



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

August Monthly Newsletter

August 2017 Newsletter - Vol 21, Issue 8

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

August 2017 | Sanctuary

The Worship Planning Team | August 2017

Allison Halertz, Pianist-in-Residence
Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister
for Spiritual Growth & Development
Cristy Cardinal, Worship Associate
Rev. Doug Wadkins, Interim Senior Minister
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music
Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister
theresa rohck

August 6, 2017 | Sanctuary Service at 10:00am

This service will introduce the theme as we discover the various ways that the concepts around the word "sanctuary" speak deeper meaning to who we are as a community seeking to live faithfully!

August 13, 2017 | Teaching the Eye to Hear: The Matisse Jazz Project Service at 10:00am

Christopher Bakriges (pianist, composer, ethnomusicologist) and Gwen Laster (violinist) share original compositions inspired by the scissor cuts of Henri Matisse.

French artist Henri Matisse had rejected faith as a young man, but at the age of 72 everything changed. In 1941 Matisse was near death and bedridden, unable even to pick up a paintbrush, his sole solace for so many years. He found, however, that he could maneuver scissors through prepared sheets of brightly colored paper (what he would call "painting with scissors"). This new kind of creativity amid this strife and his own mortality brought Matisse to what he asserted was "a frame of mind closer to that of prayer."

**August 20, 2017 | There's No Such Thing
Service at 10:00am**

"There's no such thing as a safe space. We exist in the real world, and we all carry scars and have caused wounds. THIS SPACE seeks to turn down the volume of the world outside and amplify the voices that have to fight to be heard elsewhere. This space will not be perfect. It will not always be what we want it to be, but it will be ours together, and we will work on it side by side."

- on the door of Carpe Locus Collective's *The Sp(a)ce*

**August 27, 2017 | Death and Sanctuary
Service at 10:00am**

This Sunday, we welcome guest preacher John Abraham.

John Abraham, Episcopal Priest and Thanatologist, is a professional speaker, trainer, and consultant counselor, therapist, patient-care advocate, and health care administrator. He has worked with hospitals, hospices, religious institutions, schools, and social service agencies. John serves a wide range of individuals, corporations, non-profit agencies, and partnerships as an expert in Thanatology.

Presently John is the Arizona Affiliate leader of Final Exit Network: a right to die organization.



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



In the Interim
Rev. Doug Wadkins

An important gift of the interim period is to discover together some of the possibilities found in trying different approaches for awhile. Starting in September we will explore a six-month



experiment in which we will utilize themes in the congregation that put us in sync with Unitarian Universalist congregations all over the United States. We will work with the themes and materials offered by the Unitarian Universalist resource, *Soul Matters*. Participating congregations vote on the themes for the coming year and then the professional staff of *Soul Matters* and member

congregations contribute to resources for worship, religious education, and small group ministry that are available to participating congregations. The resources are so diverse that inevitably there are many words of wisdom, quotes, and readings that one would never even know existed. The range of resources has always helped me expand my understanding of common themes that shape our human existence. What is more, there is considerable power and depth in the process of many different congregations sharing their wisdom and experiences as they explore what it is like to live into the themes in the actual context of the present time in which we live. Some congregations decide it is worth continuing that shared experience, some don't, but most feel that the time was well spent. The interim time is a perfect opportunity to see what such an experiment offers to your community.

For six months we will explore the following synchronized themes:

September | Welcome

October | Courage

November | Abundance

December | Hope

January | Intention

Secondly, over the last church year, we have explored ideas around worship in a variety of ways. We participated in a lively Q & A session. At that time, many of you offered meaningful thoughts and experiences in our listening circles that focused on the Sunday services. We explored the specific components of worship and the larger concepts that shape that shared time within the services themselves over the last year. Before we enter fully into year two of the interim journey, I would like to offer us another opportunity to think and talk with each other in a spirit of appreciative inquiry about moments when we experience worship as fulfilling our deeper possibilities as a congregation. From the wisdom of these moments, we can reflect together how the values embodied in our practices might guide our understanding for the future in your shared experiences of worship. That shared experience is essential in reflecting and shaping the core values and heart of who you are as a community; it is worthy of our time and attention. I hope you will join us in exploring and growing together.

