



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

July Newsletter

July 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 7

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

UUA.org | MidAmericaUUA.org | [Side with Love](#) (formerly Standing on the Side of Love)

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

July 2018 | Connection

July Worship Planning Team

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development

Rev. Doug Wadkins, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

July 1 | Connections Are Made Slowly

Worship Time | 10:00am

As we move into a new theme, we will use a "collage" service, utilizing film and poetry as our central creative pathway for inviting you to our theme. What are some of the ways that connections lead us to deeper truths and healing growth?

As always with film clip services, while the clips are not chosen to be shocking or difficult, there is a certain power that clips can have that in a difficult time may be especially emotional. Please use good self-care in deciding if you need to step out of the service or check in about the clips ahead of time.

July 8 | Practicing the Art of Friendship

Worship Time | 10:00am

One of our first ways of connecting person-to-person is through the building and maintaining of friendships. Such a practice has become even more difficult in our

current climate of constant change, lack of trust in our institutions, and frequent insulation of our lives. This service will seek to remind us of the ways that the connections of friendships shape our lives and our hearts.

**July 15 | Connecting through Singing
Worship Time | 10:00am**

Music and, in particular, singing is a significant way of making meaningful connections. This service will focus on offering singers of all ages, stages, and abilities to join their voices in a four-square inspired singing service. We will invite simple, multi-part singing and reflection to call us into a more in-depth community. No experience or ability to read music is required to participate.

**July 22 |
Worship Time | 10:00am**

Topic to be announced in upcoming *Weely Bulletins*.

**July 29 |
Worship Time | 10:00am**

Topic to be announced in upcoming *Weely Bulletins*.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship & Music
glenthomas@uuaa.org



**In the Interim
Rev. Doug Wadkins**



Last month many of you heard me speak briefly about the beginning of our journey 24 months ago. Each of you participated in and shared that journey with me. You shared your thoughts, hopes, and struggles regarding this place. We worshiped together, and we had meaningful conversations together. I dedicated your children, and early on, I stood before you and talked about the image of

a trapeze. Much like a trapeze artist we are swinging along, and at some point holding onto that same trapeze bar of the current life we know, it has become a rather predictable pendulum -- not a death-defying thrill. We will have experiences like this again and again in every aspect of our life.

Danaan Perry wrote, "I see another trapeze bar swinging toward me. It's empty, and I know that this new trapeze bar has my name on it. It is my next step, my growth, my aliveness coming to get me. In my heart of hearts, I know that for me to grow, I must release my grip on this present, well-known bar to move to a new one. Each time, I am filled with terror. It doesn't matter that in all my previous hurtles across the void of unknowing, I have always made it. Each time, I am afraid that I

will miss, that I will be crushed on unseen rocks in the bottomless chasm between the trapeze bars. But I do it anyway."

And so through these many months we have sailed through the mysterious, exhilarating, and even terrifying passages through conversations regarding worship and our identity. We have journeyed through an election, and into a world and nation that I scarcely could have imagined. We have opened up to new faces in our midst and said goodbye to old faces no longer with us. We have lived through births, new loves, and loves lost or transformed ... jobs begun and careers terminated. Through votes to take a stand for creating sanctuary, through a unanimous call for your new Senior Minister, we have soared ... and here we are at this precious and powerful point.

- Turn to the touchstones that serve you well.-- your dedication to explore, live into, and risk practicing welcome and connection with each other -- your willingness to show up again and again to create space for diversity even when scared of the change it will bring.
- Carry on your legacy of responding to the urgent needs of the day: -- racism, war, poverty, inequality, climate change, sexual assault, and other justice needs as they emerge.
- Continue to demand that this community of Unitarian Universalists be a force for change in the world.

I am proud of you; I have grown to love you. I believe in your future. Find your greatness! Share it with the world!

Warmly and faithfully,
Doug

Rev. Doug Wadkins
Senior Interim Minister
doug@uuuaa.org



Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



I've just returned from Ministry Days, the annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) that precedes General Assembly. As always, I loved catching up with colleagues and mentors, attending worship, and pondering other ministers' insights on everything from our connections with Unitarians in other countries to the parallels between ministry 50 years ago and today.

