



# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

## November Monthly Newsletter

November 2017 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 11

### Congregational Links

[UUAA.org](http://UUAA.org) | [Calendar of Events](#) | [Social Justice at UUAA](#) | [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

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

### The Worship Planning Team | November 2017

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 and Music

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

### **November 5 | What We Need Is Here** **Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

The UU worship resource collective *Soul Matters* offers this: "When it comes to abundance, our culture and our religion are clearly at odds. Our culture cries, 'Accumulate!' Our religion counsels 'Appreciate!' The mantras couldn't be more different: The commercials tell us to 'Go out and get what you want!' The pulpits plea with us to 'learn to want what you have.' "

These ideas speak with a particular urgency in our time.  
How can we navigate these contradictions in our lives?

### **November 12 | Build a Longer Table** **Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

From an unknown source:

"When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence."

## **November 19 | Amidst an Abundance of Sources: Worship and Unitarian Universalism**

**Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

In practicing Unitarian Universalism, we draw from at least six sources for wisdom, inspiration, solace, and challenge – a wonderful gift; a daunting challenge. How does this wide exploration bring us to a deeper understanding of ourselves and what the world asks of us? How can so many people with so many perspectives find unity amid so many sources?

Let's explore the beautiful complication of our spiritual diversity.

## **November 26 | Search for Truth in Love**

**Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

For some, Thanksgiving brings with it a feast of shared food and joyous company. For others, the day conjures tragic memories, shameful history, more lamentation than joy. Can a beloved community learn to make space for the whole story? Is there greater wisdom to reap from the whole truths?

Whatever Thanksgiving brings your way, we hope you'll feel welcome here.



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



## **In the Interim Rev. Doug Wadkins**



### **Worship Matters Part 2 (Condensed Version)**

This month we will continue our considerations of worship in both print and in our service on Sunday, November 19. We do this, I remind you, because, while there are many activities that we share with other organizations, an essential and distinctive activity is that we gather as a united community for worship, from the Old English *weorthscipe* "to acknowledge and shape that which is of worth." In the service on the November 19, we will explore how the time of worship

can best help us discover a sense of common ground and even prepare us for clarity about what mission and vision for Unitarian Universalism will best serve the Ann Arbor congregation.

If Sunday services are intended to help shape what is meaningful and worthwhile in our lives, it is also appropriate they will be a mixture of challenge and affront, comfort and solace. The services will reconnect us to the past and will challenge us with the future. They will regularly ask every person to recall that the room is filled with a vast array of humanity. We seek to humbly, hopefully do the impossible in challenging and embracing the "big tent" in which we are gathered. "We comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable" knowing that in a given month many attendees embody both the "afflicted" and the "comfortable," sometimes on the same Sunday. We do hard work together. Sometimes you will feel angry, sometimes we will laugh together, and sometimes we will cry. Often we will disagree, but ultimately we will keep journeying towards common ground without ignoring the differences. All of it appropriate for what we are gathered to do: to shape whatever modicum of meaning we can from the madness of our lives in this time.

I invite you to join us in November as we explore the power of abundance in our community, in our worship, in our being. The future is calling us forward with a refulgent bounty of possibility.

Want to know more? [Read the full text here.](#)

Peace and deep affection,  
Doug

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



## President's Message

### Erik Stalhandske



I'm writing this shortly before our congregational vote on sanctuary status. Some felt that we should have voted months ago and be done with it. I believe that while the energy and passion was there, we still had work to do. The congregation needed to have questions asked and answered and be given time to reflect on this commitment. The professional staff required time to figure out how this will fit in with an already full plate of commitments. And the Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) had to hash out and deliberate on the logistics and practical details. A delay was an act of respect to all of these parties. Hurrah for our democratic process!

Let's turn to the *Five to Thrive* Annual Budget Campaign. Folks approach the annual pledge drive in different states of mind – some anxious, some excited, and for some its business as usual – carry over the same pledge. We, collectively, hope that this year you approach this pledge season with joy and excitement. Yes, the year has been tumultuous and unsettling. Yes, there is much work to be done to

realize our values of the inherent worth and dignity of all, and the interconnected nature of our world. Our loving and courageous community has provided not just a respite and safe harbor in this world, but also, it has provided a place for us to collectively set our moral compasses, map out the work to be done, and go forth in great numbers to live the positive change we want to see in this world.

We encourage you to reflect on what this congregation of passionate and engaged individuals and groups means to you. Take a look and see if your financial commitment to our congregation reflects the importance it provides to your spirit, your life, and your sense of fulfillment. There. I've said enough.

Erik

Erik Stalhandske  
President of the Board  
[president@uuaa.org](mailto:president@uuaa.org)



## UUAA Votes to Become a Level 1 Sanctuary Congregation

On Sunday, October 22, 2017 our congregation voted to become a level one, or host, congregation. This means that we will consider requests to house an immigrant facing immediate threat of deportation after a vetting process is completed. This decision will involve the countywide Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary (WCS), the immigrant's immigration attorney, and our own UUAA Sanctuary team. Our team includes ministers, staff, a board member and a member of the UUAA Immigration Action Coalition. For details about the resolution and the process that led to the vote, see the [October Newsletter](#) at [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org).



## Ministerial Search Team (MST) News



### What do we love about UUA?

Over 100 congregants aged 6 months to 90 years shared what they love about UUA -- in less than 60 seconds

Big Thanks to All.

The MST is busy working through all our sources of information to assemble our Congregational Portfolio, which will be distributed to interested ministers in January. If you are curious about the process and want to know more about where we are on our timeline and what we are currently working on, come to our Search Team Q&A session on November 12th after second service, in the Jackson Chapel.

In addition, please mark your calendars for another important opportunity to get involved in the process. On the weekend of January 6 - 7, 2018, we will participate in the *Beyond Categorical Thinking* program offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and facilitated by Keith Kron. The program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a three-hour workshop on Saturday and two special Sunday morning services. The *Beyond Categorical Thinking* program is open to all congregational leaders, members, and friends of the congregation. Lunch will be provided after the workshop on Saturday. Please be on the lookout for the registration link.



## Activities and Events

Turn Your Clocks Back \* Sunday, November 5

Turn your Clocks Back  
Before You Go to Bed  
on Saturday, November 4



## Understanding SNAP \* Sunday, November 12



### **Mindful Eating Presents Understanding SNAP A Conversation about Nutrition Assistance: Why It Matters and How We Can Help**

It is vital that we understand what there is to lose if funding is cut to our country's food assistance program. Join us in the Fahs Chapel at 1:00pm for a panel discussion of local experts who will address such questions as the following: Who benefits? Is it going away? How does it work? What does it pay for? What can we do to help? Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at [cathymuha@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathymuha@sbcglobal.net).



## Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group \* Tuesday, November 14

If you are caring for someone with memory loss, mark your calendar for the launch of the UUAA Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group from 2:00pm to 3:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Stories will be told, Jamie Herz (JD, MSW, and program coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association) will speak, and as a group we will give ourselves some direction and guidelines.

Why? 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.

The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group will meet the first Wednesday of every month, 3:00pm-4:30pm at UUAA beginning on Wednesday, December 6. Facilitators are UUAA members, trained by the Alzheimer's Association. The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group is sponsored by the Lay Pastoral Care Team.

Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at [joburleigh@aol.com](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com) or 248-219-7583, Sandy Kunkle at [sandykunkle@gmail.com](mailto:sandykunkle@gmail.com) or 734-369-2847, or Meredith Ley at [meredithl888@gmail.com](mailto:meredithl888@gmail.com) or 734-717-0213 for more information.



## Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration \* Sunday, November 19



Interfaith Round Table  
of Washtenaw County

23rd Annual

# Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration



### Interfaith Round Table Supporting Congregations

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting  
Baha'i Spiritual Assembly  
Beth Israel Congregation  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
Blue Ocean Faith  
Chinmaya Mission  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Church of Scientology  
Dixboro United Methodist Church  
First Baptist Church  
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
First Congregational Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodist Church  
Lord of Light Lutheran Church  
King of Kings Lutheran Church  
Muslim Community Association  
Shalom Community Church  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
St. Clare's Episcopal Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Unity on Campus Ministry  
Zen Buddhist Temple  
Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday

November 19th

7 pm

6 pm - Beth Israel Open House  
with Rabbi Dobrusin

Beth Israel Congregation  
2000 Washtenaw Ave  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### **In Gratitude For Our Sacred Diversity**

Join us as we give thanks with readings, music, and meditations from a wide variety of faith traditions around the theme of "Gratitude For Our Diversity." Refreshments following the celebration. Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. 2017 Interfaith Calendars also available.

[irtwc.org](http://irtwc.org)

For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides  
at 734-424-1535 or email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).



## UUA Alpha House Host Week \* Wednesday-Sunday, November 22-26



The next UUA Alpha House Host Week is approaching. Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing temporary homelessness in Washtenaw County. Please volunteer or make a donation. Close to 90 volunteers are needed to provide meals, serve meals, clean up after dinner, play with the kids, stay overnight, and to be day hosts. If you can't volunteer, we welcome donations. UUA spends about \$400 on groceries each host week. Sign up and make donations on Sundays during Social Hour or sign up online at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2wXKQkg>. Questions? Contact UUA Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at [abarber@gmail.com](mailto:abarber@gmail.com).




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



Take part in this workshop held in the Fahs Chapel from 10:00am - 2:30pm. Learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, explore how to get involved, and share your spiritual quest with others. This class is great for those totally new to UU and for those who are ready to sign the membership book. Class size is limited. **If you would like childcare for this event, register by Friday, November**

**24.** If you do not require childcare, the registration deadline is Sunday, December 3. [Register here](#) or pick up a registration form in the Newcomer Welcome Room or at the Involvement Table on Sundays. Questions? Email Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).




## Announcements and News

### Christmas Eve Services: Mark Your Calendar



Sunday, December 24, the Christmas Eve Services will be held at 11:30am, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm. Watch for more information in the *December Newsletter* and upcoming *Weekly Bulletins*.



### UUAA Climate Action News

#### Purpose | Focus | Recent Activities | Plans for the Future

Our purpose as a steering committee is to contribute to the on-going education of congregants about climate change issues and to promote informed action to mitigate climate change and its impact. Climate injustices are one of our central concerns.

Our focus for the coming months is on gathering information related to what is happening on a national, regional, and local scale after President Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Accord. Our concerns are on leadership, subsidies, and funding for research.

Our recent activities in our between-services meetings on the first and third Sundays of each month include reporting on what we are learning about the three topics mentioned above. At our last meeting we also discussed the special weeklong activities in October, sponsored by several schools in the U of M and culminating in the Wege lecture by Bill McKibben entitled "Down to the Wire: A Hot Fight in a Hot World," which several of us attended.

Our plans for the coming months include staffing a table during Social Hour on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, presenting handouts, featured books, and announcements of interest. We also hope to present movies and panels



related to climate change and its mitigation.

Questions? Contact John Seeley at [jaseeley@aol.com](mailto:jaseeley@aol.com).



## Crop Walk 2017

**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Each year UAAA is one of the most generous contributors to the CROP Hunger Walk. The hunger walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized in our local community by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This year, under the coordination of Connie Fredericks and with the help of Mindful Eating, our congregation contributed \$2,239.



## 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).



## Welcome to Our Newest Members

### Pam Baker & Matthew Bertrand



From East Lansing, Pam attended U-M for her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Pam and Matthew met serving together in AmeriCorps in Tucson, AZ, Matthew's hometown. After four years in Traverse City, they returned to Ann Arbor for Matthew to study landscape architecture. Pam now works for EMU's Bright Futures, running after-school K-5 enrichment programming. Matthew works for Friends of the Rouge, restoring the river with rain gardens. Claire was born at Mott in 2015. She loves her friends and teachers at her school (JCC Ann Arbor), rabbits, bananas, and lawnmowers.



### Claudette Snow

Claudette joined UAAA to become involved with social justice and to grow as an individual in a supportive community. Her interests lie in immigrant rights and caring for the earth through simple living and mindful eating. She was raised in Massachusetts but has called Ann Arbor home for 25 years. She



has two wonderful adult children that live and work in other states. She is a special education preschool teacher with AAPS and keeps active by cycling, rowing, kayaking, yoga, hiking, and walking her three dogs.



## Tallulah West and Scott Gustafson



Tallulah West and Scott Gustafson met each other in the sixth grade. They grew up in Libertyville, Illinois, a town in the northern suburbs of Chicago. After high school, they went their separate ways. Tallulah attended the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and graduated with a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management. Scott studied at Kansas State University and graduated from the College of Architecture, Planning and Design. Many years later they reconnected via Facebook, bonding over their shared love of fountain pens and sparkling water. A romance was all but guaranteed. Scott joined Tallulah in

Michigan this past April after a year of frequent air travel and long distance dating. Blending their professional passions as an Ecologist and an Architect, they enjoy exploring Michigan's rural and urban wonders. Secretly, this Christmas they are both asking Santa to bring them a puppy.



## 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 [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, November 26 Bulletin and the December Newsletter***

#### ***Weekly Bulletin Deadline for the Week of Thanksgiving***

The deadline for the *Sunday, November 26 Bulletin* is Monday, November 20, 9:00am

#### ***December Newsletter Deadline***

Submissions for the *December 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, November 16. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org)



### Building Hours

## UUAA November Building Hours

**Sunday** | 9:00am-4:00pm

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

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

**2nd & 4th Friday** | Closed

**Saturday** | 9:00am-4:00pm

## The Week of Thanksgiving

The UUAA building will close Wednesday, November 22 at 5:00pm and will reopen Sunday, November 26 at 9:00am.



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

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