

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

July Newsletter

July 2017 Newsletter - Vol 20, Issue 7

Congregational Links

UUAA Links:

[Make a 2017 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](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

July 2017 | Creativity

The Worship Planning Team | July 2017

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

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

Debra Jean Golden, SGD Program Assistant

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music
theresa rohlck, UUAA Member

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

Rev. Doug Wadkins, Senior Minister

Rev. Sean Dennison, UUA Minister-at-Large

July 2, 2017 | Creativity

(in collaboration with Debra Jean Golden)

Service at 10:00am

Does creativity feed and heal you; or does it intimidate you? How does being a Unitarian Universalism challenge you to be more creative? How can Unitarian Universalism be a creative force in each of our religious and spiritual lives?

July 9, 2017 | Creativity in Worship

(in collaboration with Rev. Sean Dennison)

Service at 10:00am

Let's glimpse the creative possibilities that wait beyond the limits of a 'standard' worship form.

July 16, 2017 | Poetry

(in collaboration with members of the UUAA Community of Writers)

Service at 10:00am

"Poems remind us that someone is saying, come here. This has happened to me. This is how it made me feel. This is who I am in the wake of this thing." (Tracy K. Smith)

What does it mean to be a writer? How is writing a spiritual practice?

July 23, 2017 | Creative Love
(in collaboration with members of the congregation)
Service at 10:00am

What does Unitarian Universalism look like in practice?
...at home? ...in school? ...to the parent? ...on the job?

This week, we invite members of the congregation to reflect on these questions aloud, through the lens of their singular lives.

July 30, 2017 | Spirituality & Film: The Daily Round
Service at 10:00am

For our last Sunday of the month, we explore film. The service will use film clips as components of the worship service. This service will also give an introduction to a way of approaching film as a spiritual practice and will explore how film can raise our awareness of the power of daily events and larger life cycles in shaping meaning.



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

In the Interim

Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins

There is something about July in the life of a congregation that in its own way feels like a time of transition. In June, I shared a bit about the important work of the past; for July, I want to share some future-oriented thoughts, the essence of which I shared with those at the congregational meeting.

1. Complete a staffing review that encompasses a shared vision of a sustainable and dynamic ministry for the coming year and the importance of a staffing configuration that is mission-driven, fair, and well-conceived from a cohesive and systems-based vision. I will engage with a consultant with expertise in congregational staffing, who will assist my work with the congregation, the staff, the ministry team, and the Board.



2. Be available to the Search Committee as an in-house consultant around process and connecting them with the necessary resources to do their important and time-

sensitive work.

3. Collaborate with the Social Justice Council, the Chalice Circle program, and the Lay Pastoral Care Team to support them in a continued and strong ministry.

4. Work with the leadership, staff, and the congregation to design and fund a two-year pilot project engaging a new staff member who will support the pastoral and social justice ministries.

5. In the latter weeks of my ministry, I will work with ministers, staff, and the congregation on a specific start-up strategy for new shared ministry and beginning that exciting and important work well.

I think we can all agree it has been quite a year. I deeply appreciate your goodwill and your spirit of courage as we face such a challenging time in the world. Truly, I think the work of these two years will serve you even more deeply in the current context of our world. May we journey in clarity and in love.

Peace,
Doug

P.S. July will be a time of significant break for me. Multi-staff clergy need to plan carefully and intentionally to get time away, and this is particularly crucial for an interim. It is often in the middle of a two-year interim that any meaningful time away is possible. I look forward to reconnecting in late July.

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

Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister



In summer, all the bustle in the congregation tends to slow down a bit. And that's a good thing. In a world with seemingly endless claims on our time and energy, we need periods of rejuvenation and reflection. It's one of the most radical, countercultural actions we can take as a religious community: pausing before we tumble headlong into the next thing, whether it's a commitment or an adventure.

In July, I'll mainly be on study leave -- an invaluable time that congregations offer ministers to reinvigorate our intellectual and spiritual lives, plan for the coming church year, and renew our vision of the ministry we'll collectively create. While I may not be in the office much, I'll be busy in the wings, furthering the work of the congregation. (I'll take vacation time with my family in August.)

I'm looking forward to reading books that have been waiting patiently for me; diving into the monthly worship themes for the fall; pursuing creative responses to the tensions in our world; and perhaps even organizing the papers on my desk. (Well, "looking forward to" might be a little strong on that one.)

What can you do to consciously slow down in the coming month, if only for five minutes a day?

Peace,

Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) News

K-5 SGD News Debra Golden

The SGD Summer Program "sUUPER plays" is combining skits focusing on UU principles with some theatre games. The first part has short stories for children to act out ranging from silly (the family cat wanting increased roaming rights) to serious (dealing with grief and loss). The games build in more movement, develop acting skills, foster a sense of community, and generate laughter.



More time is spent outside as weather permits, and it is important that children have sunblock already on or with them, and have insect repellent for walks on our trails. July 23rd will feature a trail walk and outdoor service with reflections on connections to our land. Eight teachers/assistants are on the schedule, and there is room for more assistants (as always): youth older than 5th grade are also most welcome. Details are posted in the SGD wing. Questions? Contact debra@uuaa.org.

News from the SGD Coordinator Mark VanKempen



I have felt especially welcomed by the staff and congregation at UUA A over the past few weeks. Many thanks to all those who have reached out to me or helped me adjust to my new role. I am now happily working full time at the church offices, so feel free to drop me a line if you have any questions, concerns, or well wishes!

Our summer Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) programming is in full swing with the excellent guidance of Debra Golden. I've seen some very well-crafted fairy houses, superb acting from our younger congregants, and some youth roaming the grounds in the sunshine. Many thanks to all those who help make the summer SGD program happen!



We need families to start registering youth for SGD classes for the fall! We have an exciting program year with some amazing teachers. This year, in order to stay sustainable, we are asking all families that register their youth to find some way to contribute. We (unlike other churches) offer an SGD program that has no fees charged to its participants, but we can only do it with the contribution of many hours of volunteer work from the congregation. Please find some way to give back to the program that is doing so much for our youth. On the registration form, there is a section that lists different opportunities for volunteer work, and you can indicate areas where you prefer to spend your time.

To register, follow this link: [Register for 2017-2018 SGD Classes](#)

Looking forward to a great year!

Mark

SGD Coordinator
Mark VanKempen
markv@uuuaa.org

Activities and Events

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, July 5



UUAA Seniors will meet at the Hot Pot Tin (formerly named Gourmet Garden), located at 2255 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, at 6:00pm. Join our monthly gathering for friendly conversation with old and new friends. Reservations are not necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at omaduke7@gmail.com or 769-0467.

Community of Writers * Sunday, July 9

All are invited to this monthly meeting on the second Sunday of the month to share their writing, discuss writing, and take part in impromptu writing. We will meet in the David Room from 11:30am to 1:00pm. See the *Weekly Bulletin* for the agenda for each meeting. Questions? Contact Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com or Bridget Laundra at bridgetlaundra@gmail.com.

Examining Whiteness * Mondays & Thursdays, July 10 - August 3 Adult SGD Class

When white people show up in racial justice space, they tend to have one question: "What can we do?" The Movement for Black Lives has clearly answered with this: "Talk to other white people about racism, about your own racism - not theirs." That's what "Examining Whiteness" is about; it's a six-evening class for white-identified members and friends of our congregation who want to get some skills and insight into racial issues, especially what it means to be a white person working to be an ally for racial justice. Join with the other 75 UUAs who have already taken a version of this class.

One of the ways that racism affects us is by shaping our identity (and this is true for whites and People of Color). The materials for this class, prepared by the Rev. Dr. William Gardiner, are made available through UUA to Unitarian Universalists, particularly white people interested in transforming their whiteness through understanding the complex history of white supremacy of over 400 years in the

United States, and the impact it has on us as individuals and the society as a whole. The class is intended to foster deeper understanding of issues that are essential to furthering a white anti-racist identity. It includes sections on:

- The History of White Supremacy in the United States
- The Emotional Lives of White People
- Racial Identity Development
- Racial Identity Journey
- White Power and Privilege
- Developing a Positive White Identity
- The Movement for Black Lives

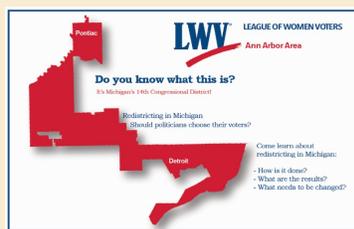
This class will be uncomfortable. It will shake you up. We'll do our best to care for you spiritually through this journey, and we all agree to approach this in good faith and an understanding that discomfort is when growth happens.

Monday, July 10
Thursday, July 13
Thursday, July 20
Monday, July 24
Thursday, July 27
Thursday, August 3

All classes are held at UUA from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Facilitators: Cristy Cardinal and Examining Whiteness alums
To register, email Cristy Cardinal at cristycardinal@gmail.com

Redistricting Workshop * Sunday, July 16



Join us in the Fahs Chapel from 11:30am to 1:00pm for a presentation and discussion on redistricting, the process of drawing lines for congressional and legislative districts. Presentations will be led by Kathy Friedrichs from the UUA Challenging Racism and Carolyn Madden from the Social Justice Council. Both presenters were trained by the League of Women Voters to discuss the ramifications and changes to redistricting. To register, email Kathy Friedrichs at kamf@umich.edu, or sign up at the Social Justice Table during Social Hour.

Announcements and News

Chalice Facilitator Opportunities



The Chalice Circle coordinators are searching for facilitators for the 2017-2018 Chalice Circle program year. If you have previously served as a facilitator, or if you have attended a Chalice Circle and are interested in attending the training to become a facilitator, please contact Karen Hale at karenhale22@gmail.com.

Save the Second Service Social Hour



The UAAA tradition of Social Hour after both services has provided a lively venue for congregants to meet and converse while enjoying Equal Exchange coffee, Washtenaw Dairy doughnuts, bagels, and fruit and veggie snacks. This time together is when we can practice radical hospitality, welcoming the newcomer and connecting congregant to congregant. It also is a time for groups to display their current projects.

Behind the scenes each week, a small group of volunteers shop, brew coffee, set up serving tables, wash apples, and more. The assistants need more help. Social Hour Assistant shifts range from half an hour to an hour. If we can add to our team of volunteers, we can save the second Social Hour.

To help save the second service Social Hour and contribute to hospitality at UAAA, [sign up here](#) or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uaaa.org. This sign-up lists shifts needed to be covered in the fall but does not give specific dates. We will contact you to see which Sundays work best for your schedule.

Transylvania Partner Church



Our partners in Kezdivasarhely send us great news about the purchase of a van for use in transporting people to appointments and events.

Dear Phyllis and Lisa [Ed.: Lisa is from the Blacksburg, VA congregation]!

I'm happy to inform you that we bought the car that we have planned for so long and for which you collected money in your congregations.

Unfortunately, the Romanian laws are unstable, unpredictable, as regards to the taxation and fees of cars, and have changed in the wrong direction. We were thinking on the fact to maintain the car from an amount which we can afford, so we decided on a seven-person minibus. It has low fuel consumption and low cost of its function. We have two months to transcribe the documents for the car. This takes so much time in our country.

Thank you for your support. God bless you.

*In faith,
István*



Food Bucket Donations



Summer, when school meal programs are not readily available, is the most vulnerable time for those experiencing food insecurity. UUAA will make a food delivery to SOS in July. Along with its food pantry, SOS promotes housing stability and family self-sufficiency through collaboration, care, and respect. Drop off nonperishable food items in the collection area outside the Sunderland Library (next to the Prison Books dropoff) in the SGD wing. If we collected just one item per Sunday attendee, we would have well over 200 items to deliver! Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries

Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



UUSC shapes their advocacy and outreach programs around three core issues: environmental justice organizations and climate action, rights at risk, and economic justice. Through entering into partnerships with local organizations on the ground, UUSC is able to support and sustain the work of these organizations. Though many of these partners are located outside of the U.S., there are also domestic programs and partnerships, some of which are very near Ann Arbor.

Environmental Justice and Climate Action -- Detroit: Partner organizations in our neighborhood include the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO), which has campaigned for access to basic public services for over a decade. UUSC supports MWRO's work on the human right to water, including support of the recent class-action suit and campaign against Detroit water and sewer department's mass water-shutoff program. UUSC also helped by supporting the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network to raise awareness about the need for fair water payment rates and to offer information .

Rights at Risk -- Toledo: US Together's mission is to assist refugees and immigrants to find safety in Toledo, Cleveland, and Columbus, and to coordinate, organize, and initiate services for them through education, advocacy, support services, information, referrals, and networking opportunities in order to strengthen the community that we live in. Over 4000 refugees have been settled.

Economic Justice -- Detroit: Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United) campaigns against the National Restaurant Association's lobbying arm, which seeks to

block important advances for workers such as raising the minimum wage, promoting the high road to profitability, and partnering with responsible employers to offer workers living wage jobs.

For further information or questions, contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.

Good Reasons to Join



There are many good reasons to make your commitment to UUAA official. Now, more than ever, is an exciting time to join. As the congregation begins the search process for a new Senior Minister and examines the role UUAA will play in dealing with social issues such as immigration, the voting power of members will be instrumental in shaping the future of the congregation.

In addition to voting privileges, members in good standing can hold leadership positions, receive priority in pastoral care and rites of passage, and organize new UUAA-sponsored groups.

In return for membership privileges, the congregation asks that members undertake the stewardship of the congregation through financial support and the giving of time and talents.

Becoming a member involves the following steps:

- Attend an Introduction to Our Faith class (next offered Saturday, August 19, 10:00am-2:30pm--[click here to register](#)).
- Understand and be in accord with the UUAA Mission and By-Laws.
- Complete the Enrollment Packet, which includes an Annual Pledge Form and a Talents and Interests Survey.
- Sign the Membership Book, witnessed by a minister and a Board member.
- Attend a New Member Recognition Ceremony to be welcomed into the congregation during a Sunday service.

If you would like to start the path to membership, please contact the Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org or 734-665-6158 ext. 105.

Office News

Room Reservations Changes

As many of you know, the room reservation system at UUAA has been a challenge to get in order. The calendar has been riddled with duplicate reservations, old contact information, rooms for defunct groups, and meeting times that no longer apply.

Over the last few months, the Room Reservation Team has been working to upgrade

how registered congregational groups can reserve space in the building. We hope these changes will result in a consistent, more accurate, and easier-to-use system for everyone.

We've divided the calendar into two distinct sessions, which reflect the ebb and flow of building usage throughout the year:

- The Summer Session refers to the period from the end of the SGD class year to the beginning of the next one; this is also when UUAU holds a single Sunday service. The current Summer Session runs through September 10, 2017.
- The Congregational Program Year refers to the period when UUAU holds regular SGD classes and two Sunday services. The 2017-2018 Congregational Program Year will run from September 11, 2017 through May 21, 2018.

Any recurring events will be scheduled only for the session during which the request falls. (For example, program year reservations will not extend through the summer.)

IMPORTANT: In order to start fresh with the new system, we have done a one-time deletion of future events from the UUAU calendar. If your scheduled events were deleted, you'll need to resubmit your room reservation request. We apologize for the inconvenience, but this was the only way to make the shift.

Here is the schedule for reserving rooms:

Date	Session	Details
Now	Summer 2017	When submitting your summer room requests, please note our summer 2017 UUAU 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 Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm
July 1	Program Year 2017-18	Reservations for groups of 50 or more people
August 1	Program Year 2017-18	All room reservation requests

The Room Reservation Team will also be updating the room reservation form available at www.uuaa.org. It will improve our ability to accommodate requests for accessibility needs, room setup, and special arrangements for large groups.

We appreciate your patience while we implement these changes. If you have any questions or suggestions as we aim to continually improve UUAU's room reservation system, please contact the Room Reservation Team at room@uuaa.org.

Bulletin for Sundays, July 16 & 23

We're doubling up in mid July. Please submit all July 16 and July 23 *Bulletin* submissions by Wednesday, July 12 at 9:00am. (Please note the adjusted deadline time for this issue only.) Due to the low number of submissions and vacation

schedules, we are running a combined issue of the *Bulletin* that incorporates news for both July 16 and July 23. Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

Building Schedule and Publication Deadlines

UUAA Summer Building Hours

Sunday | 9:00am - 4:00pm
2nd & 4th Monday | 9:00am - 9:00pm
Monday - Wednesday | 9:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday | 9:00am - 9:00pm
Friday | Closed
Saturday | 9:00am - noon

Questions? Contact Ed Lynn at ed@uuaa.org or Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org.

Congregational Office Hours

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

Telephone | 734-665-6158
Fax | 734-665-7895
General Email | office@uuaa.org

Communications 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. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAA events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *August 2017 Newsletter* is Friday, July 21 at 9:00am. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

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

