



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

October Monthly Newsletter

October 2017 Newsletter - Vol. 23, Issue 10

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

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

The Worship Planning Team | October 2017

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence
Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister
for Spiritual Growth & Development
Rev. Doug Wadkins, Interim Senior Minister
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music
Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

October 1, 2017 | Finding Our Courage **Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

Your worship team will present an introduction to our October theme of Courage. Courage seems like a particularly significant area of exploration for this time, and it is a far-reaching topic. We honor our own faith's history opposing fascism. We honor the past, present, and future of our faith bringing compassion to action. And we honor the countless ways we practice courage in smaller moments.

October 8, 2017 | The Heart of Courage **Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

Perhaps one of the most significant ways we practice courage is by seeking deeper integrity in our own living. The daily moments that challenge us to live our truths often demand most of our bravery. This service will explore some of the powerful ways that this world-changing courage is practiced.

**October 15, 2017 | The Courage to Show Up
Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

Through public witness, education, and introspection, our faith is coming to understand that fighting white supremacy means both resisting its most blatant forms "out there" and disrupting its systemic manifestations within. Following the successful teach-in last May, UUAA will join congregations nationwide in Part Two of the UU White Supremacy Teach-in to magnify the power and reach of Unitarian Universalism.

**October 22, 2017 | When Hope Is an Act of Bravery
Services at 9:30am & 11:30am**

In a time when despair always sits waiting for us, we practice bravery every time we look towards hope - and particularly when we do so together.

**October 29, 2017 | Fear Itself
Services at 9:30am and 11:30am**

Courage is never action in absence of fear, it is in making our way in the midst of our fear. In truth, some of our most powerful experiences of growing and deepening come in the moments of naming and encountering our fears. You are invited to join us in exploring the power of fear in our lives and its role in living a life of wisdom and integrity.



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



In the Interim
Rev. Doug Wadkins



**Why Worship Matters So Much to a Unitarian Universalist
Congregation Part 1 (Condensed Version)**

This month, we continue our exploration of worship both in this column and continuing next month. For this work, I return to some core concepts of worship. I will use the word "worship"

with heightened intention because the word itself speaks to the *purpose* of our gatherings on Sunday. Since at least the 1920s in our tradition, the word "worship" points toward the deepest intent of our Sunday gatherings, which is to shape a clarity about what is worthwhile and deeply meaningful both within our individual existence and within the larger context of our congregation.

Worship seeks to first and foremost illuminate the common ground of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. This is particularly crucial within a tradition that offers so many pathways to spiritual wisdom and truth. It is also of essential importance for a larger congregation. Worship is about the deepening of connection and clarity of unified purpose within the gathered community and about illuminating our interdependence with the larger world. It and children's religious education are our primary focus on Sunday. Examining worship and its meaning is worthy of the time we have spent exploring through our various sources. Next issue I will write more of what was learned in this exploration.

Second, we will explore the use of audio-visuals more in services, not every Sunday but with more frequency than in the past. Here's why: Worship utilizes similar pedagogical truths and learning-styles wisdom shared by other venues. Multiple studies indicate that over half of humans are primarily visual learners, usually the statistic comes out to about 65%. As important for the setting of worship, less than a quarter of humans are primarily auditory learners. Utilizing only the spoken word ignores the primary pathway to learning for most of the people in the room. I was dubious about A/V, but I experienced that people got more from the service, plain and simple. There is more energy in singing when the words are projected, and it allows us to use a whole extra universe of sources in worship. Again, we won't use this every Sunday, but we will experiment for awhile and see what we learn. Let the adventure continue!

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

Peace and deep affection,
Doug

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



Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



My friend Laura used to say that courage is a muscle: the more you use it, the stronger it becomes. And just as with muscles, courage is easier to call on in times that require extra strength if you've been training and practicing all along.

It's amazing how many opportunities we have to exhibit braveness in the course of daily life. Talking to a stranger in line for coffee. Going back to the gym. Telling your beloved that you're upset about something. Trying a new kind of food. Those daily acts of courage

may look different for each of us, but each one is rooted in listening to the truth in our hearts and daring to act on it. Whatever the outcome, we've strengthened our ability to face future challenges.

When were you last courageous?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuuaa.org



President's Message Erik Stalhandske



September - a time for walks in the woods, trips to the orchards, and college football - if that is your thing!

As the season turns, collectively we shake off the pace of summer and get down to business. Our Ministerial Search Team seeks input as they engage in matching our congregation with a new ministerial candidate. Thanks for all that completed the survey.

Have you signed up for a Listening Session to provide your input for the Search Team? If not, please do. We want - no, we need - your input! Each person will have time to share their answers to two questions:

1. How do you describe UUAA to others?
2. Imagine our new senior minister has been with us for two years; what accomplishments will make you glad the minister is here with us?

I can't wait to hear what others have to say and participate in a session. Make your voice heard!

The Board and staff recently completed an exercise of identifying our areas of ministry focus for this next year. Each board and staff member identified top priorities from a list created with input from the Board and Rev. Doug. The top three are the following:

1. Create an active, energized, and sustainable pastoral care program
2. Focus on welcoming ministry to successfully engage new members and visitors
3. Ensure that the Sanctuary program is welcoming and operational (vote dependent)

The Board and staff will self-evaluate in a year with regards to our progress on these three areas. Stay tuned for updates.

Reminder: Sunday, October 22, after the second service, we will vote on whether to become a sanctuary congregation. Please educate yourself and participate in our democratic process.

In closing, thanks to all the volunteers that make our SGD program run - you are the best!

Best,
Erik

Erik Stalhandske
President of the Board
president@uuaa.org



Five to Thrive! Annual Budget Campaign



Five to Thrive! **October 1-31**

Five to Thrive! is a way for members and friends of UUAA to secure the congregation's financial health and stability, which in turn empowers us to build the Beloved Community. Our goal is to reach a giving average of 5% of income congregation-wide.

There are two ways to make your *Five to Thrive!* commitment:

- Deliver your *Five to Thrive!* form to the table in the foyer through the month of October.
- Go to the [online form on our website](#). You can set up automatic payment from your bank account or credit card.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Surfus, chair of the Annual Budget Campaign, at 734-276-2779 or stephaniesurfus@hotmail.com.



Ministerial Search Team (MST) News



Thanks to all who have completed the All-Congregation Ministerial Search Survey and participated in the Listening Sessions. There are still opportunities to participate in the Listening Sessions, so please sign-up (<https://goo.gl/bUk5rP>) and share your thoughts!

In October, the Ministerial Search Team will be assembling the Congregational Record and Portfolio. The Record lists a lot of factual information and subjective responses about the congregation and provides the basis for the Portfolio,

which is the primary means to share the history, work, beliefs, and "personality" of who we at UUAA are as a congregation. The Ministerial Search Team will process all the information and assemble the Record and Portfolio to share on-line with potential candidates.

The Survey, Listening Sessions, and your feedback all help us to portray the personality and diversity of our beloved community. Another way you can help is to stop by after services on Sundays, October 8 and 15 to spend one minute on-camera telling us something you love about UUAA. With your permission, some of these videos will be included as part of the Portfolio to share our individual perspectives.

In Fellowship,

Ministerial Search Team

search@uuaa.org



Activities and Events

Theater Circles for Seniors * Begins Tuesday, October 3

Registration is now open for Theater Circles for Seniors. This six-week offering begins on Tuesday, October 3, 1:30pm - 3:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Participants will read and discuss in small groups two short literary scripts that, through voice rather than movement, cause the audience to sense imaginary characterization, setting, and action. Class size is limited to ten. For more information or to register, email Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, October 4



The monthly Senior Dinner is scheduled for 6:00pm at Hot Pot Chen (formerly Gourmet Garden) at 2255 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. All are welcome to join us for good food and good conversation. No reservations are necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at omaduke7@gmail.com or 734-769-0467.



Friday Fun Night * Friday, October 6



UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, October 6
6:00pm- 9:00pm

October Friday Fun Night

This Month's Features

- * Taco Bar (\$5 suggested donation)
- * Game Room with Euchre, Ticket to Ride, & more
- * Drum Circle with Lori Fithian
- * Movie: *Despicable Me*
- * Craft: Create an Instrument



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUAA.ORG

Friday Fun Nights: September through May



Introduction to Our Faith * Thursday, October 7



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. Please be sure to [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.



Plant-Powered Potluck * Thursday, October 7

Join UU vegans in the Social Hall from noon to 2:00pm. Bring a plant-based vegan dish (without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products) to share. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, exchange information, and eat delicious food! Please bring your own table service and serving tools. Questions? Contact Sheila Sanders at (734) 645-0405 or sheilasanders@comcast.net.



Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) * Sunday, October 8

Immigration Action Coalition Hosts Final Town Hall About UUAA's Becoming a Level One Sanctuary Congregation Sunday, October 8, 1:00pm -- 2:30pm

Our panel : Rev. Doug Wadkins, Rev. Deborah Ware from Church of the Good Shepherd, Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Ed Lynn, Melanie Hagen for Washtenaw County Sanctuary (WCS), Melanie Harner for Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary (WCS) logistics, and immigration attorney Brad Thompson

This Town Hall meeting is an opportunity to ask questions about becoming a sanctuary congregation. Two weeks later, Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 1:00pm, there will be a very short meeting, and members of the congregation will vote on whether to become a sanctuary congregation.

Level One means to have someone living at our congregation. A 75% approval vote by an attending quorum is required for passage.

Resolution

[Read the complete resolution here.](#)

What Are the Living Arrangement Details?

A UUAA Sanctuary Task Force, which is made up of our ministers, staff, and board members, is overseeing the in-house living arrangements in preparation of a positive vote.

Background

See [UUAA Sanctuary Educational Programs](#) for information about past events. In addition, on September 14, we hosted a speaker from Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) who reviewed the need for sanctuary in her presentation [Why Don't They Just Get Legal](#).

Members of IAC, Challenging Racism, and the Social Justice Council advocated for passage of the Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Washtenaw County welcoming immigrant resolutions this spring.

We have collected over 60 UUAA volunteer pledges to help with hospitality at our congregation or in the WCS. There are many information handouts at the Social Justice Table in the Social Hall and immigration-related books for sale at QUUest bookstore. Stop by before Sunday, October 8 to pick up the WCS brochure, sign a pledge form, or just ask a question.

Email Cheryl Valentine at cheryl@natzmervalentine@gmail.com for more information.



Restorative Justice * Thursday, October 12

Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration

"We cannot incarcerate our way out of violence." Danielle Sered

Thursday, October 12, 2017, from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, Annenberg Auditorium, Room 1120 Weill Hall, 735 South State Street

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 U.S. A reception will follow.

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 free 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, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, UM Law School, UM Residential College, UM Department of African American Studies, UM School of Social Work, and other community organizations.

Please read <https://www.vera.org/publications/accounting-for-violence> to understand

the powerful work and commitment of Danielle Sered to change our justice system and reduce incarceration and violence in our communities.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Community of Writers * Sunday, October 15

Join UUAA writers as we consider worrisome questions that keep us up at night – concerns about relationships, marriage, parenting children from toddlers to adults, career identity, retirement challenges, etc. We'll begin by discussing ways to express these questions. A 20 minute impromptu writing will follow. We each may then read our writings and request comments. Questions? Contact Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com.



Crop Walk * Sunday, October 15

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



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 [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. More than 1,600 walks take place across the U.S. annually. ICPJ has managed this historic Washtenaw/Ann Arbor walk since 1975 and has raised a total of \$3.2 million.

To register online, please click [here](#).

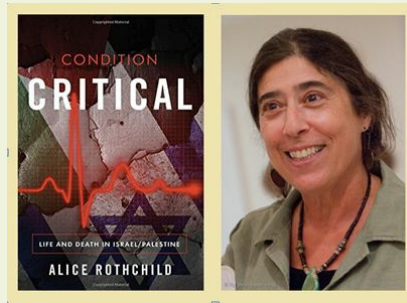
Connie Frederick will coordinate the efforts of UUAA.

Please contact Connie at tweettweetconnie@gmail.com or Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.

UU Justice in the Middle East (UJME) Presents... * Sunday, October 22

Ann Arbor UUs for Justice in the Middle East and Jewish Voice for Peace - Detroit
present:

Dr. Alice Rothchild - physician, author, film maker, and human rights activist



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

Sunday, October 22, 3:00pm in the Sanctuary

Reception and Book Signing at 4:30pm in the Social Hall

Dr. Alice Rothchild will talk about her travels to Israel/Palestine to learn about the health and human rights situation in politically marginalized communities in Israel, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. Her eyewitness reports and intimate stories of everyday life depict a region suffering from decades-old wounds of colonization and occupation.

Her new book, *Condition Critical: Life and Death in Israel/Palestine*, dares and inspires its readers to examine the painful consequences of Zionism and Israeli expansion and to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice. <http://justworldbooks.com/books-by-title/condition-critical/>

About Dr. Rothchild: Since 1997, she has focused on understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and its relationship to US foreign policy and American Jewry. She co-founded American Jews for a Just Peace Boston, co-organized the AJJP Health and Human Rights Project, and served on the coordinating committee of Jewish Voice for Peace Boston. She is a member of the [JVP Health Advisory Council](#) and is on the boards of the [Gaza Mental Health Foundation](#) and [Just World Educational](#). She served as an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School until November 2013. Currently, she is a Corresponding Member of the Faculty of Harvard Medical School.

Other works include: *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience* (Pluto Press 2007, 2nd ed. 2010). Documentary film, *Voices Across the Divide* (2013). *On the Brink: Israel and Palestine on the Eve of the 2014 Gaza Invasion* (Just World Books 2014). <http://alicerothchild.com/>

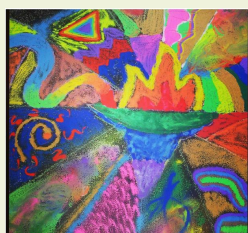


This is known to be the best potluck ever! Come join your church friends in the Social Hall from 6:00pm to 8:00pm to share and enjoy the bounty of locally grown foods. Stephanie Willette, Ann Arbor Farmers Market Manger, will speak about changes coming to the Farmers Market, as well as other important issues, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and how it affects people in our area. We will also recognize Farmer Bill Schmid and the Food Gatherers Farm Project volunteers. Children are welcome. For more information, contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.



Announcements and News

UUAA is Hosting a High School Youth Con



Each year, the Heartland Area Youth Council holds conferences (cons) at different congregations in our district (Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and parts of Ohio). These cons allow high school or middle school-aged youth from many different congregations to gather together in community. These cons are unique in that they are planned by the youth; adults have only an advisory role. There will be typical games, fun activities, and the like, but one aspect of the con that sets it apart from a normal gathering of high schoolers is that they plan and execute a worship service. All the youth I have talked to have raved about their con experience, that some of their best memories of being a UU youth came from cons.

This year, UUAA is fortunate enough to be hosting one! CONtagious will bring over 50 youth from around our district together from Friday, November 3 to Sunday, November 5. This will be a great experience for our YRUU high school youth to be able to participate in a con without leaving home, but it will also be great for our congregation to be able to show off our wonderful building and community. To make this happen, we need support of adult congregants. We need people to bring and cook meals, as well as be awake while others sleep in case of emergency. More details to follow, but our SGD team is excited for this great opportunity. Questions? Contact Mark VanKempen at markv@uuaa.org.



Round Robin Dinners

What are Round Robin Dinners and when do they occur?

Round Robin potluck dinners will be on Saturdays (no longer Fridays). Dinners will be scheduled each month from October through May on the second Saturday of the month, usually at 7:00pm. Normally six to eight guests, including the hosts, provide a great setting to get to know fellow UUs. Hosts are



volunteers who coordinate the planned potluck and other details.

When I sign up, what is my commitment?

You must have an email; that's it! You will receive an email invitation each month. You may ignore the email or respond to attend that upcoming dinner, and the guests will be assigned. Once the dinner is scheduled, you learn who is hosting, the location, and the names of other guests. You may choose to become a "regular" member, which means you must respond to the monthly dinner invitation by cancelling if you choose not to attend that month.

Do I have to host a Round Robin dinner?

No.

How do I sign up?

Send an email to Wally Welch at wvsystems@fastmail.fm. Include your name, phone number, any allergies, and the email address you would like to use as well as the name of the person who will be attending with you (if any).

What if I am single?

No problem! Many people attend alone, or you may bring a friend who is interested in UU.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project



Support fair-trade, small farm cooperatives globally while fundraising for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation. Buy organic coffee, chocolate, tea, Palestinian olive oil, nuts, dried fruit, and snack bars during Social Hour. Volunteers are welcome to help keep our project going! Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



The long reach of the UUA will be busy in the months ahead. Naturally, Harvey and Irma relief is at the top of the need. Collection of funds for relief will be divided between the UUA and UUSC. The UUA funding will go to help UU congregations in the areas affected by the storms and their aftermath. The other half will be used by UUSC to support their partner organizations in the same areas. In this way, we can all take part in assisting our partner congregations as well as those who may not be members of the UU family, and not in the sights of the large organization aid efforts but in need of assistance all the same.

November will be our time as a congregation to embrace the wider world, to help UUSC directly through the annual Guest at Your Table fund-raising effort. This year's theme is [Small Change is Big Change](#). This is our "metallic" opportunity to move all our change along, unburden wallets, pockets, piggy banks, and the lot to be part of a worldwide effort to provide resources to organizations working for the good of their people in many countries around the world.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



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 by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

Monthly Newsletter: Submissions for the *November Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org by 9:00am on October 21 to appear in the *November Newsletter*. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org



Building Hours

UUAA October Building Hours

Sunday | 9:00am-4:00pm

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

1st, 3rd, & 4th Friday | 5:00pm-9:00pm

2nd Friday | Closed

Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm



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

See what's happening on our social sites:

