

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

October Newsletter

October 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 10

Worship @ UUAA

Congregational Links

UUAA Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAA](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Worship Services begin
at 9:30 & 11:30am with classes for children K-8
followed by Social Hour.

October 5, 2014

"Being Alive"

Rev. Mark Evens

Economic pressures today can make self-exploration seem unwise and beside the point, but what are we really here for? How do we find and create a context for our lives that insists on depth and meaning?

October 12, 2014

"What Unitarian Universalists Value Least."

Rev. William F. Schulz, preaching. Rev. Gail Geisenhainer, hosting

"You will be amused when you learn what human virtue falls at the very bottom of Unitarian Universalists' ranking of values. But you may also be rightfully chagrined for, though we may not know it, this virtue also under-girds all of our work for social justice. Bill Schulz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), will describe how UUSC is helping us rectify our shortsightedness."

William F. Schulz is the President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. An ordained U.U. minister, Bill is also former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and Amnesty International.

October 19, 2014 - Our Story Sunday

"Spreading the Word Westward"


Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer and Congregational voices.

Early leaders of our Congregation helped shape the thinking of the new West. Charles Henry Brigham and Eliza Sunderland were pioneers in spreading liberal religion to university students "Tomorrow's leaders." Eliza Sunderland and Florence Kollock Crooker were early pioneers and

speakers on Women's Rights.

**October 26, 2014 - Our Story Sunday
"Jabez Sunderland and the Khasi Hills"**

Rev. Mark Evens hosting Congregational voices.

Jabez Sunderland was our minister from 1878-1898 and along with his wife Eliza solidly established our congregation in Ann Arbor. He also traveled to the Khasi Hills of India and wrote about independence for India. He is still remembered in the Khasi Hills, where our congregation has a "sponsor-a-student" program. 

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All:

As I write this note to you all we are Kicking -Off the 150th year in the life of this Congregation. Planning has been happening for nearly two years. Volunteers have been hard at work to gather our history, write down our stories, design our T-Shirts, order the cake and balloons, and to reflect on the gravitas and the delight of what it means to be bringing to life the 150th Year of Reason and Compassion in Action. Banners and Art are hung. Projects and parties are planned. It is time!

Are you familiar with that tiny moment of lull., the one where the table is set, the feast prepared..., and the guests are due to arrive at any moment? There, in that moment of quietude, there is time for the fullness of gratitude. I offer this bit of wisdom from Melody Beattie,

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

In the spirit of gratitude, in the year ahead, in our personal lives as well as in our engagement with the life of this Congregation, may it be that we, each and all, find a deeper understanding of our past, experience a deeper peace in our days, and join together to enrich our vision for the next 150 Years of Reason and Compassion in Action.

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail

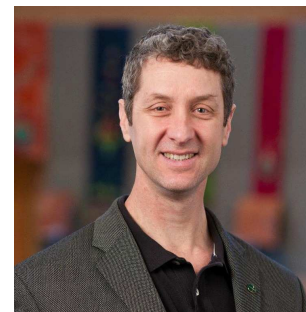


Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Big Questions - The Congregation as a College

An article by William Deresiewicz in the August issue of the New Republic and cautions that elite universities select and train highly competent sheep, anxious and eager to unquestioningly, and uncreatively, conform to the needs of current corporate/consumer culture. David Brooks weighs in in the *New York Times* in a similar vein.



Both writers argue that college education should, once again, be a more of a time of exploration of oneself, one's interests, and the world. It should allow and promote more focus on wrestling with and finding personal provisional answers to the biggest questions: What am I here for?

Like this ideal version of a college or university, our Congregation has a role as a place apart from home, work, and marketplace where values are explored, where the goals of life can be considered and articulated.

What makes life worth living? What makes life rich and good? What purposes are worth striving for? And critically, "What is my role in relation to these values and goals?"

Yes, we do need to be able to work and support ourselves. Education has a vital role in helping us be productive contributors to the economy that satisfies our needs. But we must also cultivate our capacity for discerning what needs, in addition to our basic ones of food, shelter, and company, we should make a priority.

Together we engage in conversations here in our Congregation about the big questions of life. Together we craft answers and try them out. Together we work to provide the opportunity for these sort of engagements to all.

Grow your soul with an Adult Spiritual Growth and Development class this fall. Attend worship and look for conversation partners with whom you can unpack and explore what the themes mean to you personally. This is how we make our lives good and rich together.

In Faith,
Mark



The Business of the Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director



The 2014 General Fund Budget (formerly Operating Budget)

The following is so important that it bears repeating!