"What We Value in Worship" | August 27, 2017, 11:30am - 1:00pm

Wishing you a gentle and rejuvenating August,

Doug

Rev. Doug Wadkins
Senior Interim Minister



President's Message

Erik Stalhandske



The Art Fair has come and gone, and Ann Arbor returns to a bit more sleepy state during these summer months. Hello and greetings. I look forward to sharing some thoughts and insights over the next couple of years as your President and fellow congregant. Exciting times!

Our [Search Committee](#) is constituted, has held a kickoff retreat, and chosen their chair, Ken Clein. Stay tuned for more news, updates from them, and opportunities to be heard.

I've mostly been on the receiving end of the coffee hour; I show up and the coffee, bagels, and treats are there week after week, like manna from heaven. So last week I helped Lisa Lemble and Mike Muha, two stalwart regulars who keep the coffee urns gurgling and goodies presented. I've also put in a couple of shifts at Farmer Bill's – a local farmer who donates all of his produce to food banks. This activity, coordinated by Colleen Crowley of [Mindful Eating](#), gets our fingers in the dirt, harvesting, weeding, and replanting. Give it a try!

This next year of interim ministry and searching for a senior minister will be exciting, and for some, turbulent times. A couple of thoughts. Let's trust this process and the good people that we have chosen to represent the collective interests of our community. Over this next year, I am making an effort at acts of micro-kindness and gratitude. Let's get the cards out and drop off some flowers or garden treats for those that go the extra mile – or just need some cheering up.

Finally, I'm working on connecting with our visitors with a smile and a quick conversation. We are a large and boisterous family, and making inroads and connections for newbies is not always easy. A vital congregation is growing and welcomes new blood, voices, talent, and energies. Let's make that a priority.

Enjoy these fleeting days with a walk, picnic, swimming, boating, or however you experience this season.

Best,

Erik

Erik Stalhandske
President of the Board
president@uuaa.org



The 2017 Fiscal Year is beyond its halfway point. Once again, an opportunity to assess both revenue and expense is upon us. Revenue is very easy to assess, having only five sources categorized in our accounting system (Annual Pledge, Weekly Collection, Rentals, Fundraising, and Other). Table 1 illustrates that actual total revenue is a little more than 97% of the budgeted value for the first six months of the year.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income			
4010 · Pledge Related Income	406,482.07	438,000.00	916,280.00
4015 · Weekly Collection	25,852.33	25,580.00	47,970.00
5340 · Facilities Rental	18,975.00	14,100.00	30,200.00
5490 · Other Income	9,662.46	6,705.00	13,300.00
5600 · Fundraising Income	26,870.89	17,000.00	24,500.00
Total Income	487,842.75	501,385.00	1,032,250.00

Table 1. Revenue Categories and Year-to-Date Performance Relative to Budget

Expenses are placed in three broad categories (Direct Program, Stewardship, and Personnel). Within each of these categories are subcategories, illustrated in Table 2.

	Stewardship Expenses	
Direct Program Expenses	B · Buildings	Personnel Expenses
W · Worship and Music	G Grounds	Ministers
SG · Spiritual Growth and Development	O · Office Services	Music Staff
SJ · Social Justice	D · Debt & Mortgage	Spiritual Growth and Dev Staff
CL · Community Life	F · Finance	Other Program Staff
CU · Culture	FR · Fundraising	B&O · Building & Office Team
	Other Employee Related Expenses	

Table 2. Expense Categories and Subcategories

For the first six months of 2017, the ratio of actual expenses to budget values for each of the three categories, as well as that of total expenses, is illustrated in Table 3.

Expense Category	Q1 & Q2, 2017 Ratio of Actual to Budgeted (%)
Direct Program	71
Stewardship	99
Personnel	97
Total	96

Table 3. Comparison of Actual to Budgeted Expenses

As indicated in Table 3, expenses are approximately 96% of the budgeted value through the first half of the fiscal year. The above data indicate that from the perspective of revenue and expenses, 2017 is proceeding more or less as expected. If you would like additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Allen Duncan
 Board Treasurer
aduncan85@gmail.com



Activities and Events

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, August 2

UUAA seniors and friends are invited to meet at Hot Pot Tin (formerly known as Gourmet Garden -- same menu, new owners) located at 2255 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, for our monthly gathering. Join us at 6:00pm for friendly conversation and fun. Reservations are not necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at omaduke7@gmail.com or 769-0467.



