

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

August Newsletter

August 1, 2016 - Vol 8, Issue 8

Congregational Links

UUAA Links:

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Other Links:

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[UUA.org](#)

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Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

Sunday Worship | 10:00am

August 2016 | Re-focus. Re-vision. Re-commit.

In any year, August presents a set of interesting challenges for the worship planning team. On any other month, we engage the gymnastic, telescopic mission of deciding a thematic direction for the coming month while honing a message for the coming week. Each August, we must add the coming year to the conversation. Nascent ideas need honing, musical ensembles need scheduling, preaching/leading schedules need deciding...and all a month before Water Communion and planning for Christmas Eve!

This year's August calls the worship planning team to a schedule even more olympic. In addition to weekly, and monthly, and yearly thinking, we will also manage a significant change to the team itself. In short order, our leading pulpit steward (Senior Minister Rev. Gail) takes on the new adventure of retiring. In her place, we welcome Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Wadkins to the Interim Senior Minister's chair. Rev. Cassandra Hartley joins the worship planning team as Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development. Assistant Minister Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich returns from vacation and study leave.

On one hand, this transition presents the sorts of challenges you might expect: with a highly collaborative planning process, new voices need time and space to learn how they will contribute to the congregation's ongoing worship conversation; we'll all need the time to re-tool our planning schedule so that each team member's work style is honored and held; we'll train each other on logistical details; and we'll take some

time to be with one another, to get a groove going, to bring our best selves to the conversation and, ultimately, to you in worship.

On the other hand, the transition of leadership presents some exciting possibilities: finding a stable working conversation among us will allow me to return to the work of building our budding worship associates program; a dedicated Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development stands to assist us in improving our multi-generational worship leading; a different perspective in the Senior Minister's chair will help us gain a fresh perspective for what needs re-visioning in our worship planning; and a combination of new and veteran voices to our worship planning work will help us to retain the traditions and aspects of our worship that give Ann Arbor's worship its strong cultural identity.

In September, this column will return to a more familiar form (a weekly forecast for our spiritual work in worship). For this August, Rev. Lindasusan and I will lead our weekly worship services (each Sunday at 10:00am) while I focus on helping the worship planning team to navigate this initial month of deep transition and fresh possibility.

For this year's August, our weekly gathering of spiritual community is more helpful than ever. Now it is particularly important to remember how much our calling toward abiding love and unmitigated justice must remain, must persist, must find room to grow again.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship and Music
glen.thomas@uuuaa.org



President's Message

Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to August!

A new season has begun; one that usually doesn't begin here at UUAA until September, but with the retirement of Rev. Gail and the wonderful goodbyes, gifts, and good

wishes, we begin August with a sense of accomplishment of saying "Goodbye" well to both her and Celeste. Our congregation presented Gail and Celeste with a gift at the July 31 service crafted by Kyle Connolly, the blacksmith who made our own beautiful Chalice. Kyle and his wife Betsy were members of this Congregation for many years and several years ago moved to Portland, Maine. He is making an 18-inch tall table top version of our wheat grass chalice for their new home in Maine. A drawing of that chalice was presented to them and when finished, Kyle will deliver it in person to them at their new home. We will share a picture with you all when we receive it. May they be reminded of our continued connection and love each time they light it!



August brings the arrival and work of our Interim Sr. Minister, Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins. He will begin his work by meeting with staff, the Board of Trustees, and individual leaders to learn about us and gather information for the work ahead. A transition team has been established that will set up these meetings and be a helpful resource and support team for his time here. To learn more about the transition team, visit our website uuaa.org or the transition page here. We will not see Rev. Doug in the pulpit until September. Please partner with the Board and staff to welcome him into our Beloved Community.

Be well friends,
Beth

Beth Hospadaruk
2015-2016 Board President
president@uuaa.org



UUAA Transition Team



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the formation of a Transition Team that will help guide UUAA through the two years of interim ministry: Terri Wilkerson (convener), Cesilie Cordovilla, Victor Hola, Betsy Price, and Erik Stalhandke.

The Transition Team will meet regularly with Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins, to help determine priorities for our two interim years. They will serve as good communicators who can help Rev. Wadkins learn about this Congregation and help the Congregation learn about transition activities.

The written materials on interim ministry recommend that the Transition Team be made up of trusted members of the Congregation who can represent a range of congregational interests, who are open to change, and who are able to speak the Truth in Love to the interim minister and to members of the Congregation. A big "Thank You" to Terri, Cesilie, Victor, Betsy, and Erik for serving in this important role.

If you have questions about the interim processes, please visit the Ministerial Transition web page on our website. There is a link on the front of uuaa.org next to the Transition icon - the icon that accompanies information about our transition. The web page includes a contact form for questions or comments you would like to email to the Transition Team; or email transitionteam@uuaa.org.

May 2016| Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins hired by the Board of Trustees (BOT) as Interim Senior Minister

July 2016| UUAA Transition Team appointed by BOT

July 31, 2016| Rev. Gail's final Sunday--farewell cake and goodbyes during Social Hour

August 2, 2016| Rev. Gail's last day at UUAA

August 4, 2016| Rev. Wadkins joins us for 2 years

Spring 2017| Search Committee forms and meets with UUA consultant

June-November 2017| Search Committee creates and submits information for ministerial candidates and in November submits an application for senior minister

January 2018| Search Committee interviews candidates

February-March 2018| Search Committee holds "pre-candidating" weekends with final choices

April 2018| Search Committee makes offer to a final candidate.
Presentation of final candidate to the UUAA Congregation

September 2018| UUAA enthusiastically greets our 13th Senior Minister



Activities and Events

Challenging Racism Group * Monday, August 1

A hearty thanks to all who helped with the unanimous passage of the Black Lives Matter Resolution at the June 5 Annual Meeting! CRG looks forward to continued congregational involvement as UUAA takes action to implement the BLM resolution. The CRG planning meeting for 2016-2017 will be Monday, August 1 at 7:00pm in the Young Room. Questions? Contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.ed.



Senior Dinner * Wednesday, August 3

Come one, come all and enjoy the good company and good food. Our monthly dinner will be at 6:00pm at Gourmet Garden at 2255 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. No reservations required. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at omaduke7@gmail.com or 734-769-0467.



Alpha House Host Week * Monday-Sunday, August 22-28



The third host week at Alpha House, a shelter for families experiencing homelessness, will be from Monday to Sunday, August 22 to 28. There are about 100 volunteer spots to be filled. Sign up to play with the kids, bring food for dinner, serve dinner, make breakfast on the weekend, be a day host, or be an overnight volunteer. All of these roles are important to supporting the work that Alpha House does for homeless families in Washtenaw County. Follow [this link](#) to sign up online. Questions? Contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



Announcements and News

Sharing the Collection



Sharing the Collection provides financial assistance to non-profit community service organizations in Washtenaw County to help their important work. From January through July 2016, those attending Sunday Worship Service have generously given on average \$1851 for these seven nonprofit organizations: Friends in Deed, House by the Side of the Road, the Jim Toy Center, the Washtenaw ID Project, Habitat for Humanity, Michigan UU Social Justice Network, and the Community Action Network.

On Sunday, August 7, we will donate the Sunday Collection to UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond, formerly known as HARC. As the only organization of its kind serving Washtenaw County, UNIFIED has significant experience in providing a broad range of HIV/AIDS prevention services and has developed extensive expertise as a care provider for people living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information, contact one of our facilitators: Mary Ann Camron, Bob Dinan, John Frank, or Terry Madden (chair) at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Social Justice Council (SJC)

The Social Justice Council (SJC) welcomes a new co-chair to the group, Connie McGuire, who will chair with Carolyn Madden. We also welcome a new council member, Mark Jagner. Continuing members Julie Voelck, Sally Preston, Roberta Allen, Kate Warner, Cristy Cardinal, Hayley Boyse, Hannah Hotckiss and our Facebook coordinator, Carol Acitelli, will continue to provide the Congregation with support for social justice issues.