I also took part in a rally and action that the UUMA planned in collaboration with local organizers. As clergy, we bore witness to the impact of systemic oppression, especially within the criminal "justice" system. Because of several officer-involved deaths in the city during the preceding week -- which happened to take place at the two sites long planned for the rally and action -- local organizers asked us to move ahead with the events, but with a more somber tone. We walked in silence from our gathering point to the county courthouse steps.

The words of one of the speakers at the courthouse have stayed with me. She talked about the difference between silence that empowers and silence that betrays. In making that plaza sacred space with our presence, our silence empowered those directly impacted by unjust policies. But whenever we fail to speak out against injustice, whatever its form, then our silence betrays those at the margins.

How are you wielding silence these days?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuua.org



A Note on Political Language

As observed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, "Religious individuals and groups have played a prophetic role in public life throughout history by calling attention to oppression, demanding change, and holding leaders and institutions accountable." While UUAA has latitude in some areas of activity as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, there are also some restrictions.

- UUAA may not endorse or oppose specific political candidates. Please note that this includes emails sent from an @uuua.org email address or sent to an @uuua.org group.
- UUAA may announce the details of events that are nonpartisan in nature or that deal directly with relevant political or social advocacy issues.

These restrictions apply only to a congregation as a legal entity, or to a person or group speaking in the name of the congregation. You may freely engage in these activities as an individual. However, if you're identified by or likely to be associated with the congregation, it may be helpful to clearly state that you're speaking as an individual.

Important links for UUAA and UUA communication policies:

[UUAA Communications Policy](#)

[The Real Rules](#) from the Unitarian Universalist Association



For Your Calendar

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, July 4



Celebrate the 4th of July with us at 6:00pm at Hot Pot Chen (2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor). Questions? Contact Marie Duke at omaduke7@gmail.com or 734-769-0467.



American UU History * Sunday, July 8

Calling all Intro to OUr Faith participants and those interested in American UU history! On Sunday, July 8 from 11:30am to 12:30pm, we will be showing some short clips from the UU documentary "Our American Roots," followed by a conversation about the content. The clips will look at some of the essential components of our heritage. Questions? Contact Rev. Doug Wadkins at doug@uuaa.org.



Outdoor Women's Group Paddle * Saturday, July 14



Calling all outdoor- and nature-loving women! Try flat-water paddling at Gallup Park Canoe Livery (3000 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor). Meet at 10:00am to rent one- or two-person kayaks or canoes (max 2 hours). Cost is approximately \$10 to \$15 per person. Partners and children are welcome to attend. RSVP to Sandy Eyl at sandy.eyl@gmail.com or text message 313-213-5559. Not available that day? Take our survey: bit.ly/2t7wFZS.



On the Horizon

UUA Men's Retreat * Friday-Sunday, September 28-30



Our annual retreat at the Judson Collins Center is on the horizon. Will you dare to join us?

Hearty belly laughs; moments of deep personal insight; joy and a sense of connectedness in joining with new friends in making music and playing games; happiness, empathy, validation, relief -- while sharing stories in a small "lodge" group.

I experienced all of these in my first Men's Retreat. That I might experience and feel so much in a single weekend -- a weekend which I entered into with trepidation, cynicism, and a small amount of anxiety -- was a happy surprise. No longer. My introverted self has grown addicted to this annual tradition. I've only missed once since that first time in 2009. A few of my brothers have not missed a single one in 18 years.

Each year we have a theme that helps shape our activities and conversations, but always in the spirit of fulfilling our most important goal, which is to have fun, to make meaningful connections with other men, and to grow our community.

This year we will explore something very basic to our existence as a group. What does it mean to be someone who identifies as a man? What does it mean for you? How has that changed over time? Is it different for UU men? Does our awareness of the harm we have done to women change our understanding or responsibilities? How about our understanding of gender as a continuum rather than a binary? What personal stories and perspectives would you like to bring to the conversation? Together, we can create a "Field Guide to Being a UU Man in 2018."

For more information, visit us during Social Hour or email mensretreat@uuuaa.org.