The fiscal year for UUAU is January 1 to December 31. Each fall, recognized congregational ministries and programs, along with UUAU staff, are provided the opportunity to submit General Fund requests for the next fiscal year. Each recognized ministry or program group may submit a completed General Fund Budget Request Form and Worksheet identifying their goals, planned activities, and anticipated expenses and income for the coming year. Submitted budget information may be reviewed by the appropriate senior staff member, and then, compiled by the Executive Director into a draft of a comprehensive 2014 General Fund Budget.

A draft of the 2014 General Fund Budget shall be provided to the Senior Minister on or before October 31 for her additional review and modification. That amended General Fund Budget shall then be presented by the Senior Minister to the Board of Trustees for their approval in accordance with UUAU's governing policies.

2014 Operating Budget Timeline:

- 9/1/14 General Fund Budget Request Forms are distributed to lay and staff program leaders.
- 10/15/14 Completed General Fund Budget Request Forms and Worksheets are due back from lay and staff leaders to the Executive Director.
- 10/31/14 Senior Minister receives and reviews the draft of the General Fund Budget from Executive Director.
- 12/14 Board of Trustees receives, reviews, and approves the General Fund Budget presented by Senior Minister.
- 1/14/15 General Fund Budget is presented by the Board of Trustees to the Congregation.

General Fund Budget Request Forms and Worksheets are due from lay and staff leaders to the Executive Director no later than Monday, October 15, 2014.

Should you have any questions or need additional help prior to October 15, contact Thom Bales, executive director, at thom@uuaa.org.



Musical Notes

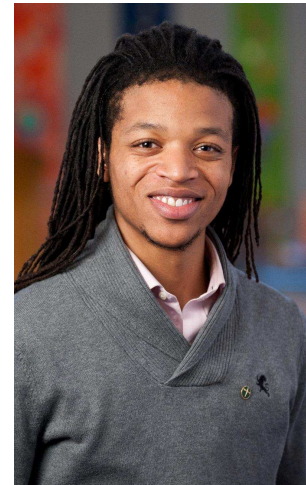
Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music

For the past eleven months, this Congregation's Sanctuary Audio Team has been engaged in a large project to repair and improve the quality of the Phifer Sanctuary's sound system. I am proud to announce that the team has completed installation of a new audio system, offering us a level of clarity and flexibility previously unavailable to our worship.

The heart of the upgrade, a new digital mixing console with remote control, eliminates previous audio quality and reliability issues, and adds new creative possibilities for speaking and music during worship. In addition, the upgrade allows us to accommodate events that make use of audio in the Sanctuary or Social Hall.

My sincerest thanks to the members who have contributed significant leadership in this effort; namely Dick Barber, Jeff Banet, and Mike Halerz, who worked to bring this vision to fruition. We walk into our 150th year with an increasingly clear vision and a clearer means for that vision to reach the ears of our community. My sincere gratitude to you, Dick, Jeff, and Mike, on behalf of our community's ears and its voice.

Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music



Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action

Sandy Garges, Director of SGD

"A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"



The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, "Well, I made a difference to that one!"

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved."

- Adapted from *The Star Thrower*
by Loren C. Eiseley

Frustration. That is what I feel at the beginning of this school year. Pure frustration. In addition to serving this Congregation as the Director of Spiritual Growth and Development, I serve as a parent of two boys who participate in our Congregation. It is through their eyes that I now view our society's violence, sexism, racism, homophobia, economic injustice, and drug use/abuse. Each time my boys are exposed to one of these issues, my goal has been to treat it as a teachable moment - how can I instill our values using this news item as a tool? Neither of my sons is yet of an age to drive so, being dependent upon me for transportation, they are subject to hearing what I have to say when I drive. Lots of teachable moments take place in the car!

My frustration arises from my inability to consistently do this any longer.

Last night I was in a public space which had a TV tuned to the national news. The headline was about a man whose violent act was caught on video. No discussion point here for tomorrow morning's car ride - nothing to learn from - all of us in the car would know this man's actions were wrong. The question becomes - What can I do about it? What can we do?

My answer is "something". The story of the girl who threw back a starfish on the beach enters my mind. I can't do everything but I can do something.

For starters, I can allow my frustration to lead me to clearer action. We have engaged in family service projects appropriate for young children in the past - Humane Society, Food Gatherers, organizing the nametags here at UUAA. As a family we joined in community and helped celebrate the many marriages which took place on the one day when same-sex marriage was legal in Michigan. What other actions can we take? Can I fix the budget crisis? No. Can I ensure clean water is readily available for all of Detroit's citizens? No, not alone. Can I teach my children that we can do something, and must? Yes. My mission this week is to listen to my frustration and to decipher what it is teaching me.

What if we all followed the lead of our YRUU youth who recently joined in multi-denominational community to provide new flooring, roofing, and other house repairs to people living in Appalachia? Can they do it all? No. Did they make a difference to the resident who wrote a thank you note for their efforts and conversation? Yes.

Please join me. I welcome discussion about how to engage our energy, our privilege, our power of community for the common good. My door is open to dialogue about how to engage in activity which, like throwing back that one starfish, can help us do something even though, alone, we cannot do it all.

With care,
Sandy



News From the Harper Room
Julie Dybdhal, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) Coordinator

"While friends hung out at the beach this past summer, 24 YRUU youth and 11 adults, spent a week making a difference in the lives of families in Eastern Kentucky. The group traveled to Henderson Settlement, a Methodist work camp that matches volunteers with families in need of home repairs. Nine different church groups from the South and Midwest stayed at the facility and worked in the community.



Each day, the group assembled tools and supplies from Henderson's shed and divided into smaller teams. They traveled into the hills and hollers of the county, and worked on four different properties. One team built a deck covered entryway onto a mobile home. Another group painted the interior of a home, while a third painted the exterior of a different home. A last group handled what became known as "the big job" because it included many tasks: replacing rotted floors and a commode, and installing new soffits, gutters, and ceiling tiles. Those who completed their jobs before week's end helped with projects at Henderson, including landscaping, sorting thrift shop clothing, and packing 40 boxes of pantry staples for the food bank.



YRUU showing their colors at Henderson

Returning full of paint splatters and sore muscles, the group spent evenings in the dormitories making new friends, hearing a local bluegrass band, checking out the livestock on the Henderson farm, and getting to know one another through "story times" under the stars. Through the week, the entire group was able to learn about and connect with those living in one of the most poverty-stricken areas of the country. It didn't take long for the youth to understand the long-term impact of their week's work as

they interacted with families who were grateful for their efforts.

The setting of Henderson Settlement was also impactful. Along with assisting the community with free medical services, a library, and a day camp for children, it offers a well-run work camp program, feeding, housing, and coordinating the activities of hundreds of volunteers throughout the summer. Spending time with youth of different faiths was also instructional for the YRUU.

The week wrapped up with a fun day of white-water rafting and hiking in Cumberland Falls State Park and an overnight with new friends at the UU Fellowship of Madison County in Richmond, KY."

Written by member Lori Tucker-Sullivan

For more information about this trip, just ask a member of the YRUU or YRUU Coordinator Julie Dybdahl at Julie@uuaa.org.



Board of Trustees

President's Message

Ken Clein, Board President



I hope all of you now know this is a BIG year at First UU of Ann Arbor. On September 28 we kicked off a year of reflection, celebration, and re commitment in honor of the 150th

anniversary of the founding of our Congregation!

Hopefully you were able to participate in the All-Congregation photo wearing a "150 years of Reason and Compassion" T-shirt. If you missed this, fear not, because there are plenty of opportunities to be involved in this gala year. I won't even try to list them all here, but a few coming up soon include Crop Walk and the Klein Lecture, featuring William Schultz on October 12, and the Harvest Potluck Dinner on October 26.

The 150th planning team, led by Terry Madden and Sandy Simon, has done an incredible job of planning and organizing. Please thank them and everyone else involved. Over the last two years, your Board of Trustees initiated and participated in the strategic planning for our 150th and is now starting to consider the next 150 years. The introduction to our core values states:

"The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI has been deeply committed to liberal religious thought and action since 1865. We join together in community to encourage and inspire each other's spiritual journeys, to honor and care for the natural world around us, and to join forces in furthering social justice in the Ann Arbor area and the wider world."

I hope you will join in this year and in coming years as we *revere our past, but learn to trust the dawning future more.*

Ken Clein
Board President



150th Anniversary Celebration

150th Anniversary Commemorative Tiles



Motawi Tile will make gift tiles using the 150th Anniversary logo and the words "150 years of Reason and Compassion in Action". Tiles are priced at \$35 each.



The tile prototype can be seen

and prepaid orders of check or cash will be taken at the 150th Anniversary Table in the Social Hall following all Services during the month of October. Orders may be sent to or left in the church office through October 28. Tiles will be delivered beginning December 14. These tiles will make great holiday gifts.

Questions? Contact Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com or 734-998-3522 or Margie Teall at MargieTeall@hotmail.com.



150th Anniversary Story Catchers



What's YOUR story? The History Detectives are conducting a Story Catcher Project and want to know if you have a special memory of an event, know an interesting piece of church history, or want to shout out about what UUAU means to you.

Sign up in the Social Hall to be interviewed by Pat Kuessner and tell an oral story or submit a one page typed story to storycatchers@uuaa.org.



Activities and Events

Round Robin * Friday, October 10

Join other UUs on the second Friday of the month from October through May. These adult dinner parties provide an opportunity to get acquainted and reacquainted with other UUs in a casual dinner group held in members' homes. This will be the first Round Robin dinner of the 2014-2015 season.

New to Round Robin? Sign up at the Involvement table during Social Hour or contact organizers Sally or John Preston at dinner@pctraining.net or sally@pctraining.net. Contact Sally or John by Wednesday, October 1, if interested in participating in the October dinner. 

150th Anniversary Klein Lecture * Sunday, October 12



The Klein Lecture featuring Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz will be held at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. As president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, he will speak on Human Rights. Referring to his tenure as executive director of Amnesty International for 12 years, the *New York Review of Books* in 2002 said that Dr. Schulz "has done more than anyone in the American

human rights movement to make human rights issues known in the United States".

Dr. Schulz is also a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Past President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.


Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the 150th Anniversary table during Social Hour or at www.uuaa.org/150.

Challenging Racism will coordinate refreshments for the event. Those able to contribute finger foods contact Lucia Heinold at Heinoldcia@aol.com or kamf@umich.edu.

Questions? Contact Bob Hospadaruk at kleinlecture@uuaa.org. 

Interweave * Sunday, October 12



Join at 10:45am for an Interweave Circle in the Fahs Chapel. Interweave circles help to create deeper connections with each other and widen our embrace. The circle discussion will focus on the coming-out process and the many ways to manage that disclosure about our Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Ally (TBLGQIA) identities. TBLGQIA people, their children, friends, and allies are welcome. Questions? Contact Leigh A. Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu. 

Halloween Party * Saturday, October 25



Join the festivities from 4:30 to 7:30pm


- 4:30pm Decorate a Trick-or-Treat bag, carve a pumpkin, and more. This is a BYOP

event: Bring your own pumpkin.

- 5:15pm Bring a yummy dish to share for the potluck
- 5:45ish Costume parade followed by trick-or-treating
- Haunted House opens after trick-or-treating

Help is needed to plan the fun. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org. 

Game Day * Sunday, October 26

Join the fun from 1:00 to 4:00pm for a multi-generational day of board and card games. Some games will be available, but please bring a favorite and introduce it to others. Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even without a dish. Questions? Contact Arthur Prokosch and Bethany Ramirez at bethanyramirez@gmail.com. 

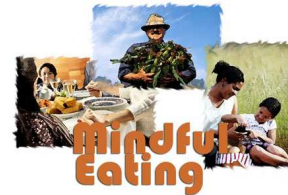
150th Anniversary Fall Harvest Potluck * Sunday, October 26



The Mindful Eating Harvest Potluck will be from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Social Hall. This is a new date.

This year's theme is "Recipes Through the Ages: 1865-2015" in conjunction with our 150th anniversary. Recipes will be available during Social Hour. Come have a look.

Donna Estry already knows she'll be bringing Fruitland's Apple Pan Dowdy, named for the first vegetarian commune in America, established by Bronson Alcott in 1843. Fanny Farmer, a Unitarian, introduced the concept of using standardized measuring spoons and cups in her famous 1896 cookbook during the domestic science movement. Seems there is much to learn about cooking through the ages. All are welcome. For more information contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.



Benefit Concert * Saturday, November 1



Celebrate in a community benefit concert with Catie Curtis to honor Americans United, a group dedicated to preserve the Constitution's religious liberty provisions. Catie performs to support Voices United for Separation of Church and State. She is ordained by the Universal Life Church and can officiate at her fans' same-sex weddings.

Questions? Contact Jim Lee at <http://www.uuaa.org/ABC> or annualcampaign@uuaa.org. 

Commitment Sunday * Sunday, November 2



Pledge your financial support to UUAU. Special guest Barry Lynn will speak to members and friends. Complete and bring a 2015 Annual Budget Campaign (ABC) Commitment form as we pledge together in our 150th year of community. Your fair share commitment is a catalyst to enhance our ministries.

Questions? Contact Jim Lee at <http://www.uuaa.org/ABC> or annualcampaign@uuaa.org. 

Announcements and Notices

Adult SGD Fall Catalog



The Adult Spiritual Growth & Development Fall Catalog is now available online.

Join in for conversations that matter. Registration is now open. Register for classes using the links in the Catalog.

Click here for a link to the Catalog: <http://uuaa.org/sgd/adults>. Questions? Contact Charley Burleigh at Chburleigh@aol.com.



Challenging Racism



New events are planned and co-sponsored in the next five weeks. Explore how UUAA educates and advocates ending systemic racism without being pinned down to the next step of signing up to volunteer.

Special Request: A 150th Anniversary display case exhibit of the 1950s-1960s civil rights period is in the planning stages. Stories from the dangerous days and places of that time in the civil rights engagement are requested. Contact Doug Kelley at Kelleyvill@comcast.net. Check out the current exhibit of UUs in the Civil War in the Jackson Chapel.

Sunday, September 28 at 3:00pm, preview the African American Cultural Heritage Living Oral History Project II. Details are available at aadl.org/events. Films of the first series of interviews are available at www.aadl.org/aachmvideos.

Saturday, October 18 at 1:00pm, join a community conversation about Restorative Justice at UUAA. Come to a Washtenaw Faces Race on Restorative Justice. Experience a restorative circle, see a movie that stars students and teachers talking about their experience with restorative practices, and learn about local initiatives to widen this practice in schools and the courts. Refreshments included.

Sunday, October 19 at 1:00pm, share in a book discussion of *The Round House*, facilitated by Louise Kazarinoff and Sandy Eyl, in the Young Room. Details and reviews at <http://www.amazon.com/>.

Sunday, October 19 at 2:00pm, enjoy the last 2014 Ann Arbor Underground Railroad tour led by the African American Cultural Heritage Museum. Tours leave from WCC. Cost \$20 per person. Contact Deborah Meadows at

deborahmeadows2@msn.com or 734-819-8182.

Monday, October 27 at 7:00pm, Challenging Racism Winter Planning Meeting in the Young Room.

Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Denominational Connection Team (DCT)

Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI) Update:

2012-2016: [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](#)
On November 15, a draft of the Statement of Conscious (SOC) for this CSAI is due from the Commission on Social Witness (CSW). Those who attended



the Reproduction Justice Classes held last year and interested others will meet to discuss and offer comments on the SOC; watch the Weekly Bulletin and November's Newsletter for dates and times. The Congregation will vote on whether this SOC should be brought before the 2015 General Assembly at the January, 2015 UUAA Congregational Meeting.

2014-2018: [Escalating Inequality](#)

This CSAI was chosen at the 2014 General Assembly. To better understand this complex issue, a study group will be formed. A study guide should be available on November 1.

Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.

DCT serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between UUAA and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing this Congregation and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs.



Partner Church News

Cathy Muha



Six years ago, Mike and I joined others from UUA on a pilgrimage to visit the birthplace of Unitarianism and our Partner Church in the Transylvania region of Romania. The region was part of Hungary until after WWI, when it was given to Romania; it has a long history of exploitation. We stayed with the Miklos family in Kézdivásárhely: father Zsolt, mother Emilia, daughter Agnes (then 16), and son Aron (then 14). They were warm and welcoming, and we had a fabulous stay with them. They spoke English well enough that we could have philosophical and religious discussions - something Zsolt loves to do!



The Muha's with Zsolt and Emilia Miklos and Zsolt's father.

We went for our second trip this past June, and it was one of the most wonderful vacations we've ever taken. We learned a lot about the history of Unitarianism, saw beautiful vistas, and met many wonderful people. The part that will stay with me the most is connecting with the same host family. Though Aron was away at school, Zsolt, Emilia, and Agnes were excited to see us again and welcome us to their modest Communist-era apartment. Once again we sat around their kitchen table discussing many things. They took us to visit with Zsolt's father (his mother died since we last saw them). Though he spoke no English, he beamed at us as he showed us his small farm. We later visited with Emilia's parents at their modest summer cottage in the forest. Her Mom plied us with food - lots of polenta with cheese. Though they, too, did not speak English, they were eager to learn about our lives as interpreted by their daughter.

We went with the family to a Transylvanian youth dance festival. After the band packed up, a small impromptu band played and the people in the audience began dancing in circles, and we joined in, feeling like a part of their culture. After that the young people kept dancing two-by-two. Zsolt went up to one of the couples and told them to keep it up and never forget their traditions. He explained to us how Romanians of Hungarian descent in Transylvania have had to fight to keep their culture alive as the Romanian government has tried to drum it out. Zsolt's passion about his culture is one of the many things that made the trip so very meaningful to us.



Zsolt and Emilia

Social Justice Council (SJC)

The Social Justice Council has an exciting new brochure that outlines all of the social justice activities that we are currently involved in. Stop by the Social Justice table to pick one up.

The SJC is also co-sponsoring activities this month:

- "Lessons from Ferguson: Local Responses to Militarization of the Police". Meet on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd on 2145 Independence Blvd. in Ann Arbor. Co-sponsors include Church of the Good Shepherd, United Church of Christ, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, New Vision Ministries, and Challenging Racism and Social Justice Council of UUA
- "Faith Communities Working for Justice, Healing, and Restoration" will meet on Thursday, October 23 from 6:30 to 9:00pm. Meet at the Community Church of God on 565 Jefferson Street in Ypsilanti. Park behind the building. Co-sponsors are Healing

Communities, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, and Challenging Racism and Social Justice Council of UUA.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden, SJC co-chair at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice

Do you wish to engage more deeply in justice work? The Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) may provide the opportunity you seek. UUCSJ was launched in June 2012 as a joint collaboration of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the UUSC. Its mission is to help UUs deepen and sustain the work of justice in their congregations and communities. To that end, UUCSJ offers experiential learning journeys and social justice training grounded in the UU faith's historic commitment to human rights.

UUCSJ has programs specifically designed for various groups. Transformative experiences abound for youth and young adults through Youth Justice Training in Boston, Seattle, and New Orleans, a Youth Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Mississippi, and summer internships. International programs for ministers and seminarians provide uncommon opportunities to serve communities and grow in multicultural understanding. Experiential learning journeys, open to the general population, allow participants to . . . engage in immigration justice at the U.S.- Mexico border, assist with sustainability projects in rural Haiti, learn about ethical eating and American food worker organizing in Chicago, witness firsthand the grassroots struggles towards justice being waged for women and marginalized communities in Gajurat, India, help with ongoing Hurricane Sandy reconstruction work in New York's most economically vulnerable neighborhoods, or dialogue with leaders of the Lummi Nation in Washington State to gain understanding of their enduring culture.



Congregational groups are particularly encouraged to join a UUCSJ journey. When a group travels together from a single congregation, members have the benefit of returning home with others who have shared the same powerful experience. The collective experience makes it easier to share the journey with the rest of the congregation and creates a strong foundation for discerning the next steps for engagement.

To learn more about UUCSJ, visit www.uucsj.org. Submitted by Becky Hoort for the UUSC News reporters. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



UUSC Coffee Project

Volunteers are needed for one of the nicest jobs at UUA - selling Equal Exchange products at the UUSC Coffee Project table during Social Hour. Meet pleasant people, enjoy the cheerful hubbub of Sunday mornings in the Social Hall, and know you're doing your part to help out small farmers in Palestine, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Congo, Uganda, Thailand, India, and Burkina Faso.

Here's why it's the ideal volunteer job.

- You can work when, and how much you choose - as little as one service each month.
- You'll serve with another friendly and experienced volunteer, no stress.
- Equal Exchange products are top quality so they're easy to sell - no sales hype needed, customers flock to you.
- You'll meet nice new people, make friends.
- Your work makes a difference in the world: Equal Exchange donates money to UUSC,

money that supports small farmer cooperatives and human rights around the world. You'll also earn money for the UUAA. A portion of each purchase goes to our church.

What's not to like? Help small farmers, the UUSC, and UUAA. Sign the volunteer form available at the Coffee Project table. More friendly faces are needed.

Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at cathie@breidenbach.net.



Church Office News

Communication Content Guide

All recognized Congregational groups who share activities and events in the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin can now access a Content Guide for writing entries. Find deadlines and details as to the accepted number of words, where to email each article, how to provide a Congregant contact, and more. [Click here](#) for a copy. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org.



Building Hours:

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 from 9:00am-5:00pm

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

Communicating at UUAA:

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

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAA's November Newsletter is 9:00am on Tuesday, October 21. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

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

For general guidelines on submissions to the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin, refer to the [Content Guide](#).

For more information about how to get things done at UUAA, refer to the [Lay Leader Administrative Guide](#).

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org
Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org
Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org
Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, dewon@uuaa.org.



Find us on Facebook 

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to deborah@uuaa.org by newsletter@uuaa.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103