home-Based Support to help homeless families secure and maintain stable housing.


The tax deductible portion of each benefit ticket sold will shelter a child for one night. Click on the "Gimme Shelter" link on the Alpha House web site to get tickets: [alphahouse-ihn.org](http://alphahouse-ihn.org).

Questions? Contact UUAUAA Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at [abarber@gmail.com](mailto:abarber@gmail.com). 

### **Interweave Circle \* Sunday, September 20**

What is the difference between a "welcoming" congregation and one that is "affirming"? Interweave, the transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, questioning, intersex, and ally (TBLGQQIA) group invites everyone in the Congregation to take part in the Interweave Circle at 10:45am.



Interweave circles nurture social connections and help build the beloved community. Join this conversation to explore the role and presence of allies in the Congregation. Are they important and how can they make a difference? Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at [mjagner@yahoo.com](mailto:mjagner@yahoo.com). 

### **Men's Retreat \* Friday - Sunday, September 25- 27**

Join for a weekend of food, fun, and fellowship. The theme of the retreat this year is play. For more information, contact Mark Van Kempen at [mark.vankempen@gmail.com](mailto:mark.vankempen@gmail.com), or stop by the Men's Retreat table during Social Hour. 

### **Mindful Eating Forum \* Sunday, September 27**



Come listen to "Fuels and Additives for Human Machines" at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Swaroop Bhojani, owner of Hut K Nutrilicious and Back2Roots restaurants, will talk about how to eat to live a healthy life. Dr. Bhojani will bring free samples of his food. Questions? Contact Sheila Sanders at [sheilasanders@comcast.net](mailto:sheilasanders@comcast.net).



## Announcements and Notices

### Immigration Action Coalition by Cheryl Valentine

UUA volunteers have made a difference. Members of the Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) have helped get the Washtenaw ID Project off to a great start. In the first two months of the program, over 900 IDs were issued - that's 400 more than the County Clerk's Office had estimated for the entire first year.



The IAC hosted a training session at UUA last May and 15 members of the Congregation participated. Since the Washtenaw ID project kicked off June 1, volunteers have been working with individual applicants at the Washtenaw County Clerk's office to help them assemble the correct paperwork. Approximately 33,000 individuals in Washtenaw County do not have a current photo ID, and may have a hard time proving their own identity. The elderly, the homeless, recent immigrants, and those with special needs often do not drive and don't have the most common form of photo ID.

The smiles on the faces of those who walked out of the County Clerk's Office with their new IDs make volunteering with the Washtenaw ID Project a very rewarding action. New ID holders say they can now do many everyday things that before were a challenge. They can cash a check, pick up prescriptions, take their kids to a county park or pick them up from school. Whether it's getting a library card or proving their identity to the police, they have more confidence.

Help to make our community more inclusive. Volunteers are needed to work at the County Clerk's Office, Monday and Wednesday, morning and afternoon shifts, and Friday mornings. Spanish speakers are needed especially. People willing to do outreach evenings and weekends are also needed.

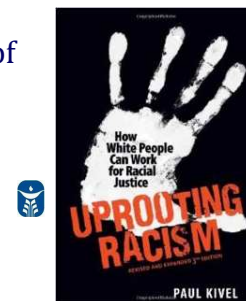
Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at 313-618-0025 or [cherylntatzmervallentine@gmail.com](mailto:cherylntatzmervallentine@gmail.com).



### Challenging Racism



All are invited to participate in a congregational Common Read beginning fall 2015. This intriguing book is the 3rd edition (2011) of *Uprooting Racism - How White People Can Work for Racial Justice* by Paul Kivel. It is available in the QUUest Bookstore. Each book discussion will focus on: How can we be strong white allies? Questions? Contact Edie Croake at [ecroake@wccnet.edu](mailto:ecroake@wccnet.edu).



## Climate Action Group (CAG)



Five CAG members will solicit signatures to put an anti-fracking measure on the Michigan ballot in 2016. For those who support this effort and haven't signed since the petition drive started on Friday, May 22, look for a person with a large clipboard during Social Hour. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at [ljunck@umich.edu](mailto:ljunck@umich.edu).

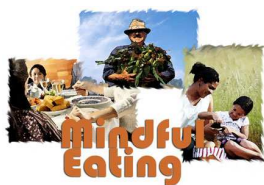
## Social Justice Council

Come to the Social Justice Table during Social Hour to find out about clemency for Tracy Cowan. Sign the petition below or find out information at the table. In 2001, Tracy was accused of drug possession after she found out her boyfriend had used her house to hide drugs. Tracy was sentenced to 20-40 years while her boyfriend has been set free. Ask Governor Snyder to commute Tracy's sentence. She has spent 10 years for a crime she did not commit. Read more about Tracy and sign the petition.

[https://www.change.org/p/michigan-governor-rick-snyder-clemency-for-tracy-cowan-465699?source\\_location=petition\\_footer&algorithm=promoted](https://www.change.org/p/michigan-governor-rick-snyder-clemency-for-tracy-cowan-465699?source_location=petition_footer&algorithm=promoted)

Questions? Contact Kate Warner at [kpwarner@umich.edu](mailto:kpwarner@umich.edu).

## Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC)



The Food Gatherers Farm Project helps to fight hunger in Washtenaw County. Volunteers work at the property of Farmer Bill Schmid at 3725 S. Maple Road (right around the corner from UUA), growing and

harvesting fresh produce on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30pm and Saturdays from 10:00am to noon. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Colleen Crawley at [ccrawley59@gmail.com](mailto:ccrawley59@gmail.com).



Sharing produce will continue during Social Hour until people have no more to share. Sign up at the Mindful Eating Table (MEC) to receive an MEC newsletter, or contact Colleen Crawley at [ccrawley50@gmail.com](mailto:ccrawley50@gmail.com).

## Chalice Circles Registration

There are more opportunities than ever to connect through a small group ministry. Participants in last year's Chalice Circle program had the following to say about their experience:

- "It was a relaxing respite for reflection and community, with a nice opportunity

to discuss vital and relevant topics."

- "I got to know a small group of wonderful people on a deeper level and got to share myself in a safe space. It was great for a shy introvert."
- "I had just joined the church, and it allowed me to meet cool and interesting people. I really look forward to it every other weekend."
- "Insights from my circles life experiences were inspiring."

The Chalice Circle program will kick off its ninth year at UUAA. In addition to sustaining our traditional seven-month circles through the program year, Snow Bird circles, running September through December, and One-Time Circles, held in November, December, February, March, April, July, and August, will be held at UUAA.

The following sessions will be held from mid-October 2015 through mid-May 2016:

1st and 3rd Sunday afternoons	2:00-4:00pm	at UUAA
2nd and 4th Monday evenings	7:00-9:00pm	at UUAA
1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings	7:00-9:00pm	at UUAA
1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings	7:00-9:00pm	at UUAA
1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons	1-3pm	at UUAA
every other Thursday evening	6:30-8:30pm	in Plymouth
2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings	6:30-8:30pm	in Tecumseh
1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings	6:30-8:30pm	in Chelsea

Choose the circle that best suits each persons schedule. Child care is not available for Chalice Circles this year.

While openings remain, registration will continue during Social Hour through Sunday, September 20. Registration for One-Time Chalice Circles will happen throughout the year, a few weeks before each session. Registration will also be available by email; review the instructions at [uuaa.org/chalicecircles](http://uuaa.org/chalicecircles). Questions? Contact Ginny Preuss at [chalicecircles@uuaa.org](mailto:chalicecircles@uuaa.org).



## New Member Bio

### Jay and Dorothy Cavanaugh



Natives of New Jersey, Dorothy and Jay moved onto the Eastern Shore of Maryland before Jay's job as a pilot

brought their family to Michigan.

Jay was raised Catholic but at a young age began his spiritual journey toward more earthbased/pantheistic leanings. By the time he graduated High School, he no longer considered himself theistic.

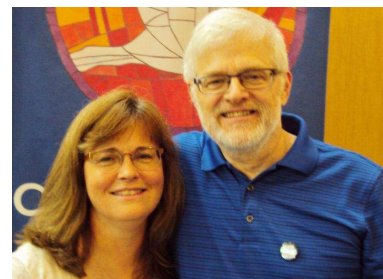
Dorothy grew up active in the Methodist church where she very much enjoyed her time with the church community and had no reason to question any of the teachings. For the past few years they have been active in a local Methodist Church, but after attending a UU winter retreat in Wisconsin with some of Jay's Pantheist friends, they discovered a real connection with the other attendees. The result was a decision to visit the UUAU.

Dorothy and Jay, along with their children Luke (14) and Emma (12), are happy to have found a home at UUAU.



### **Jim and Sherry McCargar**

"We found UUAU by way of our 20-year-old daughter, who asked if we would be interested in attending a Service with her. I was blown away by the Service -- the message, the community, the warmth of spirit, the love. The following week my husband, Jim, attended with me. His reaction may have been even more powerful than mine. Having not been churchgoing folks our entire adult lives, we have found the perfect fit of community, spirituality, thoughtfulness, social justice, and plain old fun.



Jim, now retired from a dual career in environmental science and teaching, is thriving in the Chalice Singers and volunteering in the UUAU office. I continue to teach science in Saline, this year making a move from the high school (where I have taught nearly 20 years) to the middle school - a move that brings me both excitement and some trepidation.

It has been life-changing for both of us to have found UUAU, and we give thanks, to all of you!"



## **Church Office News**

### **New Building Hours:**

**Sundays: 8:30am-4:00pm**

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

**Friday: Closed**

**Saturdays: 9:00am-12:00pm**

**\* Note these changes: The Building will be open on Saturday's from 9:00am to 12:00pm and open on Sunday's from 8:30am to 4:00pm. The Building will be closed on Friday's.**

**Labor Day Holiday Hours:**

**Saturday, September 5: Closed**  
**Sunday, September 6: 8:30am to 12:30pm**  
**Monday, September 7: Closed**

**The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm.**

**Telephone: 734-665-6158**  
**Fax: 734-665-7895**  
**General Email: [office@uuaa.org](mailto:office@uuaa.org)**

**Communicating at UUAU:**

**The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *Weekly Bulletin* is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to [bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org).**

**The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2015 October Newsletter* is 9:00am on Monday, September 21. Send your submissions to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org).**

**Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website ([uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org)) to [webtech@uuaa.org](mailto:webtech@uuaa.org).**

**Building & Office Team:**

**Ed Lynn, Interim Administrator, [ed@uuaa.org](mailto:ed@uuaa.org)**  
**Deby Casamatta, Office Administrator, [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org)**  
**Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, [dewon@uuaa.org](mailto:dewon@uuaa.org)**  
**Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian, [arthur@uuaa.org](mailto:arthur@uuaa.org)**



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