Gregg Peterson



Neither Here nor There * Sunday, October 14

Neither Here nor There, but Somehow Still Present: Soulfully Living the Cross-Cultural Life

Challenging Racism Group and Immigration Action Coalition invite you to save the date to hear César Valdez, LMSW on Sunday, October 14 at 1:30pm. A global community needs "bridge people" who live with one foot in one world and one foot in another. César grew up in SW Texas. A bi-cultural life may present challenges, but its hidden gift is the ability to hold dissonant experiences at once. Come explore lessons learned from living "neither here nor there, yet somehow still powerfully present." Questions? Contact Carrie Hatcher-Kay at chatcherkay@gmail.com.



News and Announcements

Crop Walk 2018



The Social Justice Council has received a letter from the Church World Service thanking our congregation for its years of support in fighting hunger and poverty through the CROP Hunger Walk. The CROP

Hunger Walk has been organized in our community by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice; however, ICPJ has decided that they will no longer be able to plan and lead the CROP Hunger Walk.

Andrew Gifford, Community Engagement Specialist from the Church World Service, has reached out to our community to seek interested people who might be willing to work with him to put together a community board -- an independent community board made up of people from different congregations and groups to help plan the local CROP Hunger Walk -- the model used by most of the other CROP Hunger Walks with which he works.

He sent this doodle for participants to sign onto, if interested.

<https://doodle.com/poll/9m9kersy7a5mbzm6>

He has received responses from a handful of people from the Ann Arbor area but would welcome a few more. They had their first meeting on Thursday, June 21 but will update the Facebook page to let people know how to get involved and when the date of the CROP Hunger Walk will be this year.

www.facebook.com/annarborcrophungerwalk

Here is his contact information, if you'd like to find out more. The Social Justice Council would be pleased to know if any of you contact Mr. Gifford.

Andrew Gifford
Community Engagement Specialist
Church World Service

PO Box 6220
Columbus, OH 43206
Phone: 419-376-6964
Skype: agiffordcws
Email: agifford@cwsglobal.org

Carolyn Madden
Social Justice Council



Help a DACA Student Stay in School

The Immigration Action Coalition at UUA is coordinating a fundraising effort for DACA and other undocumented students. DACA students (those students brought to the US as children) are not able to receive financial aid at some local colleges and universities like Washtenaw Community College and Eastern Michigan University.

Representatives from Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary along with DACA students have met with university officials to discuss changing the requirements for financial aid. But until there is a policy change, many students are left with little recourse. The recent deportation of a family breadwinner put one student in the situation of having to choose between continuing their studies or contributing to the health and welfare of younger siblings. A contribution to the DACA Scholarship Fund would help young people like this stay in school. Please act now. Tuition payments for fall are due in August.

Two Easy Ways to Donate to the DACA Scholarship Fund

1. Make a check out to UUA with DACA Fundraiser Fund on the memo line. Mail it to First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8739. or drop it by the UUA main office and place in Ed Lynn's mailbox. If you are mailing a check, it would help if you email Ed Lynn at ed@uuua.org to let him know a check is on the way.
2. Make a credit card donation by using [this link](#). Click on DACA Scholarship Fund and enter the amount you would like to contribute.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at cheryl.natzmervalentine@gmail.com.



Habitat for Humanity



Our interfaith group of 17 congregations, the Good News House group, has been working together since 1997 and has helped 31 families (65 children) move into affordable, energy-efficient housing. We help families, neighborhoods, and the environment. And we laugh and have fun doing it.

This year we will again work with the Good News House group to rehabilitate two homes in Ypsilanti and get them ready for two area home buyers.

Remaining 2018 Work Days

July 27 (Friday - an all-UU day)

August 11 (Saturday - working with Chelsea UMC)

August 17 (Friday - an all-UU day)

Meet at 830 Calder Avenue, Ypsilanti. Each work day begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:30pm. The congregations working that day bring a lunch at 11:30am.

How You Can Help

Work on Site - almost all on-site slots have been filled. Thank you! If you've already signed up, please complete a waiver form (see link at uuaa.org/h4h).

Make Lunches for Workers - Any age can help make lunch, and our workers always appreciate the wonderful food that arrives mid-day.

Contribute to Pay for Materials - Our goal this year is \$7000. This will be added to the contributions from the other 16 congregations to help pay for the materials and contracted work on the houses.

Habitat Classes

Habitat Huron Valley now offers classes in credit counseling and home maintenance.

Stop by our table during Sunday Social Hour to learn more about any of the above.

We have room on our committee for more volunteers. If you are interested, contact us at habitat@uuaa.org or call Mike Muha at 734-717-4627.



Friends of Restorative Justice

Friends of Restorative Justice of Washtenaw County (FORJ) is committed to bringing restorative justice practices to Washtenaw County in the high schools, courts, and now in the correctional facilities. FORJ has begun a circle-keeping project at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility -- the only state prison for women in Michigan, located in Pittsfield Township.

Under the guidance of Mary Lynn Stevens, a volunteer coordinator at the facility and a member of FORJ, a group has begun to visit and reach out to the women; the majority of them are serving long or life sentences. These visits provide an opportunity for the women to reflect on and share their stories and to let the community know of their humanity. This is a pilot program to bring a restorative practice, circle keeping, to the facility once a month for three months during the summer. Circles are meant to provide a safe place for building relationships, for healing, and for stories to be told. We are also hoping to bring the women's stories to our congregation to highlight the humanity of these women and to provide ways to bring their voices into the community. If you would like to find out more about the circles and the experiences of our circle keeping, please talk to one of the circle keepers and participants from our congregation: Mary Ann Hergenrother, Erin Krajcik, Kathy Friedrichs, Mary Lynn Stevens, or Carolyn Madden.

Carolyn Madden
cgmadden@gmail.com



Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will not be meeting in July. Our regular meeting time on the first Wednesday of the month falls on July 4. We



will reconvene on Wednesday, August 1. Questions? Contact Meredith Ley at meredith888@gmail.com or call 734-717-0213.

Sunday Welcome Team Opportunities for 2018-2019



We have openings for 2018-2019 Sunday Welcome Teams. Summer is a great time to try out ushering, greeting, staffing the Involvement Table, or assisting with Social Hour. Typically, Sunday Welcome Team members sign up to help one service a month.

If you are interested in learning more about Sunday Welcome Team opportunities, fill out a form at the Involvement Table during Social Hour or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org.

Be a 2018-2019 SGD Teacher



Every year, we need 60+ adult volunteers to run our SGD program. We have opportunities to work with kids from preschool to 12th grade. Check out our recruitment board during Social Hour to see pictures of the year, quotes from the teachers, and what classes we still need help with. Contact sgd@uuuaa.org.

Sharing the Collection



Your contributions make a difference! The Sharing the Collection Committee is happy to share the good news: In our June collection, we raised \$2,045 for Summer Camp Scholarships (www.campscholarships.org). So far in 2018, we have raised almost \$15,000 to benefit nonprofits that serve the needy and disadvantaged in Washtenaw County. Help us do more. Mark your calendar for these upcoming collections:

- July 1, to benefit Avalon Nonprofit Housing (www.avalonhousing.org)
- August 5, to benefit Children's Literacy Network (www.childrensliteracynetwork.org)

Questions? Contact Bob Dinan at bdinan83@gmail.com.

UUAA Mothers' Group Forming

Calling UU women with young children -- would you like to coordinate with other UU moms for playdates, support, nights out, childcare for UU Womyn's events, and more? Let's discuss the possibilities. Email me or sign up at the Womyn's Table during Social Hour. Questions? Contact Carolyn Schultz at waterlines5@yahoo.com



UUSC Coffee Project



Support small farm cooperatives globally while helping to fundraise for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation. Visit our table following the service to choose from fair trade chocolates, fruit and nut bars, coffee, teas, nuts, dried fruits, and Palestinian olive oils. Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



Please go to the UUSC website, especially the blog, and sign the letter condemning the policy of separating families at the border. There are several media contacts listed on the site if you want a more in-depth understanding. Rachael Freed, the chief

program officer, has written that the law put forward by House Republicans, the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018, is a "Trojan horse" that will only further militarize the border, restrict lawful immigration, and dismantle ways for asylum seekers to find protection. It does nothing to stop family separation.