Council meetings occur on the second Monday of the month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Input to the monthly meeting agendas are welcomed. We are currently planning the 2016-2017 SJC calendar of events, such as a social justice potluck dinner in early fall (date TBA) to celebrate all of our accomplishments in and beyond our community.

One of the highlights this summer is that SJC is collaborating with the League of Women Voters and the Immigration Action Coalition to apply for a UU funding grant to provide the Spanish-speaking community in five counties in Michigan with radio information on voting in the primary and then in the general election. SJC will be

continuing the Social Justice Connections segment every first and third Sunday of the month during worship to let the Congregation know who we are and what we are doing for social justice in the community and beyond. Questions? Contact Co-Chair of the SJC Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com . 

Denominational Connections Team (DCT)



General Assembly (GA) 2016 was a wonderful experience. With over 70 people from UUAA attending, it seemed like being in Ann Arbor while in Columbus, Ohio. Many experienced a new way to show UUAA social justice pride. They have gathered to reflect on the things they experienced and how to bring that back to UUAA.

Join on Sunday, August 7 from 11:30am to 1:30pm in the Fahs Chapel for a GA Reflection Gathering. This discussion is open to all, whether you attended GA or not. There will be time for sharing GA stories and open discussion, questions, reflections, and ideas for action. The reflection session will be led by Suzanne Benloucif and Theresa Rohlck. If you have any questions about the gathering, contact Suzanne or Theresa at sbenlouc@med.umich.edu or theresa@uuaa.org.

A new way to show your UUAA social justice pride is with a Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) t-shirt that has a special UUAA reference on the back. The Front will have the SSL symbol and the back will look like this.



The new shirts will be available this month in the Social Hall at the Interweave Table.

Next month we will be sharing some experiences from your GA 2016 Delegates and may even start talking about GA 2017 in New Orleans, LA. Questions? Contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com. 

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is at work in the world, here, and abroad. Myanmar is just one of the countries in which projects are under way.



In partnership with BadeiDha, a grassroots nonprofit in the Hsipaw area of the northern Shan state, work is going forward to support the organizing of credit unions for farmers in five communities, providing training in land rights, and building leadership and negotiating capabilities in the local Buddhist community. Additionally, working with a Canadian NGO, UUSC is supporting a group whose mission is to prevent ethnic and religious violence by reducing hate speech and propaganda in the media and accurately documenting human rights abuses.

Closer to home, check out the [UUSC website](#) for information about the Dominican Republic's systematic removal of people of Haitian extraction. UUSC asks that you consider sending a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry to ask that military aid from the United States be withheld until the DR stops this illegal deportation.

News from UUAA Justice Building Innovator, Cristy Cardinal, supported in part by the

UUSC, is the following:

- The Justice Building Innovation Project will be the Social Justice Moment in the August 7, 2016, Sunday service.
- A three-session course on intersectional feminism as a spiritual practice will be on the adult SGD calendar in the fall.
- Examining Whiteness will be on the adult SGD schedule as well.

More information about these events is available by contacting Cristy at crystycardinal@gmail.com.

Mark September 20, 9:00pm on your calendars; PBS will air *Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War*, in which Ken Burns documents the journey of the UU Minister Waitsill Sharp and his wife Martha to Europe in 1939 to save children threatened by the Nazis. The book version is due to be released in early September. Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.

Office News

Building Schedule and Publication Deadlines

Summer Building Hours

Sundays| 9:00am-4:00pm

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

Fridays| Closed

Saturdays| 9:00am-noon

Church Office Hours| Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone| 734-665-6158

Fax| 734-665-7895

General Email| office@uuuaa.org

Communicating at UUAA

The deadline for submitting UUAA events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *Weekly Bulletin* is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to bulletin@uuuaa.org. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAA events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2016 September Newsletter* is Sunday, August 21 at 9:00am. Send submissions to newsletter@uuuaa.org. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org.

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



