

# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

## July Newsletter

July 1, 2016 - Vol 7, Issue 7

### Congregational Links

#### UUAA Links:

[Make a 2016 Pledge](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAA](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

[Geisenhainer Music](#)

[Fund](#)

#### Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of  
Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

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### Weaving Worship

Rev. Gail Geisenhainer, Senior Minister  
theresa rohlck, Worship Associate

#### Sunday Worship | 10:00am

#### July 2016 | Weaving Worship

This past December theresa received as a gift a little toy loom. The frame snaps together into a square, and it comes with a bag of stretchy colorful loops. You stretch the loops across, in one direction, then with a small crochet hook, weave other loops in and out, in the other direction. Once the weaving fills the square, it is time to tie off the ends and celebrate having created a multi-colored pot-holder. As she and Rev. Gail reflected on writing July's Weaving Worship for the newsletter, that loom and the brightly colored loops came to mind.

Two guest preachers anchor the weave for July. Our Director of Worship and Music will speak about how we weave worship. Then, alongside our Senior Minister, we will enter into the conversation of how we intertwine the elements of worship through the Question Box model (send your theological questions to Rev Gail at [questionbox@uuaa.org](mailto:questionbox@uuaa.org)).

Finally, on Sunday, July 31, we will tie off the ends of our weaving as we co-create the final service of worship with our 12th Senior Minister. After the service on that day, we will share a sheet cake and bid Rev. Gail and Celeste farewell on their trek into retirement.

What makes worship for our Congregation is the interweaving of many voices. Your presence co-creates the weave. Come! Let us be fully present to one another!



theresa rohlck  
Worship Associate



Rev. Gail Geisenhainer  
Senior Minister



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**Sunday, July 3, 2016**

Worship | 10:00am

**Saving Grace**

The Reverend Cassandra Hartley will explore the idea of grace as a connective, triumphant force that is woven into our lives. On Tuesday, July 5, Cassi will begin her work at UUAA as Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development. She was recently ordained by the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, where she was a member and served as a student minister from 2007 to 2009. Cassi has been a frequent guest preacher at both UUCF and the UU community in Brighton (CUUB).



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**Sunday, July 10, 2016**

Worship | 10:00am

**Dancing With Dementia**

Diagnoses of dementia are on the rise. While the process and progression of this disease is unique, there are some common behaviors that can be dealt with in ways that can decrease anxiety for caregivers and their loved ones. The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi will share some statistics about dementia and some tips on how to navigate through the changes that come along with this diagnosis.

The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi has been an Ordained UU Minister for 26 years. Her seminary training took place at the United Theological Seminary in Minnesota. After serving congregations in Mankato, MN, St. Louis, MO, Chicago, IL, and Rochester, MI, she is now the 3/4 time Consulting Minister at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, MI. She has interests in labyrinth meditation, Buddhism, and postmodern changes of the future church. Her Himalayan snow-show Siamese cat, Sophie, allows her and partner Michael to live together in Sterling Heights. Her phone is filled with photos of three grandchildren, ages 16, 14, and 10, and her Dad, Dominic, who meets his challenges with dementia with a sense of humor and spunk.



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**Sunday, July 17, 2016**

Worship | 10:00 am

**Weaving Worship**

A master weaver of worship, Dr. Rideout will offer a glimpse into what it means for a worship team to "weave worship." He will bring his own reflections on leading worship and music at last month's General Assembly in Columbus. 

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### **Sunday, July 24, 2016**

Worship | 10:00am

#### **Question Box**

We need your help to weave this Sunday's service. Senior Minister Rev. Gail Geisenhainer will address questions received from the Congregation. This will be a time to hear Gail's theological musings on topics YOU have been wondering about. From the themes that emerge from your questions, Director of Worship and Music Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout will, in the moment, show how the weaving of music into a service happens. What sparks the choice of particular hymns? What inspires Pianist-in-Residence Allison to select her pieces?

Your questions are needed by Friday, July 15. Submit them to Rev. Gail at [questionbox@uuaa.org](mailto:questionbox@uuaa.org). 

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### **Sunday, July 31, 2016**

Worship | 10:00am

#### **Bind Not to Joy**

Rev. Gail will share some of the readings and hymns that have grounded and inspired her ministry. After the service all are welcome to join in the Social Hall for sheet cake and a brief reception as we bid farewell to our 12th Senior Minister and offer our good wishes as she begins her retirement. 

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## **Gleanings**

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

Thank You, ALL, for the most lovely, lively, and heartfelt celebration on June 19. You cannot know how dear to me it is to have the Peace Pole "planted," my Gnome education ensured (thanks YRUU!), and my books secured with those marvelous, handcrafted parking lot asphalt chunk book ends. Just WOW!

July already promises to be a rewarding time. I am scheduled to preside at three weddings, two funerals, and two or three worship services. I will be present all five Sundays. My goal is to continue to say good bye, to reflect, and just to visit with as many of you all as possible.



At General Assembly, many of us got to meet our incoming Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Douglas Wadkins. I was so comforted to see what a loving, careful, warm presence he offers. He even sat with us for the GA, post-worship, UUAA group photo! Clearly, he is also a good sport!

Sunday, July 31, will be my last day at the church. After worship we will share cake. Most likely we will sing, too! Yes? Then Celeste and I and my mother will finish the packing and head to Maine. I will leave Michigan feeling well-balanced with my ministry here. We accomplished many, many things we had hoped to do. Always, in ministry as in so much of human living, there are those aspirations yet unreached. I take comfort in knowing that while ministers are finite, we come and we go, the ministries of a vibrant Congregation like ours move forward..., stretching over the span of individual ministerial tenures.

It has been an honor for me to serve as the spiritual leader of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. Now I will return to my beloved Maine and learn how best to hold you all in Love in my new role as Minister Emerita.

Go Out, Always, in Peace, my Friends. And do remember...

Love Abides,  
Rev Gail



## Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister



As I write, the word transition imbues the air all around me. I'm gearing up for General Assembly (GA) and Ministry Days, followed by some much-needed time off in July, first to decompress and then to prepare for the new church year. The parking lot is in its final phase of completion. I'm setting up meetings with our new Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development, Rev. Cassandra Hartley, who will soon join the UUAA staff part-time. With luck, I'll even tame the piles of paper on my desk.

And of course, we're winding down our time with Rev. Gail - words that pretty much stop me in my tracks.

Even though the announcement came months ago, even though we've been putting transition plans into place, even though I preached on grief at the end of May to help prepare us...her retirement still feels somewhat unreal to me. I suppose we won't get a true sense of the new landscape until we cross the border of August 2.

One thing that remains quite real for me, though, is the unwavering continuity of the Congregation itself. UUAA has been here over 150 years, and it will continue as long as there are dedicated people who gather to enact our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

How does Unitarian Universalism remain meaningful and relevant in your life, especially in times of transition?

Peace,  
Rev. Lindasusan

PS - Between GA, vacation, and study leave, I'll be away from Saturday, June 18 until Tuesday, July 26. Please note that I will NOT be reading any emails sent during this time; for sanity's sake, they will be deleted. I'll return voicemail once I'm back in the office. Many thanks for helping make this ministry sustainable!

Peace,  
Rev. Lindasusan



## President's Message

**Beth Hospadaruk, Board President**

Welcome to July! It is with the fullest heart that I update you after spending five days in Columbus, Ohio, attending the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) with more than 4000 UU's and over 80 of my closest UU friends from our own Congregation! This marks the fifteenth GA that my husband Bob and I have attended and it was, without a single doubt, the best ever.



I won't try to capture every moment here, but pay attention for organized gatherings of sharing what was learned, experienced, celebrated and/or shed tears over. Movements begin with learning and motivation. I am so proud to have been a part of it. What will we do here at UUAA with these moments and what difference will we make? If you are interested in viewing any of the available videos, including the Sunday morning worship service that our own Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout co-led, please go to [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org), and follow the link. May you be inspired by what you see and hear.

The newly elected Board of Trustees is spending June and July learning together through retreat/orientation Chautauqua sessions. In this time of transition, we are looking forward to the interim work ahead of us with Reverend Dr. Wadkins when he joins us in August. Many of us were fortunate enough to spend time with him in Columbus and to begin to build our relationship of trust and right relations. We are off to a very good start.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Geisenhainer Music Fund. The Gail R. Geisenhainer Steinway has been commissioned and graces our Sanctuary, and what a

beauty she is! Continued donations will grow the fund to allow piano lessons for youth in our area. Rev. Gail will be in church every Sunday in July, and with the traditional "Sheet Cake Sunday" on Sunday, July 31, we will say our final farewell with a special gift for Gail and Celeste. One they can actually take with them.

Be well friends,  
Beth

Beth Hospadaruk  
2015-2016 Board President  
[president@uuuaa.org](mailto:president@uuuaa.org)



## Ministerial Transition Timeline

With Rev. Gail's retirement in summer 2016, the Board of Trustees has been busy making decisions toward the future.

Visit [uuuaa.org](http://uuuaa.org) for the most up-to-date information about the [ministerial transition period](#). Check out this link regularly or ask any Board member. The basic timeline is below:



**May/June 2016** | Interim Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Douglas Wadkins selection made by Board of Trustees.

**June 19, 2016** | A Goodbye Gaila for Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer will follow the service.

**July 31, 2016** | All-Congregation gala farewell and good wishes party for Rev. Gail

**August 2, 2016** | Rev. Geisenhainer's last day at UUA

**August 2016** | Selected Interim Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Douglas Wadkins joins us for two years.

**Spring 2017** | Search Committee forms, meets with UUA consultant, and begins search process.

**April 2018** | Presentation of final candidate to the UUA Congregation

**September 2018** | UUA enthusiastically greets our 13th Senior Minister.

Questions? Contact Board President Beth Hospadaruk at [president@uuuaa.org](mailto:president@uuuaa.org).



## Accessibility Team on Parking Space Colors

What? Three colors of parking spaces in our new parking lots? Yellow-striped parking spaces are for everyone, 233 of them. Sixteen blue-striped spaces are for people with disabilities who have government permits. All good! We understand and welcome these spaces in the new parking lots.

And the nine parking spaces painted with broad white lines - our third color of parking



spaces - what is that about?

The white parking spaces are located as close as possible to the entrance doors. They are intended for people who benefit from close-in parking for a health reason. The walk from our parking lots to the places where we gather in the greatest numbers - our Sanctuary and Social Hall - can be lengthy for those with many health conditions. The Accessibility Team has noticed this and asked for the close-in white spaces to make that journey as short as possible.

Many people may benefit from the white parking spaces. For example, those laboring with a cane, recovering from a turned ankle, breathing less than well today, feeling queasy, having pregnancy discomfort, coping with back pain, suffering from a bum leg that is acting up today, any health reason is valid. The white spaces are a good way to shorten the walk.

No government permit is needed to use the white spaces; no legal requirements are attached. They are for those who feel a need to park close-in for any health-related reason. Our individual judgment and our sense of honor, love, and caring around this compassionate parking option are our guides.

The white-striped parking spaces increase the Congregation's welcome for people with every kind of health-related need and assist us all in experiencing our spiritual community fully. Consistent with the first two UU principles, they help us affirm the "worth and dignity of every person" and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Questions? Contact Accessibility Team leader Phil Tuchinsky at [phil@tuchinsky.org](mailto:phil@tuchinsky.org).



## UUAA Receives First UUA Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry Certificate at GA



At UUA General Assembly (GA) on Thursday, June 23, our Congregation received the first AIM certificate ever awarded by the UUA Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) program. UUAA President Beth Hospadaruk and Senior Minister Rev. Gail Geisenhainer were present to receive the certificate at a ceremony and celebration witnessed by many UUAA congregants attending GA.

The certificate recognizes the extensive program of accessibility and inclusion actions, worship services, workshops, and social justice projects completed at UUAA since 2013. More broadly, it recognizes and celebrates our congregation's awareness, openness, and attention to a warm and inclusive welcome for everyone with disabilities. This is the certificate this Congregation voted to seek at the Sunday, January 31 congregational meeting.

The Accessibility Team, from its creation in 2013 to the present, has worked with senior congregational leaders and many allied lay UUAA organizations to develop the local program that UUA has now certified. Accessibility Team, 57 members strong, carries the voice of people with disabilities into all congregational activities. Inspired

by UUA, Els Nieuwenhuijsen helped found Accessibility Team and became its first leader. Much of the work leading to this certificate was completed through her leadership.

Of course, our work to welcome people with disabilities and include them fully in our Congregation is ongoing. The UUA certificate is valid for three years. The Accessibility Team continues to focus on accessibility and inclusion needs within our Congregation and works to broaden our involvement in the larger community mindful of our pathway to UUA re-certification in 2019. Questions? Contact Accessibility Team leader Phil Tuchinsky at [phil@tuchinsky.org](mailto:phil@tuchinsky.org).



## Activities and Events

### Senior Dinner \* Wednesday, July 6

All are welcome to dinner at Gourmet Garden located at 2255 W. Stadium Blvd. at 6:00pm for the monthly gathering of UUAA seniors. Join the group for an evening of laughter, good stories, and some politics, of course. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



### One Time Chalice Circle \* Sunday, July 10

Join to discuss the topic of *Forgiveness* in the Brown Room from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Register on line at [listen2children@gmail.com](mailto:listen2children@gmail.com) or during Social Hour on Sunday, July 3. We need a minimum of 6 participants to run a circle. Questions? Contact Alma King at [am\\_king@hotmail.com](mailto:am_king@hotmail.com).



### 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](mailto:ecroake@wccnet.ed).



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



The third Host Week at Alpha House, a shelter for homeless families, 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](mailto:abarber@gmail.com).



## Announcements and Notices

## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is an organization working where rights are threatened and has been actively engaged in areas of the world in need.

A recent article in the latest *UU World* highlights UUSC's work in Burundi. The UUSC partner in Burundi, Fondation Dutabarre (FD), is a community-based organization committed to creating a world where human rights are respected and development is sustainable. Specifically, they have trained community and religious leaders for election observation and reform and have done needs assessments for the LGBT community. Also, FD provided shelter to vulnerable members of the society during pre-election violence last summer.

Persecution for reasons of faith continue in this central African country, where extreme violence has been ongoing. In late fall, the minister and then the members of the UU church in Bujumbura fled the country after numerous incidents of detention, threats, and attacks on the church and its members.

Right here at UUAA, our Justice Building Innovator, Cristy Cardinal, reports that UUAA Social Justice Council (SJC), through the support of the UUSC Justice Building Innovator Project, has big plans for late summer and fall, including a UUA curriculum "Examining Whiteness" and a three-part class on Intersectional Feminism for UUs, which will be a part of the Fall SGD calendar. Also, she will be presenting a "Social Justice Moment" in worship on Sunday, August 7. Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at [qnorthrup@gmail.com](mailto:qnorthrup@gmail.com). For more information go to [uuscs.org](http://uuscs.org).

## Church Office News

### Building Schedule and Publication Deadlines

#### Building Hours

**Sundays** | 9:00am-4:00pm

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

**Friday** | Closed

**Saturdays** | 9:00am-4:00pm

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

\*Note: In observance of Independence Day, the UUAA building and office will be closed from Sunday, July 3 at 4:00pm to Tuesday, July 5 at 9:00am.

**Telephone** | 734-665-6158

**Fax** | 734-665-7895

**General Email** | [office@uuuaa.org](mailto: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@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org).

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2016 August Newsletter* is Thursday, July 21 at 9:00am. Send 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).



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