UUSC partners on the border include RAICES, which has raised over \$20,000,000 in donations as the result of a Facebook fundraiser started by a couple in California. They are providing legal services to mothers and children. It is the hope that this influx of money can strengthen their work to assist more families. Another partner is CIVIC, providing phone access to immigrant detainees trying to reach family members in the US or lawyers who may be able to help them. These are just two of UUSC partners at the border. Other migrant justice partners are providing in-country protections in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. And along the trail in Mexico, there are six more organizations. Be proud of UUSC; this our international arm of justice.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following people who donated to UUAA with Memorial and Tribute gifts in the first and second quarters of 2018.

In Honor of Mike Muha

Fran Lyman

In Honor of Jane Ferguson

Quincy and Rob Northrup

In Memory of Jerry McKay

James and Sherry McCargar

In Memory of Arlene Huff

Carol and Dave Williams
Ed and Barbara Lynn
Barbara Colwell and Joseph Cyberski
Els Nieuwenhuijsen
Royla Furniss and Roberta Allen
Linda Sprankle
Leonard and Sandra Lopez
Constance Micklin
James and Joan Roth
Phil Tuchinsky
Lucia and Bob Heinold
Jean Klarich
Hugh and Mary Huff
Brian Huff
Christine Morton
Nancy Karp
Nancy Harter
Lois M. Russell
Richard and Carolyn Barber

In Memory of Barb Pickett

Phyllis Valentine
Maureen and Chris Dritsan
Alisa Rastelli
Emily Simon
Lisa Lemble and Robert Gordon
Becky Swank
Hugo and Gisela Dittman
Patricio Herbst and Vilma Mesa
Royla Furniss and Roberta Allen
Charles and Margaret Pekarek
Graham and Margaret Teall
Gwen and Tom Guthrie
Ed and Barbara Lynn
Charles and Betsy Price
Tim Richards and Connie McGuire
Terri and Richard Riemenschneider
Monica and Terence Cochran

To Habitat for Humanity in Memory of Barb Pickett

Jo Dodge
Jim Lee and Terri Wilkerson
Dan Saunders and Katie Kyndely
Dick and Carolyn Barber
Dee Dishon
Eric and Cindy Quackenbush
Brandy Sinco
Sally and John Preston

In Memory of Dorothy Wilson



Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuua.org by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuua.org.

August Newsletter

Submissions for the *August Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuua.org by 9:00am on Saturday, July 21.

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuua.org.



Summer & Fall 2018 Room Reservations

The UUAA room reservation calendar system is divided into two sessions: The Summer Program Session and the Congregational Program Session.

- **The Summer Program Session** is the period from the end of the SGD class year to the beginning of the next one. The current Summer Session runs Monday, May 21, 2018 through Saturday, September 15, 2018.
- **The Congregational Program Session** is the period when UUAA holds regular SGD classes. The 2018-2019 Congregational Program Session will run from Sunday, September 16, 2018 through Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Recurring congregational program session room reservations will not extend through the summer. All recurring events will be scheduled only for the session during which the request falls. Please resubmit any recurring room reservation requests if your group plans to meet during the Summer Program Session.

Here is the schedule for reserving rooms:

Date	Session	Details
Now	Summer Program Session 2018	When submitting your summer room requests, please note our summer 2018 UUAA building hours: Sunday 9:00am - 4:00pm 2nd and 4th Monday 9:00am - 9:00pm Monday through Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm Thursday 9:00am - 9:00pm Friday UUAA building is closed Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm
July 1	Cong. Program	Accepting reservation requests for groups of 50 or more people

	Session 2018-19		
August 1	Cong. Program Session 2018-19		Accepting all room reservation requests

Please submit your room requests by using our room reservation form found at www.uuaa.org on the lower right corner of the home page. This form will allow the Room Team to accommodate requests for accessibility needs, room setup, and special arrangements for large groups.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the Room Reservation Team at room@uuaa.org.



Building Hours

Summer Building Hours through Saturday, September 15

Sunday | 9:00am to 4:00pm
2nd and 4th Monday | 9:00am to 9:00pm
Monday through Wednesday | 9:00am to 5:00pm
Thursday | 9:00am to 9:00pm
Friday | Closed
Saturday | 9:00am to 12:00pm

Office: Monday - Thursday | 9:00am - 5:00pm

Wednesday, July 4th | Building Closed in Observance of Independence Day



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | office@uuaa.org | 734-665-6158 | www.uuaa.org

See what's happening on our social sites:

