

- Rev. Wendy Bartel

September 10, 2017 | Water Communion : An Ingathering for All Ages

Services at 9:30am & 11:30am (Two-Service Sundays Begin Today)

All of us together: all ages, all perspectives. Gather and join in, sing and reflect.

Bring a bit of water. Bring water that symbolizes the essence of your summer. Or pour from the pitchers we've drawn from our UUAA well. We'll gather the waters into a common bowl.

Celebrate the regathering of our congregation as we begin the new church year!

September 17, 2017 | Radical Welcome Services at 9:30am & 11:30am

"We sit together and I tell you things...That only my God has heard me say. You do not cluck your tongue at me Or roll your eyes...

You stay with me in the dark. You urge me into being. You make room in your heart for my voice... I see my future Self in you...

Just enough to leave The familiar in the past where it belongs."

- Margaret Wolff

September 24, 2017 | The Practice of Hospitality Services at 9:30am & 11:30am

"The ancient spiritual practice of Hospitality asks us to encounter one of the crucial questions of the human experience-how are we connected to the stranger, and especially those who become the object of our fear and intolerance?

How deeply connected our answer to these questions is to important truths about our relationship to the Sacred, to our deepest selves, to our understanding of our relationship to all that is."

- Rev. Doug Wadkins



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

In the Interim Rev. Doug Wadkins



An important gift of the interim period is to discover together

Here we are - all of us - all upon this planet, bound together in a common destiny, living our lives between the briefness of the daylight and the dark. kindred in this, each lighted by the same precarious, flickering flame of life, how does it happen that we are not kindred in all things else?

How strange and foolish are these walls of separation that divide us! -- A. Powell Davies

We move into September and our theme of Welcome. It might appear to be a mildmannered theme, but in my experience to really let the the theme encounter our lives with an openness to all that it asks us to look at and open ourselves up to is to touch on many of the essential tasks of our humanity. For instance, often in considering welcome within the context of being a community of faith, we make it mostly about the external. What we say, what we do on Sundays, that suggests that we are glad that visitors are here. That IS important work, but often we neglect to think about what happens within us as we prepare to truly make room for others. What are we REALLY saying when we wish to convey welcome? You are welcome as long as you look and act much as I do? You are welcome as long as your presence doesn't make me uncomfortable? What do we understand as an enduring foundation for the how and why we welcome, and how deeply does it connect with the essence of our humanity?

Given what has been and is happening in our country and the world, welcome is so much more than a social nicety; it is a lifeline to a greater truth than division and fear. Welcome is certainly an invitation to opening our own lives up to being changed by the process of moving from seeing the "the stranger" as Guest and then Friend and ultimately as someone essential to our own well-being.

This time of transition within this congregation is also an important opportunity to think about some core aspects of what it means to welcome a new senior minister into your lives. What sort of expectations are reasonable for your new lead minister? What will you do with the inevitable ways that this singular human being will disappoint these expectations? What choices in senior minister will change the perception of who is welcome within the congregation? Beginning this fall, exploring welcome is a perfect opportunity to give some meaningful attention to core questions of who you want to be, both as individuals and as a community. Answering these questions offer powerful insight into what leadership will help you realize this vision. To do this work well and faithfully helps create a space that deepens the life-giving possibility for belonging, and offers that gift to each of us - meeting us where we are. I look forward to what we discover together as we begin this important year! See you in September!

With great excitement and expectation, Doug

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

Upon Reflection Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



"Charlottesville isn't a 'wake-up call.' It's the same alarm that's been ringing since 1640. Y'all just keep hitting snooze." - Nicole Lee

As a new church year begins at UUAA, events in the wider world bring with them a renewed call to live out our values as a religious community. But that call often comes with more questions than answers.

- * What are the particular gifts I bring to the struggle for justice?
- * What does courage look like for me?
- * How well am I listening to the people most directly affected by an issue?
- * What actions do I consider violence? When, if ever, is it justifiable? Who gets to decide?
- * What spiritual obstacles block my ability to show up fully?
- * When my deepest commitments conflict, how do I discern a way forward?
- * What does it mean to practice welcome in a time like this?

I encourage you to sit with questions like these, ruminate on them, and discuss them with people you trust. Answers may take a while to come - or may remain ambiguous indefinitely. By thinking through them now, though, you'll be better prepared when faced with decisions down the road.

Peace,

Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich Assistant Minister <u>lindasusan@uuaa.org</u>

President's Message Erik Stalhandske



Sanctuary vote: In the 1980s, our congregation voted to accept and support a sanctuary family from El Salvador to live in our carriage house on our previous grounds.That relationship lasted for decades as the children grew and attended college with support from a generous congregant, and all made their way in the world. This act profoundly impacted our sense of living our values in a concrete and meaningful way. On Sunday, October 22 we will again consider becoming a sanctuary site. Please educate yourself about the

proposal-there are events planned, and a table during Social Hour in the Social Hall will have <u>information about Sanctuary</u>.

Which wolf do we feed? A myth attributed to the Cherokee speaks to the struggle each of us has with two wolves within us fighting for dominance. One represents greed, envy, arrogance, and ego. The other wolf embodies joy, hope, generosity, and faith. When the elder is questioned which wolf will win, he answers whichever one we choose to feed. Are you conscious of which wolf you feed?

Board retreat: In August the Board had a day-long retreat with author Susan Beaumont as a guest speaker. She works with congregations on organizational dynamics and attributes of success. We have the size and budget of a larger congregation (professional size); however, our mindset and operations remain that of a smaller congregation. We are on the cusp–a sometimes awkward adolescent trying on new behaviors without complete confidence or skill. All of us–congregants, lay leaders, board, staff, and ministerial team–have a part to play as we fine tune operations.

If I had a hammer: For years, our congregation has been one of the pillars of Habitat for Humanity (H4H) in Washtenaw County. We provide financial support and warm bodies as we address that most basic of needs–shelter. Props to long time organizers Barb Pickett, Sandy Simon, and Mike Muha. Regardless of skill level, H4H has a task for you–pick up the hammer!

Best, Erik

Erik Stalhandske President of the Board president@uuaa.org

Ministerial Search Team (MST) News

Since it was called, your Ministerial Search Team has been working on various tasks that will lead us to identify a senior minister who will be the best match for our congregation. In early July, we held a retreat



that helped us understand the full process and decide on the roles that each member of the team would take. We created a covenant, defined a timeline for major activities, and began to set up various forms of communication to keep everyone updated on our work. This is our first *Monthly Newsletter* update. For more information, please refer to the UUAA website link <u>www.uuaa.org/mst</u> and to the Ministerial

Search Team bulletin board, located on the left as you enter the Social Hall. Relevant updates will also be published in the *Weekly Bulletin*.

You can find the search timeline on both the website and on the MST bulletin board. We are putting together a set of materials that will describe our congregation and the minister we are seeking. As part of this effort, we are inviting all to let us know about wants, needs, hopes, and aspirations for our new senior minister. We want to hear from the youngest to the oldest, the newcomer and the old-timer, the member, the visitor, and the friend. We are doing this via an all-congregation survey <u>www.surveymonkey.com/r/UUAASurvey</u>, which will open on Wednesday, September 6.

We will also conduct Small Group Listening Sessions. Sign up using this link, <u>http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4fa8a82ba13-ministerial</u>. These sessions will occur between September 11 and September 30, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00pm, Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sunday, October 1 with two sessions after each service. Childcare will be available at some of these sessions. We hope every person at UUAA will take part in these opportunities to share their thoughts about our new Senior Minister.

In peace and excitement,

Ministerial Search Team

Welcome Ministries Hannah Hotchkiss



Have You Reached Out to a Visitor Recently?

When serving as Growth Development Consultant for UUA, Mark Bernstein often entered UU congregations undercover to experience the same welcoming a typcal first-time visitor would experience. What he found was a bit surprising. The more robust the team of welcome volunteers, the less welcomed he felt. He discovered that congregants in churches with strong welcome

teams left hospitality to the designated welcome volunteers, yielding little, if any, spontaneous engagement. Once he got passed the "greeting station," he felt ignored and lost in the crowd.

We are a large congregation with a fabulous Sunday Welcome Team, which, after hearing Mark's observation, should make each of us pause and reflect on our own individual role as host at UUAA. We need to challenge ourselves to reach out, engage, and welcome.

Commit to greeting and introducing yourself to at least one person you don't know each week. Draw someone you don't know into your circle of conversation. If this sounds difficult, imagine how the newcomer feels not knowing anyone and not knowing what to expect. Imagine how delighted a long-time congregant will be to meet someone new. By opening your heart to a stranger, you strengthen the community, drawing in new people and strengthening the ties of long-time members. You will also begin to feel a deeper sense of connection to your spiritual home.

