

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

December Newsletter

December 1, 2016 - Vol 12, Issue 12

Congregational Links

UUA Links:

[Make a 2017 Pledge](#)

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Weaving Worship

Weaving Worship | Simplicity

In December's worship, we mind the practice of **simplicity**.

All of you is welcome here, as we gather again for worship.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout | Director of
Worship & Music

December's Worship Team

Allison Halerz, *Pianist-in-Residence*

Rev. Cassandra Hartley, *Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development*

Rev. Doug Wadkins, *Senior Minister*

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, *Director of Worship & Music*

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, *Assistant Minister*

theresa rohlck, *UUAU Member*

At a Glance

Sunday Worship (December 4, 11, and 18, 2016) |
9:30am * 11:30am

Christmas Eve Worship Services - Saturday, December
24, 2016 | 4:30pm * 7:00pm * 9:00pm

Christmas Day Worship - Sunday, December 25, 2016 |
10:00am | in the Social Hall

New Year's Day Worship - Sunday, January 1, 2017 |
10:00am

December 4, 2016 | 9:30am * 11:30am

Tis a Gift to Be Simple

Knowing love, seeking deep connection, engaging what we know as true, sharing our genuine presence...these are seemingly simple gifts, yet so much of so many of our lives teach us to know them as more daunting than not.

What about simplicity makes its practice worthwhile? How can returning to what is simple and true help us navigate the coming season of holidays?

December 11, 2016 | 9:30am * 11:30am Choose Something Like a Star

An approaching winter comes to teach us the wisdom of stillness. Still more wisdom and clearer insight can emerge in the moments we too seek moments of stillness for our hearts.

In the flurry of headlines and new happenings that loudly wrestle for more of our attention, the holiday season calls us again to deeper, ancient truths - the persisting value of love, well-grown truth, and gratitude. When anxiety comes, can we learn to focus these enduring truths more deeply in our living?

December 18, 2016 | 9:30am* 11:30am We Dream in the Darkness | Worship for All Ages (no SGD classes K - 12; Nursery & PreSchool remain open)

"Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly.

And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal."

- from Shelley Jackson Denham "Dark of Winter" (SLT Hymn 55)

Saturday, December 24, 2016 | 4:30pm * 7:00pm * 9:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:30pm - a shorter, more family-oriented service

A special collection will be taken for the Minister's Discretionary Fund

Carols and stories, old and new.

Candles for hope.

Warm gifts of companionship,
of presence.

On this holy night of anticipating hope,
being together is a more vital practice than ever.

Children of all ages are welcome to attend services. The
nursery will be closed.

**Sunday, December 25 2016 | Breaking Bread
10:00am in the Social Hall**

With any holiday meal, the opportunity approaches
again
to break bread together,
to share a common meal,
to live from the fruit of human generosity,
to feed the generosity ourselves.

On Christmas Day, our worship takes the form of a
potluck!
If you are able, please bring a dish that has some
meaning to you to help create the meal (plates and
flatware will be provided).
Unable to bring a dish? Your presence is a beautiful gift
to this time of fellowship.

Children of all ages are welcome. There will be no SGD
programming or childcare on Christmas Day.

Come, help us deck the hall with good cheer, a shared
meal, and the blessing of being together.



In the Interim

Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins, Senior Interim Minister



We move into December with a certain palpable gravitas. I know that for the majority of you the past few weeks have been a time of deep trepidation or worse. While we are too close-in to know the deeper truths of what this time will mean for our lives, our country, and the world, I think it is important for us to take in that many of you fear for your safety and for the well-being of your children. I am certain that has never been my sentiment in December, but we must hold that truth and attend to it. I think that this moment transcends labels like liberal or conservative, Republican, Democrat, or other; or even to some extent race, class, and privilege. We are in a moment that urgently compels us to step beyond and beneath divisions, as hard as that can be in such a scary time. It is especially crucial that we build bridges to those most vulnerable to the bullying and other violence that this time is encouraging. We must foster common ground with people of good will. I believe those connections are the pathway to living our values, and in the process, preserving the true core values of this country.

I also think that this December is time for soulful inner work. As my reflections on

November 20 offered, this a season to do life-affirming and proactive work: to wait, to watch, and to prepare. To wait with an intentional sense of agency that creates an air of expectancy that refuses to let go of our heart. We must not accept a reality where compassion, civility, and basic human decency disappear from our shared experience in this country. We must watch; we must notice what is happening around us, as hard as it may be. We must not turn away from what is unfolding. We will need each other's support to witness faithfully. For we are not passively spectating but rather seeking to see what is true and letting that truth change us. Finally, we must prepare ourselves to know what we are to do. Each of us will find our way to inner wisdom and outer service and activism. It may be protest, or community building, or small acts of compassion, but we each have our own path to redeeming the coming days. I am grateful for the ways that our community will help shape this work. I am grateful, that while our time together has not been long, that I am with you in this anxious but transformative time. I am truly holding each of you with love. In this time may our community strengthen, inspire, and comfort you.

Faithfully,
Doug

Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins
Senior Interim Minister
doug@uuaa.org



Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister

If you've seen me since November 10, you may have noticed that I look a bit different these days - specifically, I've shaved my head. People have been understandably curious what this change is about.

First, let me tell you what it's not.

Thankfully, I'm not sick. As far as I know, I don't have cancer, and I'm not undergoing chemo.



Also, I didn't shave my head out of anger. Certainly, I'm angry that the President-Elect is an ill-prepared charlatan who peddled hatred and lies and bigotry. And I'm angry that the rhetoric he used during the campaign has emboldened assaults against people in marginalized communities. I'm also angry that his top advisors and Cabinet nominees seem to be pulled directly from the League of Supervillains.

But the decision to shave my head came from a deeper place, a loving place that has called me to embody more fearlessness. While the immediate stakes are fairly low - after all, my hair has already started to grow out again - I've noticed how I carry myself differently now.

Every time I run my hand over my skull, I'm reminded that we've entered a drastically different moment in human history. Every time I catch sight of myself in the mirror, I remember that more will be asked of me in the weeks and years ahead if I'm serious about living into my core commitments of justice, compassion, and love.

What does fearlessness look like for you?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuaa.org



Board of Trustee News

President's Message

Beth Hospadaruk, Board President



Welcome to December!

I want to thank all those who attended the President/Worship Team Q&A on Sunday, November 20. We had over 50 people attend and many shared comments, asked questions, and engaged in a good discussion about worship at UUAU. Worship is a very complex issue, and, as you can probably imagine, each one of us has a different idea of what a "perfect" service would be. Topics of discussion included length of the service, the amount of music, the type of music, the number of readings, or meditation, the type of language used, the role of children in the service, lay leader participation, and how the worship team and congregants can communicate better. The Worship Team appreciated the opportunity to engage in this conversation together with you and shared that they are working on a regular form of conversation for the future. As always, I'm happy to talk with anyone who would like more information.

Please join Rev. Doug and me for our December Q&A on Sunday, December 11 at 1:00pm. The topic will be MONEY! Interim Church Administrator Ed Lynn and Treasurer Allen Duncan will join us to share the progress of the Finance Team's work; Stephanie Surfus, chair of this year's pledge drive, will join us to share the progress of the Fundraising Team and the Annual Budget Campaign -- not a glamorous topic but a very important one nonetheless. Please come and stay engaged in all aspects of our beloved community. All voices are important!

Watch for updates from the Transition Team as we move into the new year. We will have many opportunities to share, discuss, and be heard. Take time to enjoy the coming Solstice and the return of light in late December. I know Bob and I look forward to spending some quality time with our family and friends over the holidays and wish the same for all of you.

Be well, friends,
Beth

Beth Hospadaruk
2016-2017 Board President
president@uuaa.org

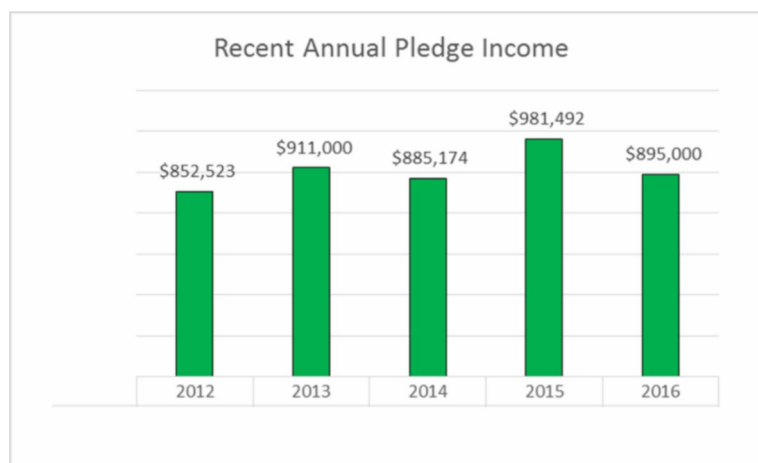


Treasurer's Update

Allen Duncan, Board Treasurer

Recent Annual Budget Campaign Results

As 2016 draws to a close, so does the preparation of the 2017 budget. In the last two newsletter articles, sources of income and categories of expenditure were discussed. Given those snapshots of income and expenditures, it seems appropriate to provide historical perspective on the Annual Budget Campaign (the source of the vast majority of UUAU income). The Figure below illustrates Annual Budget Campaign income for each of the five years prior to 2017 (2016 is projected, but a value with high confidence given only 5 weeks remaining in the calendar year). Note that the result for 2015 includes a "second ask," which was required to alleviate a budget shortfall of \$192,000. For a little perspective on the coming year, it may help to know that the proposed 2017 budget will probably end up around \$920,000.



Allen Duncan
Board Treasurer
allenduncan@aggienetwork.com



Governance Task Force Sandy Simon, Chair

UUAU Governance Tune-up in Progress

What might help this congregation do more and be more? How can we best attract outstanding Senior Minister candidates when we begin our ministerial search next year? These questions inspire the members of the Governance Task Force (GTF) that has been charged by the Board of Trustees to review UUAU's governance structure, including the Senior Minister's job description. It has been 8 years since we implemented Policy Governance, and we have learned a lot since then. Time to step back to revisit what works well and what needs changing. We will be asking for your input during the next few months. The GTF Vision Statement reads:

"The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor elects a Board to serve as its governing body and calls a Senior Minister to serve as its spiritual, programmatic, and administrative leader. UUAU currently governs with a shared leadership governance structure that tasks the Board with setting the vision for the future of the congregation and gives the Senior Minister responsibility for directing implementation of that vision. The Senior Minister operates within limitations defined by Board policies that assure that the congregation's money, property, and people are kept safe

and that the congregation lives in harmony with its values.

The 2016-017 Governance Task Force, reviewing UUAA's current governance policies and procedures, will recommend changes that would:

- Clarify responsibilities for decision-making.
- Improve processes the Board uses to monitor the health and well-being of the congregation and its progress toward fulfilling the vision and mission of UUAA.
- Establish processes that would have the Board spend more of its time discerning the vision for the long-term future of the congregation.
- Better define a clear and achievable role for the Senior Minister in leading the congregation and staff toward the fulfillment of UU principles and UUAA core values.
- Provide materials that clearly explain to the congregation and staff how governance works at UUAA.

The GTF proposes the following vision for leadership at UUAA:

"UUAA leaders are consultative, collegial, and inclusive. Clarity about ultimate responsibility and authority exists along with a democratic and egalitarian spirit. All UUAA leaders practice transparent decision-making, healthy conflict management, and mutual support in their respective roles."

Questions? Input? Contact GTF at gtf@uuaa.org or speak to one of the task force members: Dixie Hibner, Elizabeth LaPorte, Ed Lynn, Tim Richards, John Seeley, Interim Senior Minister Rev. Doug Wadkins, Board Liaison Jim Schafer, and GTF Chair Sandy Simon.



Spiritual Growth and Development



Whole Congregation. Whole Week. Whole Lives.

