

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

May Newsletter

May 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 5

Worship @ UUAU

Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

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[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

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Join Our Mailing List!

Please note: On May 5 and 12, Worship Services and classes for children will take place at 9:30am and 11:30am. Beginning May 19, one Worship Service as well as classes for children, will take place at 10:00am.

May 5, 2013

"Divest from Oil"
Rev. Mark Evens

We have left the Holocene Epoch and are now in the Anthropocene Epoch. Human actions are the most powerful shaper of our environment now. The science is in. The global temperature is up and rising. It's time to act, together.

May 12, 2013

"Humanism: Religion Born Again"
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer with Terence Madden, preaching

May 2013 is the 80th anniversary of the Humanist Manifesto. Did you know it contained ideas that are still, today, changing and shifting the very definition of what religion is and can be? Did you know the first draft was compiled by a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan? Did you know that professor was a member of the First Unitarian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan? Our Congregation is a part of the emergent history of religious humanism. Did you know?

May 19, 2013

Begin One Service Schedule. One Service: 10:00am

Annual Meeting Today, Beginning at 11:15am**"2012-2013 Worship Year In Review"**

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister

Looking back on this year in the pulpit. High points and unfinished business. Any favorite moments you'd like revisited? Send me a note at gail@uuaa.org.

May 26, 2013**"Talking and Walking"**

Rev. Mark Evens

When Treyvon Martin was killed, we heard about "The Talk": essential survival information African American parents find necessary to give their children about the realities of race relations in America. How must we communicate with our children and each other to move forward toward racial equality and economic justice?

**From Our Staff****Gleanings****Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister**

It was 26 years ago this week that Celeste and I bought our first house together. That's a lovely thing to remember. But what I'm reflecting on today is the advice we got the day we signed all those papers.

It was April. We had been traveling, camping, and house sitting for over a year. We missed the mundane joys of having a toothbrush or a frying pan be in familiar places. And we missed, terribly, the sense of connection to the dirt. Literally. We missed gardening. We missed the partnership experience of digging, planting, tending, and harvesting. We went from signing the mortgage to haunting the hardware store. Tools to purchase, seed to choose, we had plans on our plans.

April. We had before us an expanse of great possibility: all summer. Imagine our deflated response when my new mentor and soon-to-be employer (the owner of the hardware store) suggested we scale back our planting, pruning, expanding, building, and dreaming to do lists, and focus on one thing. "Best to just get ready for winter," he advised. We were stunned. The daffodils were just emerging, for gosh sakes! Surely possibility was endless?

Smartest thing we did that whole year was to listen to the advice: get ready for winter. All our purchases and plans had to pass one test. Was that necessary to get us through our first winter? A Yes got action. A No got back listed.

We built the steps up to the kitchen door so we could bring groceries directly in from the driveway. We caulked windows and repainted the exterior to make a wind resistant seal. Planting bulbs, new trees, even the big version of a garden, all that was pushed off to future summers.

Winter near the coast of Down East Maine is a thing unto itself. It can be harsh, destructive and long. That winter was all those things. We were snug as bugs in our new "rug." And we became those who heed the seasons of planning. Every October we learned to change the batteries in smoke alarms. We heated with wood, it was necessary. We do it still. Living near the Atlantic Ocean most of our lives, we have come to honor May as hurricane preparedness month. Safety plans and survival plans are, now, as natural as gathering seeds for gardening. When we lived in Los Angeles, we learned to collect an earthquake survival pack, where to store it away from the house, what to include, when to restock and revisit the plan. Our years in Florida taught us hurricane preparedness in an internet and cell phone age.

Surrender to the seasons of planning, the seasons of preparations, has become a rewarding and comforting practice. Do you plan ahead? Do you prepare? Can you savor the preparation time?

Surrender to the tasks of preparation means time away from the intoxicating notion that anything is possible. Time given to the routines of planning is time away from the grandiose notions that everything will get done. Dreaming wide and deep is a wonderful experience, one with rewards of its own. Planning and the humble tasks of preparation are often less exciting or less enchanting, but, for me, now, more deeply rewarding.