"True hospitality is a spiritual practice, a religious practice. Like meditation or prayer, hospitality connects us with a deep truth and compassion that transcends ourselves." Peter Morales

Activities and Events

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, September 6



I hope you all got a good view of the eclipse. Let's share our experiences over dinner at Hot Pot Chen (formerly known as Gourmet Garden – same menu, new owners) located at 2255 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. All are welcome to join the group at

6:00pm for friendly conversation and fun. Reservations are not necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at <u>omaduke7@gmail.com</u> or 734-769-0467.

Humanist Group * Thursday, September 7



Join our lively Humanist discussion group in the Young Room on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. For more information email Bruce Gibb at <u>blgibb@aol.com</u>.

Friday Fun Night * Friday, September 8



Interweave Lunch * Sunday, September 10



LGBTQIA people, their families, and allies are invited to join us at 1:00pm at Maiz Restaurant (36 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti). This is an opportunity to catch up and see friendly faces and share ideas on how to energize and sustain our Interweave organization as we look to the months ahead and 2018. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Ronda

Hemingway at <u>hemingwayronda@gmail.com</u>.

Restorative Justice * Thursday, October 12

"We cannot incarcerate our way out of violence." Danielle Sered You are invited to join policy leaders and justice advocates to engage with Danielle Sered, one of the most prominent leaders and practitioners of restorative justice in the US. This event will take place at the Gerald Ford School of Public Policy of the University of Michigan from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Danielle Sered envisioned, launched, and directs Common Justice, a groundbreaking project of the Vera Institute of Justice in New York. Rooted in Brooklyn and national in scope, Common Justice pioneers solutions to violence that advance racial equity,

meet the needs of those harmed, and do not rely on incarceration. Focusing on violent crimes, Common Justice works in collaboration with the prosecutor and courts to offer effective, healing services for victims alongside accountability focused alternatives to incarceration for perpetrators. This event is co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council of UUAA, Citizens Alliance for Prisons and Public Spending, Friends of Restorative Justice, American Friends Service Committee, the University of Michigan's Law School and Residential College, and other community organizations and individuals.

Please read <u>https://www.vera.org/publications/accounting-for-violence</u> to understand the powerful work and commitment of Danielle Sered to change our justice system, and to reduce incarceration and violence in our communities. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at <u>cgmadden@gmail.com</u>.

Crop Walk * Sunday, October 15



Join hundreds around Washtenaw County to help end hunger in our communities!

When: Sunday, October 15, 2017. Registration begins at 1:00pm and the walk begins at 2:00pm.

Where: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor, 48104

What: 5K and 1-mile walks to end hunger in Washtenaw County and around the world!

Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice is hosting the 43rd Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by <u>Church World Service</u> and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools, and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. More than 1,600 walks take place across the U.S. annually. ICPJ has managed this historic Washtenaw/Ann Arbor 5k walk since 1975 and has raised a total of \$3.2 million.

To register online, please click here.

Connie Frederick will again coordinate the efforts of UUAA.

Please contact Connie at <u>tweettweetconnie@gmail.com</u> or Carolyn Madden at <u>cgmadden@gmail.com</u>.

Sanctuary Vote * Sunday, October 22

Are we ready to affirm and promote our first principle, "inherent worth and dignity of every person"? Are we willing to confront the powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transformative power of love? Do we truly believe in "the interdependent web of all existence"? The Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) urges each member of this congregation to search within their own sacred space and consider what voting yes to the UUAA becoming a sanctuary congregation might mean for them personally.

In preparation for the Sunday, October 22 congregational vote on whether the UUAA should become a sanctuary congregation, please join us for the following programs to learn more and to discuss the issues. On Sunday, September 10, there will be a Sanctuary Town Hall with special guest, immigration lawyer Brad Thomson. Come learn about local immigration cases and how immigration law impacts our community. The program will be from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel.

A second program that same week, "Why Don't They Just Get Legal?" will consider the challenges and barriers faced by people who try to enter the US legally, and why our immigration system so desperately needs reform. Ruby Robinson of the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) will invite questions. Join us Thursday, September 14 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm in the Fahs Chapel for a potluck and discussion on immigration issues.

Questions? Contact UUAA Immigration Action Co-Chair Cheryl Valentine at <u>cherylnatzmervalentine@gmail.com</u>.

Announcements and News

Chalice Circles - Connect through Small Group Ministry

Chalice Circle participants had this to say about their experience:

"It was a relaxing respite for reflection and community with a nice opportunity to discuss vital and relevant topics."

"I got to know a small group of wonderful people on a deeper level and got to share myself in a safe space. It was great for a shy introvert."



"I had just joined the church, and it allowed me to meet cool and interesting people. I really look forward to it every other week."

"Insights from my circle's life experiences were inspiring."

The Chalice Circle program is kicking off its 11th year at UUAA. Each circle includes 8 to 12 members, including two facilitators. Circles meet twice a month from mid-October through May. Circle members consider readings and questions in an Advance Reflection provided before each session, and then meet to share their experiences

and thoughts, listening deeply to one another. Each circle also chooses and completes a small service project during the year. Circles typically bond and grow close; friendships often develop or deepen.

The following sessions will be held from mid-October through mid-May

1 st and 3 rd Sundays	1:00 - 3:00pm	at UUAA	starting 10/15
1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	7:00 - 9:00pm	at UUAA	starting 10/17
1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	6:30 - 8:30pm	Tecumseh	starting 10/17
1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays	12:30 - 2:30pm	at UUAA	starting 10/18

Please check your calendars to choose the circle that suits you best. Childcare is not available for Chalice Circles this year.

We are inviting UUAA members, friends, and visitors to register for this year's Chalice Circles either by email or in the Social Hall during Social Hours after each Sunday service starting Sunday, September 10. Registration will continue, while openings remain, through September. To register by email, please review the instructions at http://uuaa.org and select "Chalice Circles" under the worship drop- down menu. Send your email request to chalicecircles@uuaa.org.

We hope you will join us! Questions? Email chalicecircles@uuaa.org.

Climate Action

The Climate Action Steering Committee is shaping its educational and action agenda for the coming year.

Purpose: Our purpose, loosely defined, is to help educate interested congregants on global warming/climate change issues and promote informed action to mitigate global warming.

Background: Kate Hutchens, because of her selection to be on the ministerial search committee, thought it best to resign from the chairpersonship of the Climate Action Steering Committee. The volunteer committee is currently composed of Larry Junck, its original chairperson, Fran Lyman, Ruth Mohr, Scott Peacor, John Seeley, and Bennett Stark. Other individuals have attended the open meetings over the last few months. After Kate's resignation, John Seeley was elected Chair and Bennett Stark was elected Vice-Chair.

As part of this leadership transition, the group seized the opportunity to more clearly define its purpose and identify themes that could guide our upcoming activities.

Upcoming important themes: We used a brainstorming, discussion, and modified nominal group process to identify and prioritize the nine nominated themes. The four most important themes in rank order are:

 the fight (energy) goes on: what is happening after President Trump's Paris pullout

- our responsibility for succeeding generations
- climate change and health
- climate change and palm oil (food in general)

As a spiritual community, a concern for climate justice permeated our conversations. Also, we recognized the value of seeking the involvement of young people and that most of our themes suggested collaborations with other committees in the congregation.

Questions? Contact Climate Action Co-Chair John Seeley at jaseeley@aol.com.

Habitat for Humanity Good News House



This summer is UUAA's 18th year working with the "Good News Group" of 17 area congregations to renovate two Ypsilanti homes into well constructed, energy-efficient family homes.

UUAA had five work days this year: June 2 and 10, July 8, and August 11 & 19. We'd like to give a big thank you to the following people.

- All the on-site workers (of which we had an overabundance) and all of you who wanted to volunteer but couldn't.
- The generous folks who provided the food for our lunches and coordinated delivery and cleanup. You are our heroes.
- Those who donated. We exceeded our goal by a large margin.

Our 2017 homes are both on Harvest Lane in Ypsilanti. They are the 30th and 31st houses sponsored by the Good News Group. Our 30th house will be named "The Whitacre House" in honor of Good News founder Bob Whitacre, who passed away in February 2017. The dedication will take place in October, and a tree will be planted in his honor.

Thank you to all generous UUs who have given financial and hands-on work site contributions to this amazingly effective and rewarding community outreach since our involvement began in 2000.

Our interfaith Good News Group has been working together since 1997 and has helped 29 families (with 64 total children) move into affordable, energy-efficient housing. We help families, neighborhoods, and the environment – and we laugh and have fun doing it.

Since 2009, we have renovated foreclosed homes rather than building new homes, saving resources and helping to stabilize neighborhoods and rebuild communities, a win-win-win situation.

We are in search of a couple of people to fill out our small committee. We start planning in February and staff our table in the Social Hall during Social Hour May through August.