Humanist Group * Thursday, August 3



Join our lively Humanist discussion group in the Young Room on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. For more information email Bruce Gibb at blgibb@aol.com.



Planning Meeting for the International Council of Unitarian and Universalists Conference, Shillong, India * Thursday, August 10



Are you interested in a trip to visit the school with which our congregation has shared a partnership for over 15 years? Four members of this congregation intend to travel to the Khasi Hills of India to participate in the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists Conference, February 11 - 15, 2018. This trip will also include a visit to Mawkisyiem Lower Primary School. Join us at 7:00pm for a planning meeting where we will begin to formulate travel plans. If you are interested in traveling, attending the meeting to learn more, or would simply like more information, email Cathy Doherty at mysarina@aol.com or Allen Duncan at aduncan85@gmail.com. Information about the ICUU may be found on its website: <http://icuu.net/>.



Announcements and News

Alpha House



Alpha House has several days in August when no one is signed up to bring dinner or to play with the children. The following link will take you to a Google document that lists August needs.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_2yDW6ymtHuSPFBGJrWSccjJjcSXoWf7czcmvVc86Z0/edit

If you are interested in helping, please contact Alpha House at 734-822-0220 and ask for Kathy.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered during our June/July Host Week. The names of the volunteers are listed below. Please accept my apologies for any typos or missing names.

Day Hosts: Brandy Sinco, Sandy Eyl (3), Barb Gales (2), Diane Fead

Weekend Breakfast Volunteers: Cheryl Barget, Bett Weston, Lora Girata

Dinner Cooks: Gwen Guthrie (4), Marcia Cameron (2), Melissa Armstrong, Connie McGuire, Karl Sikkenga (2), Dee Dishon (2), Jo Anne Diehl, Mark Dickinson, Lorelle Thomas, Betsy Price (2), Cathie Breidenbach, Sara Mathews (3), Melanie Dever (2), Mike Grant, Sandy Eyl, Constance Bridge, Bridget Laundra (2), Stephen Phillips, Kathy Perez, Betsy Reitbauer (2), Elinore Sommerfeld, Pat Herbst, Sally Preston, Diane and Tom Bauld

Dinner Servers: Gwen Guthrie(2), Dana Jackman, Barron Evans, Cathy and Mike Muha, Terri Wilkerson, Kathy McLean, Judi Lintott, Robert Kropf, Kathy Sargeant, Jon Boyd, Jeannine LaPrad

Play Volunteers: Amelia Armstrong-Grant and Melissa Armstrong, Suzanne and John Davidson, Sandy Eyl, Amy Grant, Beth and Bob Hospadaruk, Joe, Jamie, Ava and Eli Griffith, Gloria Jones, Angela Menegay, Betsy Price, Cheryl and Vey Valentine, Terri Palacios, Lisa Kohn, Christine and Alaina Pellar-Kosbar, Constance Bridge, Jim Lee, Ann Brennan, Joe and Katie Krushelnick , Jon Boyd

Overnight Volunteers: Victoria Moessner, Beth Hospadaruk, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, Fran Lyman, Jim Lee, Lorna Gibson, Steve Nason

Our next Host Week at Alpha House will be Monday through Sunday, November 20 to 26, which is the week of Thanksgiving. You will be able to sign up for that week starting in October. Thank you again for your support of Alpha House.



Community of Writers

Sunday, July 16, five members of the UUAA writers group participated in the Worship Service honoring writing as a spiritual practice. Each of the writers explained why they write and then read a poem or segment of a memoir they had written. Their readings brought quiet emotion, a little humor, and much thought about touching experiences and the deeper questions of life. The service closed with a brief time for impromptu writing by the congregation, which seemed to be enjoyed by all. In the Social Hour after the service many came to the Community of Writers Table to inquire about the Community of Writers and how to join.

Here are a few guidelines: We focus on writing in every meeting. We either bring writing done on our own time or we write during our meeting. We each then read our writing for three to four minutes and ask for comments, as desired. We agree that all is kept

confidential, and our comments are appreciative. We each are welcome to suggest a focus for a meeting and plan a writing activity to explore that subject or a writing form in our own way. Two examples of past subjects are "Social Concerns: what keeps you up at night?" and "How to write your memoir." We enjoy sharing our writings with each other. It is helpful and encouraging to have an audience. We meet monthly on second Sundays of the month from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Our writers group has given four readings to which the congregation was invited.

Anyone interested in writing is welcome. Sign up at a meeting or by emailing Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com.



Habitat for Humanity Good News House



Good News House Group



This summer is UUAA's 18th year working with the "Good News Group" of 17 area congregations to renovate two Ypsilanti homes into well constructed, energy-efficient family homes.

There are only two work days left:

Friday, August 11 - UU work day with Manchester UMC

Saturday, August 19 - UU work day with Dixboro UMC

Work Days: 8:30am - 3:30pm - About eight site workers are needed for each work day, as well as lunch makers.

Our 2017 homes are both on Harvest Lane in Ypsilanti. They are the 30th and 31st houses sponsored by the Good News Group! Our 30th house will be named "The Whitacre House" in honor of the Good News founder, Bob Whitacre, who passed away in February, 2017.

Thank you to all generous UUs who have given financial and hands-on work site contributions to this amazingly effective and rewarding community outreach since our involvement began in 2000.

Our interfaith Good News Group has been working together since 1997 and has helped 29 families (with 64 total children) move into affordable, energy-efficient housing. We help families, neighborhoods, and the environment -- and we laugh and have fun doing it.

Since 2009 we have renovated foreclosed homes rather than building new homes, saving resources and helping to stabilize neighborhoods and rebuild communities, a win, win, win situation.

Can you help? [Sign up online using Signup Genius](#) or visit the Habitat Table during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact the Habitat Committee at habitat@uuaa.org.



Immigration Action Coalition Sanctuary Preparation -- The Village Quilt



After the positive results of the straw poll at the June UUA Annual Meeting, the Immigration Action Coalition is moving forward to prepare for a special fall vote on UUA becoming a level-one sanctuary congregation. Level-one congregations agree to be ready and willing to physically host someone in sanctuary when the need arises. A Sanctuary Task Force has been formed and is made up of staff members, the Ministerial Team, the Board, and the Immigration Action Coalition. This task force is working to finalize logistics and legal details in preparation for an affirmative vote. On Thursday, August 24 at 6:30pm, The Immigration Action Coalition is scheduling additional programming on the topic, including listening to a recorded presentation put on by the American Friends Service Committee on how to provide sanctuary, which will include a segment given by Jeanette Vizguerra about her experience when she was in sanctuary in Denver.

Other preparations are taking place as well. Betsy Price is leading a joint effort to make a handmade quilt for our potential partners living in sanctuary. Congregants have been eager to participate and make this physical symbol of caring and welcome. The quilt has been named "The Village Quilt" and is coming along quite quickly. We look forward to the quilters showing off their hard work soon! Thanks to all those making this quilt! Questions? Look for the Sanctuary Table during Social Hour or contact Cesilie Cordovilla at cesilie.j.myers@gmail.com.



Sharing the Collection



Offender Success (formerly "Prisoner Reentry") would like to thank the congregation for the generous donation of \$1,308 from Sharing the Collection on Sunday, July 2.

The Offender Success mission is to significantly reduce crime and enhance public safety by implementing a seamless system of services for offenders from the time of their entry into prison through their transition, community reintegration, and aftercare in their communities.

For more information contact macamron@sbcglobal.net.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

UUSC's worldwide reach is our way to embrace the world through



programs and partner organizations that work to bring justice to those who are in their circle of care. They are working to sustain rights at risk, ensure economic justice, safeguard the environment, and protect people against the devastating effects of climate

change.

It takes commitment and, of course, money. As we move into the Fall, the Guest at Your Table fundraiser will be helping us to focus on the ways in which our financial contribution can support the work of UUSC outside of our immediate circle of care. Current projects include increasing the training and employment of women in the West Bank, researching workers rights in the poultry industry in Alabama, advocating for the rights of women who are home-based workers in Pakistan and Nepal, and advocating for the rights of street vendors in New York City.

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



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@uuaa.org by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org

Monthly Newsletter: Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org by 9:00am on the 21st of each month to appear in the upcoming *Monthly Newsletter*. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org



Building Hours

UUA Summer Hours
June 24 - September 4, 2017

Sunday | 9:00am - 4:00pm

Monday - Wednesday | 9:00am - 5:00pm

2nd and 4th Monday | 9:00am - 9:00pm

Thursday | 9:00am - 9:00pm

Friday | Closed

Saturday | 9:00am - noon