I'm seeing a deeper reward, a more fulfilling engagement with what Henry David Thoreau named this way, "alright, you've built your castles in the air. Now, build your foundations under them."

For what are you preparing? Now? Whether it is cooking dinner, changing off the snow tires, taking on a new job, expecting a new child, a vacation, a move, challenging racism, creating sane gun laws, or becoming the Peace, the Change you wish to be in this world..., for what are you preparing, now? Can you be well with that? Are you centered in that? Are you at peace with your own seasons of preparation?

My love to each,
Rev. Gail

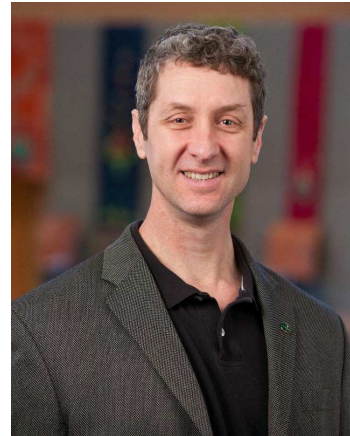


Musings
Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Welcome

*Come into the circle of love and justice.
Come into the community of mercy,
holiness and health.
Come and you shall know peace and joy.*

These words of welcome, adapted from Israel Zangwill, are included as #418 in the Opening Words section of our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*.



Sunday morning is not just our time to get our own spiritual and social buckets filled. It is especially our time to welcome in and share the message and opportunity of Unitarian Universalism with others from southeast Michigan who come through our doors seeking.

I hear from minister colleagues and Unitarian Universalists who visit us from other churches, and people new to UUism that they feel welcomed when they come here. That is fantastic; truly an accomplishment. Welcoming Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss, all of you who serve as greeters, ushers, social hour workers, and Newcomer Welcome meeting volunteers, all of us, should feel truly proud.

And we each have a role in helping our welcome be deep and true. Even after someone has been attending for months, the work of welcome continues, work that is an opportunity for all of us.

Meet one person or family that is new to you each month.

Wear your name tag whenever you are in the church. We do a pretty good job of wearing our name tags on Sunday mornings. But it is important to wear our name tags whenever we are at church, especially if we are there for any group larger than ten people. Even groups like the choir that meet weekly may have people in them who don't yet know the names of all the other participants and may not be known by them.

Feel free to use the visitor welcome "kits" in the front office for your group meetings especially if visitors might attend. The kits include temporary name tags, visitor welcome folders with introductory information about the church and the white and yellow forms we use to gather email addresses so people can receive the bulletin and this newsletter by email, let us know what else they are interested in, and request a reusable name tag.

Above all be your friendly self and remember that our Unitarian Universalism is a lifesaving, life supporting, life and community transforming faith tradition. As our Tulsa, Oklahoma congregation articulates it, we are about "Love Beyond Belief." Let's share it!

With Love,
Rev. Mark



Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action

Sandy Garges, Director of SGD



A Lifelong Sharing

Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning.
Love has to be put into action and that action is service.
Whatever form we are,
able or disabled,
rich or poor,
it is not how much we do,
but how much love we put in the doing;
a lifelong sharing of love with other.
-Mother Teresa

Singing the Living Tradition #562

It is cold as I write this as the end of April approaches. I would prefer warmer weather. Yes, this season of extended winter has provided me with an opportunity to strengthen my practice of gratitude. Not to focus on what isn't but, instead, on what is. The daffodils are beginning to bloom. Farmers markets open soon. We enjoyed a fabulous service on Earth Day featuring BOTH choirs, the Chalice Singers and the Chalice Sparks, as well as a children's play. There is much to sustain us during these days and for that I am grateful.

Each Sunday our Congregation is graced by teams of volunteers who serve our children and youth in their classrooms. Over 70 volunteers serve regularly in the SGD wing. Spring is the time of year when we recruit volunteers for the next year. Recruiting is now underway for the 2013-2014 Children and Youth Program. The goal of the program is to provide service opportunities for congregants in which they are spiritually fed at the same time they serve our youngest congregants. Could you envision yourself in this role?

Each classroom enjoys a teaching team of four adult volunteers who take turns lead teaching and assisting. Each teacher commits to serving as lead teacher one time per month and as an assistant one time per month. This system supports the consistency needed for children and adults to form relationships with each other through the year. A member of the Children and Youth Committee (CYC) will be present each Sunday at the SGD table in the Social Hall. Please stop by to learn more. I remain available, too, for any questions you may have.

It is with deep joy that I announce the formation of the Adult Education Advisory team (AEAT)! This team of volunteers is hard at work creating a vibrant adult SGD program

for us all. The members of the team are: Charley Burleigh, Bruce Gibb, Terry Madden, Margaret Pekarek, and Angelina Zaytsev. The team is currently recruiting teachers and facilitators to lead adult education classes to be offered during the 2013-2014 program year. Please see the team's newsletter article to learn more.

With gratitude for all we share,
Sandy Garges



Childcare at UUAA

Erin Dixon, Childcare Coordinator

Hello. My name is Erin Dixon, and I have been the Lead Teacher for UUAA's preschool classroom since 2008. I also coordinate the Childcare Providers program, in which the Congregation hires child care workers to provide a safe and supportive place where our youngest congregants can socialize, learn, or just "be" during Congregational meetings and events, such as Chalice Circles. When you see the words, "Childcare is available" on a flyer or in a notice, that's us!



We have an ongoing need for childcare providers, and I am now recruiting folks to hire for this position. This is a part-part time position offering anywhere from one to six hours per month. Providers will always work on site here at UUAA. My ideal candidate is at least 14 years old and possess a genuine love for and interest in children. Applicants will undergo a background check. Training is provided.

If you, like me, love seeing children's enthusiasm for life and wonder at the world, if you enjoy being with them during their magical "aha" moments of learning and growth, then please consider joining us as a part-time childcare provider. Contact me at erin@uuaa.org.

Erin Dixon
Childcare Coordinator
Lead Teacher, Preschool Classroom



From the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Umbrella Group

The View from the Presidency

Dixie Hibner, Board of Trustees President

This is my last newsletter article as president. The year has passed quickly. As I reflect on these past months, I realize that I've learned so much about church governance, this Congregation, and about myself. I've deepened and strengthened my understanding of what a wonderful congregation this is. It's made up of so many talented, generous, and caring people. You. You are what makes us what we are together. Each one of you.

Together, we aspire to do such great things. We want to change the world to make it a better place for all creatures. We want justice, peace, love, and sustainability. Such high aspirations. The work of the Board is to help us achieve our collective goals and aspirations. And it's wonderful fulfilling work.



It can also be revealing. I've also learned that we aren't doing all the things that we think we are. You've heard me talk about money during recent months. The Board asked Rev. Gail to give us a budget that would allow us to do all the things that we want to do or think that we are already doing. The total of that budget request was \$1.3M. We struggle each year to amass about one million dollars. The real cost of doing what we want to do is about \$3000 per pledge unit. I hope that within the next couple of years we can reach that level of financial support.

We are doing good work. We have inspiring Sunday services. We have a wonderful choir. SGD programs provide great services to children and families. Chalice Circles serve almost 100 people each year. Interweave is a thriving ministry. Social Justice programs make a difference in the world. We can do all these things because of your volunteer time and because we have staff to support your efforts. The dollars and cents costs of our work is not always obvious.

I'll soon be moving out of this position, but my love and support for the work we're doing isn't going anywhere. I will continue to support our work together in whatever ways I can. I am honored to be walking this path with each of you.



Comprehensively Speaking
Margaret Pekarek, Co-Chair Comprehensive Campaign
Tim Richards, Co-Chair Comprehensive Campaign

Sooner is Better

We are deeply grateful to the members and friends who have made pledges to the Comprehensive Campaign and to those who have already made contributions. To date, we have received pledges for approximately \$1,100,000 and we have received

approximately \$265,000 in payment, allowing us to apply \$250,000 against the mortgage, thereby reducing the monthly mortgage payment to \$10,500.

As we continue with the Comprehensive Campaign, we have received some questions concerning the details involved in paying off the mortgage. We asked Ed Lynn, past president, member of the Stewardship Umbrella Group and our resident mortgage expert to help us clarify this. Here's what Ed wrote:



The Congregation signed a mortgage agreement with United Bank & Trust (UBT) on January 18, 2006. The loan was for \$2,367,539 with a 10 year term and a 25 year amortization schedule. A balloon payment for the outstanding principal due January 18, 2016 would be about \$1,908,000. The loan is a commercial loan with an interest rate of 7.25%. Rates on commercial loans are higher than those on residential loans.

At the end of 2009, the Congregation received a substantial bequest from the Kramer family. After discussions with our bank, UBT agreed to allow us to use this bequest to prepay the principal by \$172,000 and move to an interest-only mortgage until the prepayment was exhausted (August 2013). The action lowered our annual mortgage expense by about \$53,300 and overall saved us about \$20,000 in interest. On February 28, 2013, the balance of our mortgage was \$1,782,000. So we now have prepaid all principal owed under the original agreement and an additional \$126,000.



What does this mean? The faster we pay down the loan, the faster we realize our interest savings. For example, assume you plan to pay \$1,000 this year against your comprehensive campaign pledge. If you pay this in December, during the year you will earn a fraction of a percent in interest at your savings account or money market fund, and need to pay income taxes on that interest. If you had made a pledge payment in January, UUAU would save \$72.50 in interest for the year, a much larger benefit. So, from a congregational perspective, the earlier you pay your pledge (if you are able to do so), the more the

Congregation benefits, and at little cost to you.

We hope this helps in understanding how paying as much of your Comprehensive Campaign pledge as soon as you can will benefit all. We are still working to reach the Comprehensive Campaign goal of \$1.5. We will continue to update you in the months ahead.

Comprehensively yours,
Margaret Pekarek
Tim Richards
Comprehensive Campaign Co-Chairs



Activities and Events

Behind the Kitchen Door Panel Discussion * April 28



For those interested in eating mindfully while dining out, plan on attending a panel on the working conditions and organizing efforts of food service workers in the United States. This discussion is sponsored by the Social Justice Council, the Mindful Eating Coalition, and the Challenging Racism group.

The book, *Behind the Kitchen Door*, will be the basis for discussion, and will center on gender, labor, racism, and workers' rights. It's not necessary to have read the book in order to take part in the discussion. However, the book is currently available at the QUUest bookstore.

This discussion will take place from 1:00 to 2:30pm. Please inquire if you need childcare by contacting Carol Acitelli at carol.acitelli@gmail.com.



Senior Dinner * May 1

We will meet on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00pm at the Gourmet Garden Chinese Restaurant located at 2255 W. Stadium, north of Liberty, on the west side of Stadium. Good food, lots of conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Questions? Call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349.



Sit & Laugh Bunch * May 14 & 16

Adult Laughter Yoga: Learn to release your happiness by laughing. Join us on either Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00pm or Thursday, May 16 at 6:30pm. Contact Barb Gales at barblaugh@yahoo.com or 734-340-4013.



Annual Congregational Meeting * May 19

All are warmly invited to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 19 from 11:15am to 12:45pm in the Sanctuary. Topics to be addressed include:

- 1) Election of Board Officers, Trustees, and Leadership Development Team members,
- 2) State of the Congregation,
- 3) President's Report,
- 4) Announcement of General Assembly Delegates, and
- 5) UUAU's 150th Anniversary Celebration.

The agenda includes a "Questions for the Board" period. For more information contact Board Secretary, Priscilla Spencer, at paspencer44@yahoo.com.



Interweave * May 21

Our annual planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21 in the Social Hall.

Childcare is available with a two week notice.

Potluck: 6:15 pm - Bring a dish or a beverage to share. As we become more aware of the food allergies of folks attending our meetings, we're asking everyone to label their contribution to the potluck with a list of the ingredients. Cooks who prepare a dish that is gluten or lactose free will be very much appreciated.



Program: 7:00 pm - Feel free to join us for the program only.

It's that time again to develop goals and programs for the 2013-2014 program year. We will be making changes this year, so be sure to come to the program to know what will be happening.

Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com or Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.



Introduction to OUUr Faith Class * May 25

This class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for both newcomers and long-time members. The class will be held from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Taught by UUAU ministers and assisted by lay members, topics include: history of Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, how we are governed, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.



Sign up by Friday, May 17. A minimum of eight participants is needed to run the class and there is a maximum of 20. Registration forms are available at the Involvement table, the Newcomer Welcome Room, and front entrance literature rack. You can also register by emailing Welcoming Ministries directly at hannah@uuaa.org.

For those unable to attend the May 25 class, the next class will be held on Saturday, June 29.

Childcare will be provided if sufficient numbers are interested.

Register for childcare by Friday, May 10.

If you have any questions or need help registering, contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 734-665-6158 or by emailing hannah@uuaa.org.




Announcements and Notices

AEAT Teachers and Facilitators Needed

The Adult Education Advisory Team (AEAT) consisting of Charley Burleigh, Bruce Gibb, Terry Madden, Margaret Pekarek, and Angelina Zaytsev, along with Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD), seeks participation in a revitalized adult SGD program by UAAA teachers, facilitators, and team members who can help deliver quality small group learning and dialogue opportunities in line with our mission statement:

Guided by Section 1.1 of our Governing Policies, the AEAT plans to engage the minds, hearts, and whole selves of adult learners in our community. With the understanding that the Unitarian Universalist (UU) journey is one of an ongoing quest for truth and meaning, we will provide adult participants with opportunities to:

- Develop an integrated sense of their own UU and UAAA identity;
- Find resources for negotiating the various stages of their life journey;
- Be empowered to live their beliefs through their actions;
- Cultivate spiritual deepening and develop spiritual practices;
- Enrich their understanding of the world around us;
- Build connections with others.

We envision the program will begin offering classes and dialogue opportunities in October through an online catalog to be published in September. In order to provide teachers and facilitators with adequate time to formulate their ideas and secure approval and space reservations based on the team's proposal process, we request that you email Sandy Garges at sandy@uuaa.org to indicate your interest and receive a sample proposal form and guidance on next steps from a team member. 

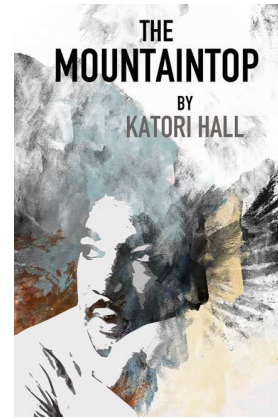
Challenging Racism



Challenging Racism invites you to join us this month. We will be viewing *The Mountaintop*, a play about Martin Luther King, at the Performance Network through Thursday, June 2. See it when convenient for you, then join Challenging Racism members at Crazy Wisdom after the matinee on Friday, May 19 where we will discuss this play by Katori Hall, directed by Carla Milarch.

From the play: "It's April 3, 1968 at Memphis' Lorraine Motel the night before Martin Luther King, Jr. would be assassinated. In room 306 King prepares his speech for the coming day, as a thunderstorm rages outside. Chain smoking Pall Malls and thundering to himself 'America, you are too arrogant!' he is startled by the mysterious Camae, a motel maid who shows up dripping wet on his doorstep. As they strike up a conversation, sharing cigarettes and laughter, King begins to suspect that her purpose there may not be what it seems."

This inspiring drama brings one of America's freshest dramatic voices to the Network stage. Starring Brian Marable as Dr. King and Carollette Phillips as Camae.



Join us for more Underground Railroad tours of our own neighborhoods. These are National Park Service endorsed tours. Reserve your seat for the Ann Arbor docent-guided limo/bus tour of known Washtenaw County landmarks to include the Beckley Schoolhouse trap door and Pontiac Trail houses. The first tour of the season will begin on Thursday, April 28. The tour will be presented by the African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County. Meet at WCC in front of the Industrial Tech Building. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$15/student. Reserve your seat by sending an email with your phone number included to Deborah Meadows at deborahmeadows2@msn.com or call 734-819-8182. Directions will be emailed. For more information, contact CRG members Joy Shannon at joyshan777@gmail.com or 734-945-3481 or Edith Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu or 734-769-3691.

Watch the Weekly Bulletin for news about Reverend Mark's second installment of *The New Jim Crow: A Theological Perspective*.

Criminal Justice Issues: Congregation members have been present at the hearings of the three Pioneer students and attended two conferences on prison reform held in Washtenaw County in March and April. Watch the June addition of the Monthly Newsletter for announcements of action events emerging from those meetings.

For more information, contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Social Justice Council (SJC)

Would you like to connect with families and singles in the Congregation? Stop by the Social Justice table on Sundays after services for information on new inter generational activities.

Come have some inter generational community fun along with dinner and activities for all ages. Our initial focus will be to examine issues of class across the community and within our Congregation and how to increase diversity. This group has come out of the workshop on *Classism* with Doug Mudar. For more information contact Sandy Eyl at sandy eyl@gmail.com.



Denominational Connections Team

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAU) and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing our Congregation, and

the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs.

All are welcome to the DCT meetings on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30pm, in the Young Room. For more information, Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com.



The 2013 Heartland District Assembly held on April 12 and 13 in Muncie, Indiana saw delegates vote overwhelmingly to support authorizing regionalization. This was the second of three votes to become part of the Mid America Region governance structure. The Prairie Star District voted unanimously in favor on April 6. The third vote will occur on Saturday, April 27 when the Central Midwest District meets. Here is a link for information: <http://www.midamericauua.org/>.

General Assembly (GA) is so close this year. It is only a six hour road trip to Louisville, Kentucky where thousands of fellow UU's will gather from June 19 through 23. So far, 55 people say they are interested in going. You can see the list on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall. To add your name to the list, sign up at the Social Justice table during Social Hour. Here is the UUA link for more information and to register <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>.

Save the dates Sundays, June 2 and July 7. Our pre-GA meeting on June 2 will go over some of the major happenings and business items at GA. The post-GA meeting on July 7 will be to share our stories and experiences of attending GA. All are welcome to attend the meetings but delegates must commit to attend both.



One-Time Chalice Circles

Now that the fall Chalice Circles are coming to an end, we are looking forward to offering a series of One-Time Chalice Circles sessions over the summer months.



The session dates and topics to be discussed are:

- June 2: Celebrating Diversity
- July 7: Beauty
- August 4: Gratitude

Each event will be held in the Young Room from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

If you are wondering what Chalice Circles are about, have been unable to attend one, or are missing this time of spiritual growth, then plan on joining us at one or all of these sessions. For more information or questions, email Roylea Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com. Or talk with us during Social Hour on Sundays beginning May 12. Come join us.



Scrip Program

Are you using Scrip? If not, now is a great time to start. By simply planning ahead on everyday purchases like groceries, gas, restaurants, clothes, entertainment, and home repair, everyone could bring in extra money to UUAA and help "bridge the gap".

We always have a number of different grocery, gas, and entertainment cards in stock. And for a short time, we will be stocking a selection of \$5 and \$10 gift cards to determine the interest. Remember, Scrip cards also make great gifts for birthdays, Mother's Day, and teacher appreciation - use your imagination.



Stop by the Scrip table for more information. Contact Becky Swank at bjswank@gmail.com, if you have any questions.



Family Camp Registration Open

We need YOU to make Family Camp really happen this summer. Register with your deposit now and receive early bird rates.



A Long Weekend of Fun

Join us for a UU summer getaway at Family Camp from August 23 through 26. Whether you come with family, friends, or by yourself, there's something fun for everyone:

- Swimming
- Sailing, Paddle Boats, Canoeing, Kayaking and other water fun
- Fishing (no license needed)
- Mountain Biking
- Climbing Wall & Archery
- Ropes Courses
- Bird Watching & Nature Hikes
- Interactive Group Discussions
- Campfires with S'mores & Sing-Alongs
- Music (bring your instruments & voices!)




Where? YMCA Camp Pinewood, www.camppinewood.com, near Muskegon, Michigan about 3.25 hours from Ann Arbor. Camp Pinewood is situated on beautiful

Lake Echo, with a natural sandy beach. There are lots of trails that encircle the lake to explore, winding through 200 acres of forest.

How do I register? Click to download camp information and the registration form. Return the form with your non-refundable deposit of \$50 per person to the Church. Register by July 15. Payment in full is due by August 1.

Get the
REGISTRATION FORM 

Questions? Call YMCA Camp Pinewood at 231-821-2421.

You may also contact Jonathan Thomas-Palmer at 734-222-0433 or email the Family Camp Committee at familycamp@uuaa.org. 

Stepping Stones to Membership

We welcome new members to our congregation throughout the year. Membership is an important commitment - one we hope you will consider as a part of your spiritual path.

Becoming a member involves these steps:

- *Take the Introduction to OUUr Faith class.
- * Understand and be in accord with our mission and by-laws.
- * Complete forms in the enrollment package, which includes a financial pledge statement.
- * Make arrangements with the Welcome Ministries Coordinator, Hannah Hotchkiss, to sign the Membership Book in the presence of a minister and board member.
- * Attend a Recognition Ceremony to be welcomed into the Congregation.

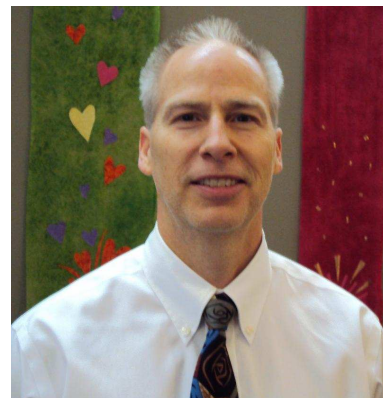
Questions? Contact our Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuaa.org or 734-665-6158. 

New Members

Stuart Downing

Stuart's family first attended UUAU in 1963. He grew up at the Hinsdale, Illinois Unitarian Church.

Stuart and his son, Ryan, have been heavily involved in Spiritual Growth and Development at UUAU for a number of years. As long-time congregants, they are excited to join the Congregation as members.



Stuart Downing

Nathan and Denise McMurray



Nathan, Denise and Keegan
McMurray

Nathan and Denise grew up in Southeast Michigan. Nathan has a Master's degree in Mental health counseling. Denise holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art. Denise is an artist and Nathan is a family therapist.

Nathan and Denise have two sons, Keegan (6 years) and Brennan (4 years). They are the ones running around the Social Hall with a doughnut on each finger and faces smeared with frosting.

The McMurray family lives in Ypsilanti in the Lincoln school district. Their family hobbies include music, art, and gaming.

They are excited to join a community of compassionate souls that want to see a just world for everyone.



Church Office News

Volunteers Needed

The Church Office invites you to join our team of volunteers to help our UUAU staff during office hours. Tasks include answering the phones, taking messages, making copies, and light filing. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

If you are interested in giving your time, contact our Office Administrator, Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org or call the Church Office at 734-665-6158.



Hours of Operation:

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm

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

Fridays, CLOSED

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUAU:

The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UAAA's Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send your submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UAAA's Monthly Newsletter is 9:00am on the 21st of each month. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

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

Building & Office Team:

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