Can you help? Contact the Habitat Committee at habitat@uuaa.org.

Round Robin Dinners



Would you like to get to really know more of your fellow UU members and develop friendships that go *beyond* small talk?

Round Robin dinners are comprised of UU members or potential members. We meet (usually six to eight people for each dinner) in the homes or apartments of members. You will

meet different people at varied locations each time you attend. The food is always good, and the conversation is even better.

Sign up to be notified via email for dinners scheduled each month, starting in October. Adult singles and couples are welcome. Once you are on the notification list, you can choose to participate, or not, as each month comes along. If you ignore the email notification for a given month, then you will not be placed with a dinner group that month. So by signing up, your only obligation is to receive one email each month. That's all!

Signing up is easy. If you participated last year, you are already signed up. If not, email me, Wally Welch, Round Robin Coordinator, at <u>wwwsystems@fastmail.fm</u>. Include your name, phone number, and street address.

Partner Church



Our partners in Transylvania (Romania) have been busy this summer. They have begun to use the van we helped them purchase. Rev. Istvan reports the following:

"We transported some of the youth with the car bought recently to a camp (kaláka tábor) named SEGÉDKEZEK (HELPFUL HANDS)

where they helped elder and handicapped people in house work like cleaning, washing in and around the house, grass and tree cutting, fence, doors and windows painting, weeding in the garden. We are grateful to see these helpful, enthusiastic youths, gathered from different congregation, helping 60 thankful elders."

They have also done some needed renovations on the apartment we bought for them many years ago, adding outside insulation and making bathroom repairs.

As for us, we are happy to report that Rev. Istvan and his wife, Rev. Csilla, have accepted our invitation to visit in late October, and we are beginning to prepare to

welcome them. If everything goes well with their visa applications, they will arrive Wednesday, October 25 for a week-long stay. Check the *October Monthly Newsletter* and the *Weekly Bulletin* for more news regarding their visit.

Questions? Email Phyllis Valentine at <u>pav@umich.edu</u>.

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council (SJC), which serves as the administrative body for the social justice groups in our congregation, has embarked upon a process of self-assessment and renewal. This process is based upon the mission of the SJC, which is to coordinate, support, and inspire the congregation's efforts to advocate, educate, organize, serve, and witness for social action and to establish the UUAA as a leader for social justice.

In June, the Social Justice Council, together with Rev. Doug Wadkins, held a retreat with the purpose of laying the groundwork for assessing the work of the Council; determining future directions and priorities for the SJC; creating an overview of social justice activities at UUAA; and, participating in the search for a senior minister. By the end of the day, we had begun to identify key issues, themes, concerns, and opportunities for social justice at UUAA. In the next few months the SJC will be engaged in addressing and expanding upon what emerged from the retreat.

The current members of the SJC are the following: Cristy Cardinal, Mark Jagner, Carolyn Madden, Connie McGuire, Sally Preston, Leah Tame, Kate Warner, Carol Acitelli (Facebook coordinator), Hayley Boyse (Board of Trustees liaison), Hannah Hotchkiss (staff liaison).

Please visit the <u>SJC website</u> for more information about the council and the social justice groups at UUAA.

Untarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



UUSC's worldwide reach is our way to embrace the world through programs and partner organizations that work to bring justice to those who are in their circle of care. They are working to sustain rights at risk, ensure economic justice, safeguard the

environment, and protect people against the devastating effects of climate change.

It takes commitment and, of course, money. As we move into the Fall, the Guest at Your Table fundraiser will be helping us to focus on the ways in which our financial contribution can support the work of UUSC outside of our immediate circle of care. Current projects include increasing the training and employment of women in the West Bank, researching workers rights in the poultry industry in Alabama, advocating for the rights of women who are home-based workers in Pakistan and Nepal, and advocating for the rights of street vendors in New York City.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at <u>qnorthrup@gmail.com</u>.

Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin :

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

Monthly Newsletter: Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to <u>newsletter@uuaa.org</u> by 9:00am on the 21st of each month to appear in the upcoming *Monthly Newsletter*. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at <u>hannah@uuaa.org</u>

Building Hours

UUAA Summer Hours Closed Labor Day, September 4 June 24-September 9, 2017

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

UUAA Program Year Hours September 10, 2017-May 21, 2018

Sunday | 9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-9:00pm 1st and 3rd Friday | 5:00pm-9:00pm Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | office@uuaa.org | 734-665-6158 | wwwuuaa.org

See what's happening on our social sites:

