



# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

## December Monthly Newsletter

December 2017 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 12

### Congregational Links

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

### Other Links of Interest

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

## Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

*December's worship theme explores what it means to be a people of **Hope**.  
**All are welcome.***

### The Worship Planning Team | December 2017

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

Rev. Doug Wadkins, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

Allison Halerz, Pianist-In-Residence

theresa rohlick, Chalice Bells Director

Brianne Boyd, Chalice Sparks Director

### **December 3 | The Active, Present Hope Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am**

"Faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart, but is itself this unquiet heart in [all of us]. Those who hope...can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it. [True hope] means conflict with the world, for the goad of the promised future stabs inexorably into the flesh of every unfulfilled present."

- Theologian Jürgen Moltmann

### **December 10 | Hope and Our Calling Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am**

We, as individuals and as a community, are called by hope and love to seek a sense of our purpose as we encounter the complex truths of the world. Come, explore this calling in the midst of the holy days of this season. What is love asking of this community in light of all that we know to be true? What is hope asking of you?

**December 17 | We Dream in the Darkness: Solstice Worship for All Ages  
Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am**

\*Please Note: There are no SGD classes K - 12; the 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's "Dark of Winter" (SLT Hymn 55)

**December 24 | Christmas Eve  
Worship | 11:30am, 6:00pm, & 8:00pm  
Family Choir Rehearsal | 10:30am**

\*Please Note: There are no SGD classes K - 12; the Nursery & Preschool will be closed, and there is no Social Hour after services.

**10:30am | Family Choir Rehearsal**

We invite families of all kinds to sing in the 11:30am pop-up choir. At 10:30, Chalice Sparks Director Brianne Boyd will turn us all into a Christmas choir in one 45-minute rehearsal! No choral experience is necessary. Rehearsal will be held in the Sanctuary.

**11:30am | A Service for All Ages**

A Christmas worship service crafted for all ages. We will recreate the ancient story of the birth of Jesus with a **"no-rehearsal" pageant** that is sure to be both moving and hilarious! We will be selecting participants right before service, so come a little early if you want to be sure to get a part. Participants can be any age and no reading or acting abilities are necessary.

A reminder: there are no classes for children during this service and the nursery and preschool will be closed. But we will have plenty of family-friendly seating in the service.

**6:00pm & 8:00pm | Carols & Candelight**

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.

**December 31 | Begin with Stillness  
Worship | 10:00am**

We look to a new year of spiritual quest and community building, heeding the wisdom of contemporary UU theologian Kathleen McTigue. We "pause for a moment on the forming edges of our lives, to resist the headlong tumble into the next moment." We offer one another a service of stillness to focus our common energy for the work ahead.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout  
Director of Worship & Music  
[glenthomas@uuaa.org](mailto:glenthomas@uuaa.org)



## In the Interim Rev. Doug Wadkins



### On a Cold Winter's Night...

Light fades, of course, with the oncoming of dusk;  
I faithfully note the rheostat dial of day  
That will rise to brilliance, weaken as it must  
Through each uncalibrated shade of gray,

One of them that of winter afternoons,  
Desolate, leaden, and in its burden far  
Deeper than darkness, engrossing in its tones  
Those shrouded regions where the meanings are.

– Anthony Hecht

So much of this season deals with the interplay of light and dark, of change and promises of transformation. The lived poetry of the season speaks to our ears, eyes, touch, and imagination. Sometimes the perception is garish and vivid, sometimes somber and subtle, sometimes joyous, and sometimes bittersweet. Such is winter. For me, wherever I have lived, winter has always been an experience of mystery. Will the day bring the interplay of gray and light, will it be soggy and damp, will it be snowy and silent or sparkling, sunnily vivid, and crisp? Any of these experiences is capable of evoking a range of feelings and food for contemplation. Each may be an experience of illumination.

In our lives, the ways that we come to know something more clearly, enlighten ourselves, lighten our load, and light our path are experienced in a surprising variety. It isn't a requirement for it to be pleasant - for it to be illuminating. One winter, sitting in my car on the side of the road while a fierce and icy snowstorm obscured first the road and then the car windows, I thought, hmmm, I am many many miles from anyone I know. I am not sure if my car can navigate these treacherous roads.... What will I do? In that moment, I felt my vulnerability and fragility with such clarity. But I also found my calm, my deepest breaths, and the irrepressible call to be home. I moved on and forward. Much about life was learned very quickly, within a few seconds really: Finitude and possibility!

Many cultures have used the long nights of winter and the subtle interplay of dark, white, gray, and light as the perfect elements for plumbing the depths of the human

heart and soul. We share our images, songs, and stories with one another, bridging centuries and cultures, and from that rich exchange, we find such rich source material for illumination. They spark the imagination through holidays, the sacred power of nature, the complexities of the human heart, the mysteries of white, light, and dark. As Unitarian Universalists, we have so many hopeful options. Our December services explore many stories, songs, and images for the season and this month, our theme of HOPE!

This season, and this year especially, the metaphor of the cold winter seems worldwide. Now more than ever, being together, we will shape meaning on a cold winter's night... or day even. Join us this month, in community; we will find many moments of hope! Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Peace and love,  
Doug

Rev. Doug Wadkins  
Senior Interim Minister  
[doug@uuuaa.org](mailto:doug@uuuaa.org)



## Upon Reflection Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



Just over a year ago, I shaved my head. As I wrote in this column at the time, it was my way of embodying fearlessness as we entered a period that promised to test our resolve. Unfortunately, events over the past twelve months have followed through on that bleak promise - and more pervasively than I'd ever imagined.

Lately, one particular line from a hymn has been on near-constant repeat in my head: "I'll give you hope when hope is hard to find" (from #346 *Come, Sing a Song with Me*). For me, the decision not to give myself over to complete despair is an act of resistance.

I certainly have moments of despair - what empathetic person wouldn't, after yet another shooting at yet another church and yet another school? But I also choose to remind myself of the people who have helped each other escape, the medical personnel who have tended to wounds, and the activists who are organizing for gun control and against domestic violence (54% of mass shooters have a history of domestic violence).

This kind of hope isn't shallow, Pollyanna, wishful thinking. This hope is the undertow that keeps us from crashing on the rocks by pulling us past the rough murk and out to a vantage point where we can see the shoreline more fully. It moves with the power of an ocean, and as with the ocean, hope never carries any guarantees - but it is where life can begin.

What helps you find hope when hope is hard to find?

Peace,  
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich  
Assistant Minister  
[Lindasusan@uuaa.org](mailto:Lindasusan@uuaa.org)



## Ministerial Search Team (MST) News



We are so excited to be in this quite intense period of the search process! Here is a brief update.

We have been analyzing and synthesizing information, organizing the video and interview data, preparing the congregational portfolio - a website that will showcase all of our good qualities and blemishes to interested ministers. We are also learning about our own biases through participation in a specially designed version of the Examining Whiteness program.

Now, you may be wondering:

"Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I'm living with? How will the community respond to our minister?"

In answering these questions, a picture of the "ideal minister" (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) may come to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our "picture," we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On the weekend of January 6 and 7, UUAA will participate in the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" (BCT) program offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. We invite ALL congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate!

The "Beyond Categorical Thinking" program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a three-hour BCT workshop on Saturday morning, from 9:30am to 1:30pm (with lunch) and Sunday morning services with a facilitator trained by the UUA. In the Saturday morning workshop, we will do the following:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns we have for a new minister.
- Learn more about the ministerial search process.
- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

Come on Saturday, January 6 at 9:30am to participate in this UUA-sponsored workshop, led by Keith Kron. We will meet in the Sanctuary. A light lunch will be served.

Please register by clicking on [this link](https://goo.gl/RzZHJa): <https://goo.gl/RzZHJa> so we can plan sustenance accordingly. Childcare will be available.



The "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process. This experience will provide guidance for the Ministerial Search Team to do the best work we can.



## Activities and Events

Friday Fun Holiday Dinner \* Friday, December 1



### UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT AND HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 1  
6:00pm-9:00pm

## A Long Winter's Night

### Featuring:

- \* Wear your Pajamas!
- \* Soup and Sandwiches
- \* Spectacular Desserts
- \* Menorah Making
- \* Ornament Making
- \* Pinecone Hunt
- \* Karaoke
- \* Tree Decorating



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUAA.ORG

Friday Fun Nights: September through May

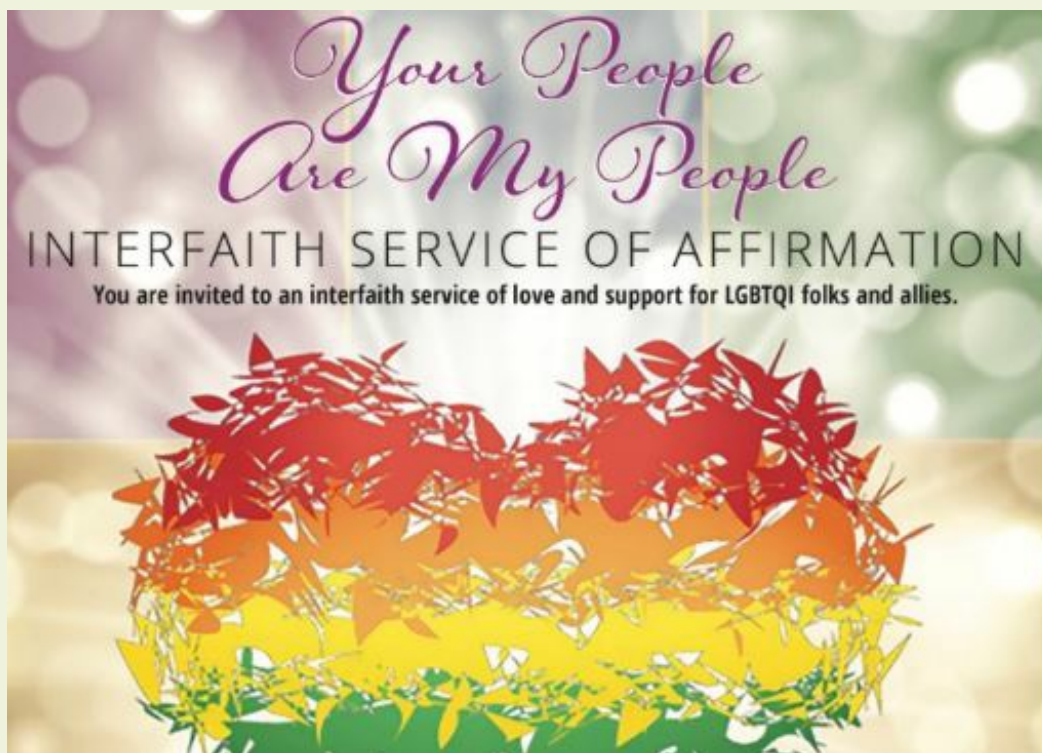


## Plant-Powered Family Potluck \* Saturday, December 2

Please join us for a vegan potluck in the Fahs Chapel from noon-2:00pm. Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. This month we will be holding our potluck in a nut-free zone, so we ask that your dish contain no nuts. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, share information, and eat delicious food! It is very helpful if you provide your own table service and serving tools. Questions? Contact Sheila Sanders at 734-645-0405 or [sheilasanders@comcast.net](mailto:sheilasanders@comcast.net).



## Service of Affirmation \* Tuesday, December 5



UUAA is hosting our community's Annual Interfaith Service of Affirmation for transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, questioning, and intersex people, their families, friends, and allies. Join us at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. The theme for this year's service is "Your People Are My People." The featured speaker will be Rev. Theresa Ines Soto, interim minister at the UU Congregation of Flint.

As a Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Theresa I. Soto works to build *Beloved Community* through stories, experiential learning, and accesses to beauty, such as music, art, and mathematics. Rev. Soto is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and has served the denomination through the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee, EqUUal Access, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association's Ableism Task Force. Previous careers include being a teacher and a lawyer.

A free-will offering will be taken for Immigration Equality, "providing advice and legal services to thousands of LGBTQ and HIV-positive immigrants seeking refuge, fair treatment, and freedom in the United States." Music will be provided by Jean Chorazyczewski, Lori Fithian, Katie Geddes, Regina Lambert-Hayut, Brandy Sinco, Laz Slomovits, and David Vaughn.



A social gathering will follow the service in the Social Hall. All are welcome!  
Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at [joburleigh@aol.com](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com).



## Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group \* Wednesday, December 6

If you are caring for someone with memory loss, you are invited to join a monthly drop-in support group sponsored by the UUAA Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association.

The first meeting of the support group is Wednesday, December 6 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the Brown Room. We will continue to meet the first Wednesday of every month at that time. Facilitators are UUAA members trained by the Alzheimer's Association. This drop-in group is open to both members of our congregation and the community at large. Come when you can and wish to attend, regularly or irregularly.

For many caregivers, a support group is a place to exhale. It is a safe and confidential place to ask questions, share stories, thoughts and concerns; give and receive comfort and hope; learn coping strategies; and access current information. It offers the opportunity to connect with others who truly understand the journey.

For more information contact Joan at [joburleigh@aol.com](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com), or Sandy at [sandykunkle@gmail.com](mailto:sandykunkle@gmail.com) or Meredith at [meredith1888@gmail.com](mailto:meredith1888@gmail.com).



## Senior Dinner Out \* Wednesday, December 6



The last monthly Senior Dinner for 2017 will be held at 6:00pm at Hot Pot Chen (formerly Gourmet Garden) at 2255 West Stadium. Please join us for good company and good food. No reservation is required. Questions? Contact Marie Duke

at [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com) or 769-0467.



## UUAA Women's Breakfast \* Saturday, December 9

It's time for UUAA women to get together and solve the world's problems or at least have breakfast together! Join us and invite your women friends at UUAA to come along for the fun. These regularly scheduled breakfasts are held at 8:15am at the Classic Cup Café at 4389 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. If you plan to come, please let Roylea Furniss know by Friday morning, December 8, so she can give an accurate count to the restaurant. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Roylea Furniss at 734-623-1506 or [refurniss@gmail.com](mailto:refurniss@gmail.com).



## Introduction to Our Faith \* Saturday, December 9

Join us in the Fahs Chapel from 10:00am to 2:30pm to learn





about the history of Unitarian Universalism, explore how to get involved, and share your spiritual quest with others. This workshop, taught by Rev. Doug Wadkins and Rev. Cassandra Hartley, along with Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss, is great for those totally new to UU and for those who are ready to sign the membership book. [Register here](#) or pick up a registration form at the

Involvement Table on Sundays. The childcare request deadline for this event was November 24 but email Hannah directly to see if there is an open space in the childcare group. Questions? Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuua.org](mailto:hannah@uuua.org).



## Detroit Handbell Ensemble Holiday Concert \* Saturday, December 9



The UUAA Music Team invites you to the Sanctuary at 4:00pm to experience the joy of handbell music at a free Detroit Handbell Ensemble concert. The Detroit Handbell Ensemble will be performing a variety of traditional and contemporary holiday-inspired music. Our sanctuary will be filled with more lovely music. Bring your family and friends and enjoy! Questions?

Contact [theresa rohlick](mailto:theresa.rohlick@uuua.org) at [theresa@uuua.org](mailto:theresa@uuua.org).



## Community of Writers Holiday Reading \* Sunday, December 10

The UUAA Community of Writers is happy to invite the congregants to begin their holiday celebrations by attending a Holiday Reading of original stories, poems, memoir, and prose poems from 1:15pm to 2:45pm in Jackson Chapel following the second service!

This will be the third Holiday Reading the Writers have presented. The Writers customarily present a wide variety of writings, focusing on many subjects, each written with personal expression. After the readings, everyone is invited to enjoy coffee, cookies, and conversation with the writers, their families, and friends.

The Community of Writers meets on the second Sunday of each month to share their writings and give each other appreciative, positive feedback. The participants also share leadership of the meetings, suggesting the topics and /or writing methods to be explored, so that everyone's interests can be experienced together.

The Community of Writers welcomes everyone in the congregation to attend this Holiday Reading and enjoy the presentation of creative writing!

Questions? Contact UUAA Community of Writers facilitator Mary Lund at [mlund@mi.rr.com](mailto:mlund@mi.rr.com).



## Upcoming Events

### Faces of Faith VII \* Sunday, January 14

One of the annual programs that the Interfaith Round Table (IRT) offers the community is a "face to face" experience with people



from many different religious and spiritual backgrounds. This year we have six presenters ready to talk about the joys and misconceptions that come with their tradition or beliefs.

Interfaith Round Table  
of Washtenaw County

Come listen to and engage with a Hindu, an Interfaith minister, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Jew, and a Catholic. Join us from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Zion Lutheran Church, located at 1501 West Liberty, Ann Arbor. If you have questions, contact George Lambrides at [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).

## Doing Our Own Work: An Anti-Racism Seminar for White People

*Doing Our Own Work*, a training offered by Allies for Change, helps white people claim and embody an anti-racist identity, understand the privilege they carry, and deepen their capacity to recognize and interrupt racism - so that they can step up with humility and consistency to participate in organizations led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action.

**Location:** First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

**Leaders:** Dessa Cosma and Melanie S. Morrison

**Dates:** Three Friday-Saturday sessions, 9 am-5 pm: February 23 & 24, March 16 & 17, and April 13 & 14 (attendance all six days is required)

**Cost:** \$475 (scholarships are available)

For more information and to register, go to <http://alliesforchange.org/doow-ann-arbor.html>.

## Announcements and News

### UUAA Alpha House



Thank you to all who volunteered to serve at Alpha House (AH) during our Thanksgiving host week! Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing temporary homelessness in Washtenaw County. We will recognize November volunteers in the *January Newsletter*.

If you have volunteered in their kitchen, you may have wondered how AH addresses food waste, so we asked the AH volunteer coordinator to provide some light on this topic:

**Q.** What happens to all of the food that isn't eaten during the dinner hours?

**A.** *Our dinner volunteers (or staff) repackage and label leftovers from each meal and refrigerate them. Our staff reheats them for families who come home later in the evening and puts them out for lunch packing and weekend lunches. When food cannot be reused it goes to a local chicken farmer to use as feed in*

exchange for fresh eggs!

Q. Why do we prepare meals for 25 people?

A. We estimate that we will be feeding 25 people each evening because Alpha House usually has 16-18 residents, 4-6 staff, and two dinner volunteers who will be enjoying dinner together. There are times when the refrigerator is packed with leftovers, but there are also times when they do not have enough food at dinner and struggle to find leftovers for lunches; the staff then dips into the pantry for canned soup and mac & cheese. Estimating food consumption is an inexact science, and they would rather have too much than not enough.

Q. What is UUAU doing differently to deal with food waste?

A. Our volunteers noticed that bringing fruit salad every night resulted in the fruit going bad too quickly in the refrigerator. So instead we ask for ripe bananas 2-3 times per week.

If you volunteer at Alpha House and have feedback about your experience there, or if you would like to learn more about volunteering or donating for a host week, please contact Angela Barber at [abarber@gmail.com](mailto:abarber@gmail.com).



## SGD News: CONtagious at UUAU



On November 3, UUAU welcomed 55 high schoolers from six different congregations around Michigan and Indiana into our building for a weekend-long lock-in event, CONtagious. The event was collaboratively planned by the Heartland Area Youth Council (HAYC) and UUAU. The weekend was a great success, and much of the credit goes to the youth leaders who planned programming for the entire weekend. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of what the youth got up to.

On our end, UUAU supplied 15 adult volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean up meals, as well as be overnight chaperones (the best shift is midnight to 4:00am), and be on call for emergency medical situations. Special thanks go out to Spencer Thomas, who was our congregational representative and stayed at the building the whole weekend. He assures me that he actually was able to sleep, too!

Youth CONs are integral for connecting our youth with like-minded UUs from around the country. It gives them access to a broader community and a sense that what we do here is not isolated, but part of a larger whole. I am proud that we were able to do our part to help that community grow. Thank you all for your support of these vital youth ministries.

Mark VanKempen  
SGD Coordinator and YRUU Lead Advisor  
[markv@uuaa.org](mailto:markv@uuaa.org)



The Mindful Eating Team completed another successful season of our Food Gatherers Farm Project. This was our sixth year of growing and harvesting fresh produce on the property of "Farmer Bill" Schmid, as part of a Faith & Food Garden that benefits Food Gatherers, and it was our best year to date! From May through October, our team donated 3,756 pounds of fresh, delicious, and nutritious vegetables and fruit, and another \$3,515 from sales at the roadside stand. Combined donations for all the years we have been participating in this program are over 15,000 pounds of food and almost \$13,000. This year we were also awarded a grant from the Washtenaw Master Gardeners, which was used to offset the cost of seeds and materials, and our project was recognized at their banquet in November.

Another way we measure success is in the number of volunteers and the hours worked on the farm, and we are extremely proud of these numbers as well. 60 individuals and five groups came to our aid, some of them over and over again, all summer long; we had more than a dozen people who worked 20 or more hours with us! There are so many people who contributed to the success of this year's Farm Project. If you see one of the following people, please let them know you appreciate their contribution in the fight against hunger in Washtenaw County. And if your name is not on this list, please think about joining us next year! For more information, contact Colleen Crawley at [ccrawley59@gmail.com](mailto:ccrawley59@gmail.com).

*Cheryl & Annie Barget, Anika & Anjali Bhandari, Nancy Biehn, Hanh Bui, Terry Butcher, Mary Ann Camron, Ken Clein, Colleen Crawley, Merrill Crockett & Merrill's grandson Tony, Diane Downer, Kathy Edgren, Karen Hale, Jenny & Lee Hannibal, Beth Hospadaruk, Kate Hutchens, Shannon Koenig, Guala Lauzzana; Christine, Yves, Sophie & Nick LePottier & Ben; Kate Lewis & children; Richard Mann, Connie McGuire, Kirsten Mogbo, Cathy & Mike Muha, Quincy Northrup, Lisa & Annika Olsen; Terri, Jim, Anna & Jack Palacios; Scott & Yvette Peacor; Margaret Pekarek, Anthony Pomo, Tim Richards, Barb Schmid, Erik Stalhandske, Jaye Starr & Neffa, Ryan & Finn Szpiech, Kathryn Thomas-Palmer & Family, Chelsea Valdes-Pierce, Mark VanKempen, Joel Wilkinson, Laurin Wolf, Eileen Wright, Ricardo Wyatt, Annabel & Paul, the women of Stone Circle, Eric Ericson & the 7th Grade SGD class, Coming of Age mentors & mentees, Jenny McKillop & German International Exchange Students, and Thomson-Reuters Ann Arbor.*



## Partner Church: Transylvania



A big thank you to all who provided such a wonderfully warm and gracious welcome to our Transylvanian Partner Church minister and his wife, Istvan and Csilla Buzogany-Csoma. Many people came up to speak to them wherever they were...at choir, at Men's and Women's Council meetings, at the Habitat dedication, at Motawi Tile. Istvan and Csilla felt included in our lives. There are some special thanks I want to offer:

- The planning committee: Nancy and Steve Schewe, Cathy and Mike Muha, and Jan Bower.
- The Schewes and the Muhas for opening their homes, as well as providing chauffeur service to the many events and shopping trips.



- Rev. Doug for providing some spending money.
- The UUAA choir for welcoming them into a Thursday rehearsal.
- The UUAA staff for providing a wonderful lunch and opportunity to learn more.
- Kenji Yano for organizing a jam session.
- Margaret Pekarek for donating her high school guitar and a ukulele.
- Jan Bower for providing a Hungarian meal and Ken Phifer for fitting us into his busy schedule.

We shared photos of most activities on Facebook. Almost all photos are now available on Flickr (no signon is needed) at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/28133392@N02/albums/72157687955573911>.

As Istvan and Csilla mentioned, the Transylvanian Unitarian Church is beginning the planning for a giant celebration of the Edict of Torda, proclaimed by Francis David in 1578. This proclamation of religious tolerance was heretical then...and still today for many. We will be thinking about how we might join in the celebration. Csilla's words as she left...*"We are waiting for you."* Please let me know if you'd like to be included in thinking about how we can participate, either individually or as a group, in a visit to Transylvania or a celebration here at home. Feel free to contact me at [pav@umich.edu](mailto:pav@umich.edu).

Phyllis Valentine



## QUUest Bookstore

### Let QUUest Bookstore Help with Your Holiday Shopping

Are you buying a gift and not sure what the recipient would really like? Select a QUUest Bookstore Gift Certificate. You can specify any amount. Our gift certificates have no expiration date. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at [heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:heinoldcia@aol.com).



## Social Justice News: Social Justice Award

The Michigan UU Social Justice Network ([MUUSJN](http://muusjn.org))



celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, November 11, with a party at Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton.

MUUSJN asked each congregation in the state to nominate one of their members to be honored at this event as a Justice Leader of 2017. UUAA's Social Justice Council selected Cheryl Valentine as our nominee for her outstanding leadership as a member of the Immigration Action Coalition (IAC), which culminated in our congregational meeting on October 22, where 98% of the members in attendance voted to become a Level 1 Sanctuary Congregation.

IAC was formed in 2015 in response to a Sunday service on "Welcoming the Stranger," where congregants recounted the history of UUAA's decision in 1987 to become a Sanctuary Congregation for an El Salvadoran family. IAC undertook the goal of building on this legacy by guiding UUAA through the process of becoming a sanctuary for immigrants facing deportation. This involved researching legal and logistical implications, establishing relationships with other congregations, collaborating with two interfaith immigration groups in Washtenaw County, and educating our congregation. Cheryl's initiative, persistence, patience, and passion for immigrant justice were instrumental in the work leading up to our recent successful vote. UUAA is now ready to put our faith into action by providing sanctuary once again.

Please join the Social Justice Council in congratulating Cheryl on becoming a MUUSJN Justice Leader.



## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project



Are you looking for special gifts? The season is coming up fast, and we have hand-made fabric gift bags for your purchases. There are winter, holiday, fall, and general patterns in all sizes to pick from. Make your purchase and get a gift bag! Choose from fair trade chocolates, fruit and nut bars, coffee, teas, nuts, dried fruits, and Palestinian olive oils while supporting small farm cooperatives globally and fundraising for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation! Stop by our table during social hour. Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at [ilene.beninson@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.beninson@gmail.com).



## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The money gathered provides financial support to their ongoing work aiding grass roots partner organizations in more than 70 locations around the world. Syria, Burma, and the Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Service (RAICES) in Texas all need our help. Beginning in 1938, UUSC founders Waitstill and Martha Sharp spent years working in Europe. They made

possible the escape of important leaders, scientists, spokespersons, and children from Nazi capture. Theirs was an example of incredible courage, firmed by their conviction that we Unitarians had a moral obligation to reach out to those in the wider world whose rights and lives were threatened.

The need is great, as we see from the daily news, for people fleeing wars, fleeing the effects of climate change, or from unjust judicial systems. Work is also underway to assist those caught in natural disasters to rebuild their communities and to gather those who will build grass roots efforts to speak for their rights that have been blocked by their governments.

Take a small Guest at Your Table coin collection box to have at home to remind you of the need. The cost of annual membership to the UUSC is \$40. A donation of \$125 or more will be matched dollar for dollar. You can give online at [UUSC.org/givetoguest](http://UUSC.org/givetoguest) or send a check using the envelopes on the UUSC Table during Sunday Social Hour. Empty your change into the container there and in the foyer. Every coin counts. We will wrap up the drive on Sunday, December 10. UUSC is a 501(c)(3) organization with a four star rating from Charity Navigator.

Questions or comments? Contact Quincy Northrup at [qnorthrup@gmail.com](mailto:qnorthrup@gmail.com).



## Welcome to Our Newest Members

### Jared Boot



Originally from Michigan, Jared Boot is first generation UU. He is a passionate volunteer for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) and is studying to become a psychologist. His interests include political activism and classic literature. At UUAA, he has developed a fondness for the Humanist Study Group.



### Karen Hale



Karen has been attending UUAA for four years. Interweave brought her in, and there she was fortunate to meet Leigh Robertson. Chalice Circles are what allowed Karen to broaden and deepen her connection to this spiritual community. Being distrustful of organized religion for a very long time, it took Karen a while to commit to the congregation. But now this liberal, thoughtful, loving, spiritual community center is vital to her and she is looking forward to continuing her spiritual and personal journey as part of the community. She thanks you all for being here.



### Lisa Henn & John Kasab

John is from metro Washington, DC. Lisa grew up in the central time zone, moving every few years from state to state. They met



at Washington University in St. Louis and pursued engineering careers. Life together has taken them from Wisconsin to Sweden to Michigan and then Minnesota, where Lisa completed a PhD in Biostatistics. She now works at Arbor Research Collaborative for Health in downtown Ann Arbor, and John works at AVL in Plymouth. Carl came along toward the end of Lisa's graduate work. Now four years old, he enjoys stories, trucks, kitties, and pasta.



## Jeannine LaPrad & David Dickinson



Jeannine LaPrad and David Dickinson each came to Ann Arbor (separately) for graduate school in the mid-1990s - and despite other original intentions, have not left. Finding UUAA about a year ago adds to engaging community, family, and interesting work that keeps them in the Midwest, where they both grew up. Each works with nonprofits in the area: Jeannine exploring and supporting education and labor force transitions in Detroit and other cities nationally, and David designing research tools for health care policy and practice.

Jeannine was born in Detroit and has lived in Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and South Texas. She has a strong sense of place/home wherever she's in nature, but the Huron River in Ann Arbor and Peach Mountain nearby hold a special connection. David grew up in Indianapolis, then lived in Philadelphia and Washington DC, but has always been connected to the woods, lakes, and rivers of northern Michigan.

Together they enjoy discovering meals, being outside cycling or backpacking, playing with Bernese mountain dogs Pela and Jackson, and chasing bluegrass festivals.



## Office and Building News

### Publication Deadlines: Note Special Holiday Deadlines

#### ***Weekly Bulletin***

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to [bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org) by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

***Amended Deadlines for the Sunday, December 24 & 31 Bulletin and the January Newsletter.***

#### ***Weekly Bulletin Deadline for Sundays, December 24 & 31, 2017***

There will be a combined edition of the Sunday December 24 & 31 Bulletins. The deadline for the *Sunday, December 24/31 Bulletin* is **Monday, December 18 at 9:00am.**

#### ***January Newsletter Deadline***



Submissions for the *January Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org) by **9:00am on Thursday, December 14.**

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org)



## Building Hours

### **December 1 to 21, 2017**

**Sundays** | 8:30am-4:00pm

**Monday-Thursdays** | 9:00am-9:00pm

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays** | 5:00pm-9:00pm

**Other Fridays** | Closed

**Saturdays** | 9:00am-5:00pm

### **Holiday Building Hours**

**Friday-Saturday, December 22-23** | Closed for the Holidays

**Sunday, December 24** | 10:00am-1:00pm & 4:00pm-9:30pm (services at 11:30am, 6:00pm, & 8:00pm)

**Monday-Saturday, December 25-30** | Closed for the Holidays

**Sunday, December 31** | 9:00am-2:00pm; one worship service at 10:00am

**Monday, January 1** | Closed for the Holiday



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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | [office@uuaa.org](mailto:office@uuaa.org) | 734-665-6158 | [www.uuuaa.org](http://www.uuuaa.org)

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