The holiday season brings up complex feelings, ranging from happiness and excitement, to loneliness and exhaustion. It's a season when our time, energy, and money are being constantly strained and expectations are high. It feels anything but simple, but that makes the spiritual practice of simplicity that much more important. Practicing simplicity will look different for each person, but at the core it means choosing which physical things, activities, time commitments, and relationships are most essential for a meaningful life right now - and then letting everything else go.

When we're able to focus on what matters most, we nourish our spirituality in profound ways. We're able to be more present for the moments of joy, and we're able to face with more courage the moments of pain. One of the most powerful parts about being in a congregational community is that it gives us a regular opportunity each week to reflect on what is most important in our lives and to share our joys and pain with one another. We do this in many ways, including in worship, in social hour, in small groups, and through our weekly *Pastoral News*.

This month, we will introduce yet another opportunity to share with one another: *Highs/Lows for Children and Youth*. This gives our younger members an opportunity to share news that affects their lives: major birthdays, school and sports achievements, the loss of a pet, college acceptance letters, etc. Children and youth can submit a high or low by filling out forms on the table near the lower floor SGD entrance, or by emailing cassandra@uuaa.org. Submissions will be printed twice a month and posted on the SGD bulletin boards.

Please take the time to read what's going on in the lives of younger members and share in their excitement or sadness. This is just one of the many ways we can come together across the generations and nurture a healthy spiritual home.

Highlights from our Children and Youth Classrooms



Our K-1 class continues to venture into our great outdoors and even enjoyed tossing the Earth (ball) around in their "World of Wonder" class. The 2nd and 3rd graders have been busy: baking dog treats and crackers, making splints for First Aid and marshmallow figures for Day of the Dead, and building with Jello as they learn about famous UU's who lived out our Seven Principles.

Our 4th and 5th graders in "Harry and UU" ran a successful food drive benefitting Food Gatherers as part of their fight against the Hunger Horcrux. Now they are joining forces with Alpha House to fight the Poverty Horcrux through the annual "Giving Tree." Look for the tree to appear in our lobby soon! Each ornament lists an item that you can donate to help local families in need this holiday season.

Our 6th graders learned about Eastern religions, including hosting a guest speaker on Taoism and learning Tai Chi from UUAA member Ricardo Wyatt. They ended the month reviewing the many ways Unitarian Universalists understand their faith.

The OWL (Our Whole Lives) class continues to do the important work of teaching about sexuality, gender issues, and healthy relationships. In the wake of the recent election, the work this class does is even more important, so please give extra support to our wonderful teachers Jennifer Coffman, Angelina Zaytsev, Bob Dinan, and Kate VanHorn.

The YRUU class (10th-12th grade) discussed topics such as voting rights, self-care practices, and ground rules for having a dialogue. In a month focused on the national election, the youth got a chance to cast their own vote for the new YRUU Coordinators. The final results were the following: Ailita Eddy, Worship Coordinator; Allyn Syms-Meyers, Leader of Leaders; Lexi Morris, Right Relations Coordinator; and Madeline Bacolor, Social Action Coordinator.



They also kicked off the annual Apple Dumpling Sale, which continues until December 4. Look for their table during Social Hour or just follow your nose! Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase gifts for the children of Peace Neighborhood Center.

Rev. Cassandra Hartley
 Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development
cassandra@uuua.org



Activities and Events

First Fridays Holiday Party * Friday, December 2

FIRST FRIDAYS HOLIDAY PARTY

Ugly Christmas sweaters, karaoke,
 shared meal, games, and more!

Join the Holiday Celebration!

All ages are invited to dine, show off ugly holiday sweaters, sing holiday karaoke, visit with Santa, decorate holiday cookies, join a knitting circle, watch *Home Alone*, or play board games. Dinner starts at 6:00pm and activities follow.

Friday, December 2nd
6pm to 9pm



Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuua.org or Programs Coordinator Aaron Gibson at aaron@uuua.org.



21st Annual Evening of Sacred Song * Saturday, December 3

The entire community is invited to an evening of Sacred Song at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Sacred Song is a secular, multi-ethnic group of performers that gives voice to social change, peace, and justice. The group sings both a cappella and accompanied by an ensemble of some of the area's strongest talents on guitar, bass, keyboard, and percussion. The 2016 concert will feature local favorites Faye Askew-King, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Deborah Greene, D. Yarrow Halstead, Gwynne Jennings, Cathy Keresztesi-Stevens, Edie Lewis, Laura Machida, Jeff Pickell, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, La'Ron Williams, and Robin Wilson. Also featured are guest artists, including keyboard virtuoso Brian Buckner and guitarist Sam Clark.

The beneficiary this year is the grassroots, non-partisan Washtenaw County chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. The purpose of the contribution is to advance Washtenaw Moms' expressed interest in expanding their membership base, with a focus on eastern Washtenaw, to further promote gun violence prevention.

There is a suggested donation of \$20 at the door or \$15 for tickets purchased before Thursday, December 1. Children under 12 are free. Note: No one is turned away due to inability to pay. For tickets or questions, contact Edie Lewis at ohenewah49@gmail.com.



First Sunday Conversation about Race * Sunday, December 4



The Challenging Racism Group will offer the opportunity to reflect on what to do next, given the presidential election. All are welcome to attend at 1:00pm in the Brown Room. We use discussion guidelines similar to Chalice Circles' deep listening. Questions? Contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu.



2016 Interfaith Service of Affirmation * Tuesday, December 6



All are invited to the Annual Interfaith Service of Affirmation for transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, and intersex people, and their families, friends, and allies. St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth will host this service at 7:30pm at 2309 Packard, Ann Arbor. The theme this year is "One Family Undivided: Reclaiming the Blessing."

Featured speakers will be the Rev. Dr. Julie Nemecek, transgender activist, and Stephanie Lange, LMSW, ACSW, "Stand with Trans" facilitator, and ally mom. There will be a free-will offering for Transgender Michigan to advance their advocacy, support, education, and coalition building.

Music will be provided by Katie Geddes, Linda Greene, Rev. Jessie Gutsell, Brandy Sinco, Laszlo Slomovits, and David Vaughn. A reception will follow the service. Questions? Contact Margaret Pekarek at 734-395-7133 or mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, December 7

This will be the last chance to have dinner with UUAU seniors in 2016 at Gourmet Garden, 2255 Stadium at 6:00pm. It is also Pearl Harbor Day, so we can share our stories of where we were and what we remember about that historic day in 1941. No reservations are required. Just come and enjoy a good meal and good company. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Examining Whiteness * Saturday, December 17

Did you miss this fall's session of "Examining Whiteness"? We're running a special one-day intensive workshop from 9:00am to 4:00pm. We will also have parallel kids' tracks, one for older kids and one for younger kids. Space is limited. To register or to ask questions, contact Cristy Cardinal at cristycardinal@gmail.com.



UUAU Community of Writers * Sunday, December 18

Members of UUAU Community of Writers invite the congregation to a reading of their original work (memoir, fiction, journaling, creative non-fiction, poetry) to be held from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the Jackson Chapel. Light refreshments will be served after the reading. Come and show your support to this group that believes everyone can be a writer. Questions? Contact Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com or Kathy Edgren at kkedgren@gmail.com.



Announcements and News

Holiday Poinsettias



Place Your Poinsettia Order

UUAA will continue the long tradition of filling the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Services. Congregants can donate in the name of a loved one. Names of the honorees and donors are printed in an insert to the order of service. Orders may be placed in the Social Hall during Social Hour between November 27 and December 11. The cost per plant is \$15. Those who place orders may pick up their poinsettias after the last Christmas Eve service. Questions? Contact Rick Johnson at rrjohnson46@gmail.com.



Gift Delivered



Minister Emerita Rev. Gail Geisenhainer and Celeste DeRoche now have the table-size UUAA chalice the congregation commissioned from Kyle Connolly when Rev. Gail retired from UU ministry in August. Kyle is a former member living in Maine and artist/craftsman of the chalice we light each Sunday during worship. This gift is a symbol of our abiding love for Gail and Celeste. Thank you, Kyle!



CROP Hunger Walk 2016

This year the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice hosted its 41st Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, September 25. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools, and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. 75% of funds raised will be granted to Church World Service and their partner agencies. The remaining 25% will be granted to various local hunger and poverty relief organizations. This year, with 300 people participating, \$30,000 was donated on the day of the walk. Donations are still accepted (please contact ICPJ if you wish to contribute <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi/>)



This year the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation contributed \$5,765 to the annual CROP Walk. Thanks to all who pledged money and to walkers: Event Chair Connie Frederick, her assistant Jamie Todd, and Mindful Eating Members: Sheila Sanders, Cathy Muha, Eileen Wright, Guala Lauzzana and her granddaughter Raven Lauzzana. Colleen Crawley and Merrill Crockett helped raise Mindful Eating's share of the total (\$1,175) but were unable to walk that day. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



A Pilgrimage to the Other Side of the World



Representing all of the "Big Hearts" (a name given by the Khasis to those among us who sponsor students at the primary school in Mawksiyem) and carrying letters from them to the students they sponsor, a small group from the Ann Arbor congregation recently undertook a pilgrimage to northeast India.

In mid-October Allen Duncan, Cathie and Hal Breidenbach, Rick Johnson, and Cathy Doherty traveled

to the Khasi Hills to visit the students and teachers at the Unitarian Lower Primary School in Mawkisiem, which our congregational Sponsor-a-Student program has supported for 15 years. They were joined by Mark and Nancy Kinney from the UU Congregation of Petoskey.

The group also visited the Children's Village, an orphanage for Khasi Unitarian children and youth, spent time with Reverend Helpme Mohrmenin Jowai at the "mother church" of the Unitarian Union of North East India (UUNEI), and met with the UUNEI Education Committee to discuss current needs at the school in Mawkisiem and deliver a generous check from the "Big Hearts."

The high point of the pilgrimage was the school visit that included speeches, gifting, and a spirited welcome song. More performances took place on the playground outside ([click here for video](#)), and a delicious meal was prepared by the mothers and other helpers from the village, after which several home visits were made in smaller groups. On Sunday the pilgrims attended the service at the new church (dedicated in March of 2015), built in partnership with our congregation and named for Hajom Kissor Singh, the founder of Khasi Unitarianism, who was born - literally - just down the road from Mawkisiem.

Relationships that begin as letters between students and sponsors are solidified by visits such as these, and needs which may not be apparent via email can be more readily discovered. The sharing of time and self on the part of sponsors and students, as well as teachers, is truly a gift that gives both ways. Questions? Contact Cathy Doherty at mysarina@aol.com.



Farm Project Thanks You



On October 17, the Mindful Eating Team wrapped up our fifth year of the Food Gatherers Farm Project. Working on the property of Farmer Bill Schmid two or three times per week, our team pulled off another stellar year. Donations to Food Gatherers exceeded 3,100 pounds of fresh, delicious, nutritious produce, and another \$3,000 from sales at the farm's roadside stand. It is hard work, and we must contend with the weather,

insects, rodents, and the earth itself in order to grow this bounty for the hungry of Washtenaw County, but it is also fun and very worthwhile.

A core crew of regular weekly volunteers shored up the team, and we thank them for their leadership and dedication: Mary Ann Camron, Ken Clein, Merrill Crockett, Kathy Edgren, Guala Lauzzana, Connie McGuire, Kirsten Mogbo, Cathy Muha, Mike Muha, Eileen Wright, and Ricardo Wyatt. Although we were short-handed much of the time and had to reach out to the broader local food community, we were fortunate that many of our friends came through! The project could not have succeeded without the help of everyone who volunteered at least once this season, and we are grateful for all they contributed: Quincy Northrup, Christine Le Pottier, Anne Ramsey, Steve Nason, Paul Lalinsky, Angie Sullivan, Beth Hospadaruk, Melinda McKay, Nancy Biehn, Joel Wilkinson, Luke Wilkinson, Lisa Olsen, Annika Olsen, Carrie Kraeger, Johanna Mogbo, Diane Downer, Peggy Andreovich, Stone Circle members Shelley Poliner, Tiana Marquez, and Alisa Rastelli, Asma Amina Oral, Huda Syed, Eiliya Syed, Ibrahim Syed, Bilal Hassan, Aida Ali, Ruwaida Tootla, Laila Ebrahim, Ahmad Alsadah, Fatima Alsadah, the Thomas-Palmer Family, Vicki Davis, Kelly McRae, Kate Trujillo, Andrew DeQuiroz,

Niklas Heglin, Nate Iikubo, Ahshakee Moody, Pamela Wong, Kyle Arwood, and Bob Hospadaruk. Let's do it again next year! Questions? Contact Colleen Crawley at ccrawley59@comcast.net.



Prison Ministry

The Church of the Larger Fellowship, a UU congregation without walls, runs a significant prison ministry program. The first link below will let you know how you can participate by becoming a pen pal for the incarcerated. Take the time to see how we continue to keep those lost to many of their family members and communities in our hearts by letter writing.

The second link is an opportunity to give some money to support the programming that CLF provides for the prisoners. I have been writing to two prisoners for over 4 years now and know that it has meant something to both of them and it certainly has meant a lot to me. Please join in this endeavor to open up our prison ministry commitment at UUAA. Let me know if you have any questions about the letter writing.

<http://www.questformeaning.org/programs/prison-ministry/>

<http://www.faithify.org/projects/fund-hope-sponsor-a-clf-member-in-prison-today/>

Carolyn Madden
Co-chair, Social Justice Council
cgmadden@gmail.com



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



UUSC Director Tom Andrews sent out a message we all need to hear; the results of the recent election are not going to change our long-held values or the principles on which we move through the world. Our desire to make the world a better place, free of fear, xenophobia, bigotry, and hatred, can best be accomplished by striving together to carry on the healing work needed so desperately in so many parts of the world.

Mr. Andrews especially wants to reassure those who are part of the UUSC family in the wider world. Though our country has chosen a candidate whose values are not ours, those who receive our financial and moral support can be sure that UUSC will be steady in its resolve to work for the values and principles we honor.

The Service Committee is active at Standing Rock in South Dakota. Native Americans of many tribes have gathered to protest the passage of the Dakota Access pipeline, which is planned to pass through their sacred land and has a large potential to contaminate their water source. Over 50 Unitarian Universalist ministers are reported to be at the site. Our congregation is represented by congregant Terri Wilkerson.

On December 11, the Ken Burns film *Defying the Nazis: the Sharps War* will be shown in the Fahs Chapel at 1:00pm. This is a story of the commitment to values that called

upon extreme courage and skill in the Sharps' work to assist Jewish children and dissidents get out of Europe during World War II. Please join us for this thrilling testimonial to two amazing Unitarian Universalists. Questions or comments? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Office News

Building Schedule and Publication Deadlines

December Building Hours

December 1 - 23, 2016

Sundays | 9:00am-4:00pm

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

1st & 3rd Fridays | 5:00pm-9:00pm

Other Fridays | Closed

Saturdays | 9:00am-4:00pm

Church Office Hours through | Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, December 24 | 2:00pm-10:30pm

Sunday, December 25 | 9:00am-noon

Monday, December 26- Sunday, January 1 | The UUAA building will close Sunday, December 25, 2016 at noon and will reopen on Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 9:00am. There will be one 10:00am service on January 1, 2017.

The staff and volunteers give thanks as they use this time to restore their spirits, energy, and commitment to UUAA.

Telephone | 734-665-6158

Fax | 734-665-7895

General Email | office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUAA

Note the revised submissions schedule due to the holidays.

The deadline for submitting UUAA events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *Weekly Bulletin* is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Note: The revised *Weekly Bulletin* deadline for Sunday, December 25 is Monday, December 19 at 9:00am. There will be no *Weekly Bulletin* on Sunday, January 1. 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 *2017 January Newsletter* is Wednesday, December 14 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.



