



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

March Monthly Newsletter

March 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 15, Issue 3

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

*March's worship theme explores what it means to be a people of
SPIRITUAL GROWTH.
All are welcome.*

March's Worship Team

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
YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

March 4 | Words Become Seeds Worship Times | 9:30am & 11:30am

The worship team will explore texts that have been pivotal to their own spiritual growth and reflect on the spiritual fruits they have borne. We will also cultivate the next generation of spiritual seekers with a child dedication.

March 11 | Being Real: Spiritual Maturity and Spiritual Growth Worship Times | 9:30am & 11:30am

Spiritual growth is both an individual process and a communal endeavor, and they complement and stimulate each other - that's the good news! The process of life-long spiritual growth suggests that it is a form of maturation. This is a challenging concept because both "spiritual" and "maturity" are not words that foster immediate unanimity in

their meaning and implications. That is the bad news. But fear not, we will explore some of what it means to be on the pathways toward spiritual maturity. Whether you agree or not, it will be interesting food for thought.

March 18 | Annual YRUU Worship Service: Fear and Overcoming Worship Times | 9:30am & 11:30am

Join us as our high school youth group (YRUU) shares their fears and how they can be overcome. We will reflect on gun violence in our community and country, fears about our future world and how it will be impacted by climate change, and personal stories of fears faced and overcome.

The YRUU service is an annual event where the 10th - 12th grade students in our congregation plan, write and implement the Sunday Worship service. They have a team of adult advisors to offer help, but the structure and content is entirely youth created and led.

March 25 | "Awaken the Soul" Worship Times | 9:30am & 11:30am

Join us as we explore spiritual growth and development with our guest minister, the Rev. Ginger Luke (who served as our Interim Minister of Religious Education from 2007-2008 and is minister emerita of River Road UU Congregation in Maryland); the Rev. Cassandra Hartley, our current Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development; and the writings of the Rev. Nancy Shaffer (who served as our Minister of Religious Education from 2008-2012).



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



In the Interim Rev. Doug Wadkins



Putting It All Together

Life is always about change; change is our constant. However, some of us feel uncomfortable during a time of change, resisting it instead of using this transitional time as an intentional interim period. While we are in this interim period, we are invited to ride the wave of the change, harnessing the energy, the movement, and the higher perspective that one can achieve at the crest of such a wave of change. The specific convergence of perspective, energy, and

possibility during this fertile time can produce an alchemy of creativity for a congregation that would be hard to duplicate in another time, when much of the energy is focused on institutional health and sustaining crucial and successful ministries. In other words, we benefit from the interim work of fortifying and tilling the soil of our fields of ministry, which makes us ready to plant the seeds of calling, dreams, and passion, that will grow and blossom abundantly so that they might bear fruit that we then harvest to nurture the world. (I know I am mixing my metaphors, humor me please!) It is why we spend energy and time caring for the leadership, fortifying the stewardship practices so that the fields are fertile and ready. It is MOST certainly a crucial time of remembering the powerful lessons of our past and tending to the conflicts and pains that still haunt us, seeing what healing needs to be done.

These ideas come together in the work of exploring who you are now, why you exist, who you serve, and how the world is urging you to hear its call, allowing it to change your minds, hearts, and actions. That synthesis helps create a missional identity: a greater clarity of the essence and purpose of this marvelous congregation. It is a roughly sketched map with a compass pointing to larger orientations. It becomes the thoughts and dreams that you begin to share to shape the larger story. It animates the spirit and priority of your work here, and it is a great place for conversation for you and your potential minister. We have asked you to explore your answers to three questions: Who are you? Whom do you serve? What are you called to do in the next few years? You have grappled with the power of answering these questions, and have begun to look for convergences, interdependence, and cooperative alchemy. This interplay adds prioritization to the missional identity, for this is where the energy lies.


On Saturday, February 10 your peers explored this convergence zone and gleaned some missional priorities. These are not a *fait accompli*, but simply one group's good work to practice meaningful conversation about why this congregation exists. The main points they outlined were:

- Embrace radical welcome by being accepting and respectful of all who use science, reason, compassion, and outreach. Make space for diversity of thought and religious traditions.
- Respond to the urgent needs of the day: racism, war, poverty, inequality, climate change, sexual assault, and needs as they emerge.
- Make UU religious tradition a force for change in the world.
- Stimulate and challenge us to question our beliefs, and to question the extent to which we are living them.

The next step is to gather one more time for this work, to fine tune and explore our missional priorities, and discern together how best to engage in conversations with your current staff, your peers, and your future senior minister in candidating week. This meeting will further synthesize, energize, and raise the questions and plans that will move you forward in this new and powerful chapter. On Saturday, March 10 from 12:30pm to 3:00pm, you are invited to connect the dots of our missional future and plan next steps to make it real. Be on the lookout for materials and an RSVP.

Peace and love,
Doug

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



Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



Between a professional conference, part two of a training program, and a wretched bout of flu, I've been away from UUAA quite a bit lately. One thing this extended absence taught me, though: I missed you.

I missed being on the chancel on Sundays. I missed catching up with folks and hearing updates on their lives. I missed laughing with other staff members and thinking through solutions together. I missed looking out my office window at the stark beauty of this land.

Walking back into the building for the first time after so long away, I was nearly bouncing in my clunky snow boots. The quickening I felt was more than just my energy returning after illness. It was a signal that I'm in the right place at the right time, doing work that matters to me. I never take that privilege for granted.

What's putting a spring in your step these days? What are you looking forward to returning to?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuaa.org



Interim Administrator's Note

During the February 4 Congregational Meeting, there was a discussion about the funds budgeted in 2018 for Social Action (\$4,000) and if this amount truly reflects our priorities. It was pointed out that the budget reveals only a slice of our efforts and, as with SGD, if we were to put a dollar value on all the volunteer hours involved, the picture would be significantly different. The following amplification may be of help.

All the budgeted and non-budgeted contributions to UU affiliated groups and Social Justice groups in 2017 totaled \$90,656, or 8.3% of our total spending (including non-budgeted spending) of \$1,089,325. This includes \$23,350 (2.1%) for UU contributions (UUA, MidAmerica Region UUA, Khasi Hills, and Transylvania Partner Church) and \$67,306 (6.2%) for Social Justice (budgeted amount, Share the Collection, Other Special Collections [e.g., hurricanes and fires], Ministers' Discretionary Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Alpha House, and SGD programs).

It should be pointed out that:

- The amount we donate from proceeds of the Jackson Social Welfare Endowment, about \$29,000, is not included above, and

- The 8.3% we donate is above the 5% contribution for our annual stewardship campaign we ask of each congregant who is able.

This is not to say that \$90,656 is sufficient, but it does reflect our priorities better than the \$4,000 budgeted.

Questions? Contact Interim Administrator Ed Lynn at ed@uuaa.org.



Ministerial Search Team (MST) News



We are in the middle of the pre-candidating weekends for our ministerial search. These are three-day visits with each of the pre-candidates who we think would be wonderful ministers to lead UUAA into our next era. These weekends are opportunities to meet in person and have thoughtful conversations about our visions for a future together. The candidates tour our building and learn about Ann Arbor. They have been asking deep and difficult questions that show the extent to which they understand our needs. In turn, we have been asking difficult questions because we want to know that we are the best match. Once these pre-candidating weekends are concluded, we will be immersed in discernment and will make an official offer on March 29 (as established by the UUA Transitions Office) to the candidate that best matches our needs. We plan to announce the candidate in mid-April.

All of you will want to take part in Candidating Week, when the final candidate spends ten days with us, starting on Friday, April 27 and ending with a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 6, when all UUAA members can vote on whether to call our next Senior Minister. There will be opportunities for small and large meetings, two Sundays of preaching, and more.

The Ministerial Search Team will be holding a Q&A session on Sunday, March 18 at 1:00pm to answer any questions you may have about these final phases of the search process. Please mark your calendar for this very important session.

We want to sincerely thank all of you for your support on this process. We reiterate that, at this stage, confidentiality is essential for protecting us and our relationship with these pre-candidates.

Please watch for additional updates on our web page www.uuaa.org/mst.

In peace,

Ministerial Search Team



For Your Calendar

Friday Fun Night * Friday, March 2



UAAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, March 2
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

This Month's Features

- * Silly Seuss Games and prizes
- * Breakfast for dinner: Pancake bar, quiche, and fruit
- * Documentary: Exit Through the Gift Shop (Trivia night has been canceled)
- * Craft: Bookmarks and Seuss Characters
- * Kid's movie: The Lorax



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UAAA.ORG

Friday Fun Nights: September through May

Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group * Wednesday, March 7



The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UUA Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets regularly the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. It is a drop-in group, open to members of both the congregation and the larger community. If you know someone caring for someone with memory loss, let them know that they are welcome to join the support group.

A support group offers caregivers, family members, and friends of people with memory loss the opportunity to ask questions, share stories, give and

receive comfort, and gain practical knowledge. A confidential, positive setting for sharing experiences is known to be an important factor in how well one copes with caregiver stress. Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com or Meredith Ley at meredith1888@gmail.com.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, March 7



It's time for our monthly Senior Dinner at Hot Pot Chen, 2255 West Stadium, Ann Arbor. No reservations are required. Come at 6:00pm and join the group in the back room. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at omaduke7@gmail.com or 769-0467.



Kenyon College Chamber Singers * Thursday, March 8

UUAA is delighted to host a free concert in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm by the Kenyon College Chamber Singers, conducted by Dr. Benjamin Locke. They will present an eclectic mix of their a cappella choral repertoire. A centerpiece of the program will be Johannes Brahms's motet *Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein' Herz*, with numerous other compositions by Randall Thompson, Kathleen Allan, Gerald Cohen, Katerina Gimoon, Orlando di Lasso, and Juhani Komulainen.



Community Conversation * Saturday March 10

Join us in the Sanctuary from 12:30pm to 3:00pm for the final scheduled community conversation. This session, centered on missional identity, asks us to gather for conversation, to fine tune and explore our missional priorities, and discern together how best to engage in conversations with your current staff, your peers, and your future senior minister in candidating week. This meeting will further synthesize, energize, and raise the questions and plans that will move you forward in this new and powerful chapter. You are invited to connect the dots of our missional future and plan next steps to make it real.

Please register to assist in set up and preparing enough materials!

<https://goo.gl/forms/XGwXY1xrJJZa1L3g2>

Questions? Contact Rev. Doug Wadkins at doug@uuuaa.org.



Connect and Act * Saturday, March 10

Connect and Act will highlight the connections between social justice issues and movements in a time of crisis. Program sessions will focus on Criminal Justice, the Environment, the Immigration Crisis, the Poor People's Campaign and, Strengthening Our Democracy.

There will be intentional networking time and space as well as good food and great local music.

The Social Justice Council is co-sponsoring this event with ICPJ and other community groups. We have 5 free tickets available for our sponsorship. Please contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com for information and availability of tickets.

When | Saturday, March 10, 9:00am-5:00pm

Where | Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Accessibility, Mindful Eating, & QUUest Present... * Sunday, March 18

Three teams will focus on allergies and sensitivity for food and fragrances this month. Please visit our Social Hall tables for references, flyers, and books offering helpful information. The Mindful Eating theme for March is *Eat for Your Health*, and our Tasting Table on March 18 will feature healthy snacks and recipes that avoid nuts, gluten, dairy, and other allergy triggers. QUUest Bookstore will feature cookbooks and other books on this theme.

Allergies for certain foods and sensitivity for fragrances, odors and second/third-hand smoke can often result in difficulties participating in daily and congregational life. Please join us as we work to make our building a fragrance-free environment and address food allergies. How can you help?

- Refrain from wearing perfume or using other strong-smelling hygiene products.
- Candles used in services, classes meetings, and rituals should always be scent free.
- Cleaning products as well as hand soap should also be scent free.
- List all ingredients for food brought to potlucks or other church events.
- Consider using alternative ingredients (rice or oat flour instead of wheat, for example).

Questions? Contact Colleen Crawley at ccrawley59@gmail.com or Els Nieuwenhuijsen at elsni@comcast.net.



Documentary Viewing & Discussion * Wednesday, March 21

The UUAA Social Justice Council and League of Women Voters-Ann Arbor Area present the documentary *Immigrant Prisons* at 7:00pm at Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center (4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48108). A discussion will follow the movie.



The US has the largest immigrant prison system in the world, incarcerating 380,000-420,000 persons a year. Join us to learn how immigration and private prisons participate in this \$5 billion-a-year industry.

A discussion will follow the viewing of *Immigrant Prisons*, a documentary produced and distributed by Brave New Films. Melanie Harner, a founder and member of Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR) and our community sanctuary movement, will follow the film with an update on the sanctuary work of our community.

Sponsors: League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area, Dispute Resolution Center, Social Justice Council of UUAA, Immigration Action Coalition of UUAA, Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary, Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights

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



Bystander Intervention Training * Saturday, March 24



Join us for this important event co-sponsored by Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) and the Social Justice Council (SJC) of UUAA.

Over the past year, we have seen an alarming increase in hate crimes and attacks against immigrant, Muslim, LGBTQ+, and other vulnerable populations in our communities, as well as across the country. Have you asked yourself, "What could I have done if I were there?" Have you witnessed someone being harassed, but were stifled or frozen by fear and didn't

know what to do?

The good news is that there are lifelong skills and techniques that you can learn and practice to keep each other safe. Our four-hour Basic Bystander Training will show you how to respond. Experienced and certified ICPJ facilitators will teach you the basic tactics you can use to de-escalate and/or redirect threats and harassment through non-violent methods and strategies.

Register through Eventbrite [Here](#).

25 scholarship tickets at no cost are available to the UUAA congregation. Contact Germaine at germaine@icpj.org or 734-663-1870, for more information. Light refreshments will be provided.

When | Saturday March 24, 9:30am-1:30pm

Where | First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Reflective Conversations on our Adult SGD Courses * Thursday, March 29

You are invited to participate in a Reflective Conversation on our Adult Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) Courses from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Young Room. During

this session we want to learn more about your experiences with and participation in Adult SGD courses. This assumes that you have taken at least one of the Adult SGD courses within the last three years.

What should you do now?

Please reply to cgmadden@gmail.com by Tuesday, March 20 to let us know if you will be able to join the March 29 Reflective Conversation. A member of the Reflective Conversations Team will contact you to confirm your attendance and answer any questions.

How will it work?

Approximately 10 - 12 people will gather to reflect on and share their personal experiences based on their participation in the Adult SGD courses. Participants will be given a set of questions and allowed time to reflect on their personal experiences relative to those questions. Each person will then have time to speak about those experiences. Trained facilitators will lead the group and record notes. Those notes will be summarized and shared with the program leader (who will be in attendance) and with the Board of Trustees. Final results will not only be shared with the congregation at a Congregational meeting, they will be used to influence future planning.

Why are we doing this?

So we can hear from each of you over time and learn from what you experience when you participate in each of our ministries. We believe this will help us to improve what we are doing and provide consistently high quality programs for each of you. We think we're doing a good job, but we need to receive feedback from you in an organized and structured way so we can use the information to improve even more. This is the fifth year of a program that the Board of Trustees commissioned to help assess our ministries as we reflect on our own experiences and honor the experiences of others.

Who is planning these Reflective Conversations?

Task Force members are Dixie Hibner, Becky Hoort, Jim Lee, Carolyn Madden, Cathy Olson, Ginny Preuss, and Tricia Mooney, Board Liaison.

The process we use is described in the book, *Completing the Circle*, by David R. McMahill. All congregants who have participated in the Adult SGD program are invited.

Thank you so much and we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us.



On the Horizon

Annual Auction: The Red Carpet * Saturday, April 7



This year's annual auction is right around the corner on Saturday, April 7 from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the church. It's the congregation's largest fundraiser. The theme this year is The Red Carpet, so come dressed ready to pick up your Oscar - or just come as you are.

The committee is selling auction tickets in the Social Hall and soliciting donations and volunteers. The biggest element in our success in the past has been having lots of appealing items to auction off with the most popular being dinners and getaways. So if you've been itching to start entertaining again, have a cottage that you wouldn't mind sharing for a weekend or longer, or have any other skill, talent, or item you would be open to sharing, please think about submitting a donation.

The Auction will take place in the Sanctuary, Social Hall, and Jackson Chapel. The

Movable Feast will cater the food, which is included in the price of your ticket, and there will be beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks for sale. Entertainment will be provided by the Community High Jazz Band and Quintessentially Renaissance along with congregants Brandy Sinco and Tricia Mooney.

If you have questions, stop by the Auction Table during Social Hour, check out our page on the website at www.uuaa.org/auction, or email auction@uuaa.org.



Annual UUA Men's Fellowship Dinner & Discussion * Saturday, April 21

At this year's Men's Fellowship Dinner, we will explore how men are responding to the #MeToo social movement, which has put a spotlight on the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment. We will examine our own biases, behaviors, and ways men can prevent and interrupt sexual misconduct. This event will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Social Hall (pending approval). Registration will begin in mid-March during Social Hour at the Men's Council Table. Questions? Contact Tom Reischl at treischl57@gmail.com.



Women's Retreat * Friday-Sunday, April 27-29



Join UU women from April 27-29 for the Womyn's Retreat. We will be together from Friday evening to Sunday morning at the Judson Collins Center. Registration begins March 18.

Registration forms will be at the Womyn's Council Table during Social Hours. Online credit card payment will be available as well as check or money order. Questions? Email womensretreat@uuaa.org.



UU of South West Michigan Family Camp



Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat July 12-15, 2018 Sturgis, Michigan

Hiking the trails, singing by the campfire, playing games ... all childhood camp fun. But this camp and retreat is not just for kids - it's for people of all ages. Make connections, build friendships, and experience nature together as a family - with other families, youth, and adults - in an environment where diverse religious, spiritual, and theological perspectives are welcomed and celebrated. Enjoy programs for children drawing upon the natural environment, workshops for adults and youth on spiritual practices, multigenerational worship, and fun group activities such as canoeing, archery, s'mores around a campfire, and popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire. Choose from a variety of accommodations from tent camping to dormitory-style lodging or hotel-like rooms in the Retreat Center.

This camp is organized by Unitarian Universalist Family Camp of South West Michigan.

Registration is now open at www.chalicesparx.org.



Announcements and News

Annual Reports

Preparing for the 2018 Annual Report

It is time to consider what to share in an annual report about your recognized congregational team's events and activities. The 2017-2018 Annual Report deadline will be Sunday, April 15 at 5:00pm.

Recognized congregant team leaders are encouraged to write an annual report. This year's annual report will be online only. Each group's report will appear as a link on the 2017-2018 annual report page.

UUAA staff will not be able to provide editing, so please make sure you've proofed your document before sending it in.

Aim for a word count of 300 words. When appropriate, use bulleted lists to encourage others to read what you've shared. Basic elements to include are the following:

- The recognized team's name.
- The author of the team's report.
- A brief description of the team or ministry.
- A description of how UUAA core values were met by the team.
- Highlights of activities from May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.
- Focus on major themes or a few key accomplishments. Your report need not include every detail - just enough to give others the flavor of your group's ministry.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Describe future ideas, plans, and goals.
- Submissions beyond a word count of 300 words maximum will be returned for further editing.
- Submit each annual report as a Word file to annualreport@uuaa.org.

Early submissions are very much appreciated.

Debby

Debby Casamatta
Office Administrator
Deborah@uuaa.org



UUAA Alpha House Thank You



A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, and/or their time to the February Host week at Alpha House, a shelter for homeless families. Without your contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all it does for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. Our appreciation goes to the following volunteers:

Day Hosts: Chelsea Valdes-Pierce, Barb Gales, Sandy Eyl, Priscilla Spencer, Molly Beebe

Donations of Food: Carolyn Roberts, Connie McGuire, Marci Cameron, Gwen Guthrie, Sara Mathews, Audra Eddy, Robin Fowler, Sandy Eyl, Molly Beebe, Michelle Diepenhorst, Chelsea Valdes-Pierce, Lorelle Otis, Beth Hospadaruk, Fran Dew, Terry Palacios, Barron Evans, Elinore Sommerfeld, Kate Burkhardt, Diane Fead, Sandy Eyl, Claudette Snow, Constance Bridge, Carol Cramer, Tom Longworth, Brandy Sinco, Kathy Shay, JoAnne Diehl, Karl Sikkenga

Served Meals & Clean Up: Cathy Whitaker, Chris Farnum, Gwen Guthrie, Betsy Price, Mike Schroer, Jon Boyd, Beth & Bob Hospadaruk, Lora Girata, Sandy Eyl, Barron Evans, Kristen Evon-LeSueur, Brandy Sinco, Robert Kropf, Christine Wall, Jeannine LaPrad

Children's Activity Time: Krysta December & Zeek & Kira, Cathy & Mike Muha, Kirsten & Johannah Mogbo, Edward & Carolyn Norton, Betsy Price, Jon Boyd, Amy Grant, Carey Swanson, the Griffith Family, Angela Menegay, Ann Brennan, Joe & Katie Krushelnick, Lara Brown & Sophia & Mateo Wakeman, Nora & Eleanor Flantner, Jonathan Njus, Adam McGuinness, Audra Knopper, Catherine Archibald, Amyleigh Johnson, Ryan Tamblyn, Rebecca Chamberlain

Overnight Hosts: Jim Lee, Jim Schaefer, Terry Butcher, Ilene Beninson, Amyleigh Johnson, Steve Nason

We are also grateful to all who contributed funds for food and supplies. If we have misspelled or missed any names, please accept our apologies. Thank you everyone!

Questions? Contact UUAA Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com



UUSC Coffee Project



Visit our table during social hour following services to choose from fair trade chocolates, fruit and nut bars, coffee, teas, nuts, dried fruits, and Palestinian olive oils. With each purchase, you support small farm cooperatives globally and raise funds for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation! Stop by our table during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



Immigration Action Coalition

What a full month we've had!

On January 20, there was a very good turnout for sanctuary training from Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary. The highlight was good advice from Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel from the Central Methodist Church of Detroit. Her church is hosting families. Their first was from Africa. The current family is from Albania. The first thing we learned is that it is hard to plan until you know exactly what your guest

configuration is and what their preferences will be. The second was being reminded that we should not ask anyone's legal status in public. Third, facts matter but it is the individual stories that will gain sanctuary support. This event was more an orientation than a nuts and bolts training. We are now addressing many questions that were raised.

On Valentine's Day, UUAA hosted the Love Our Neighbors Press Conference, the first 2018 press conference to introduce the three Washtenaw County Sanctuary host churches and the additional seven supporting congregations. It was well attended by the press and public. In contrast to the 2017 press conference, many more Detroit news media were represented. Here are links to some of the coverage:

1) http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/02/congregations_ready_to_love_bo.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=238&v=JBP_Di71C08

2) <http://michiganradio.org/post/more-washtenaw-congregations-join-sanctuary-movement>

3) <http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/local-news/5-more-churches-providing-sanctuary-for-those-facing-deportation>

4) https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=238&v=JBP_Di71C08



Finally, on Friday, February 16, UUAA hosted a Latin Dance Party Fundraiser. University of Michigan dance instructors taught Latin dance steps followed by two hours of dancing. It was a lot of fun, and raised approximately \$2500 for WCS. We are planning a similar event for early fall. Watch for it!!

Join the Immigration Action Coalition planning team anytime by contacting Cheryl Valentine at cheryl.natzmervvalentine@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is Saturday, March 17, 10:00am-11:30am in the Jackson Chapel.



Partner Church: Transylvania



Travel to Transylvania to help our partner churches celebrate the 450th anniversary of the decree of toleration. Their celebration will be August 8 through 12. The trip will be August 6 through August 17. Contact Phyllis Valentine, pav@umich.edu, if you are interested.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



UUSC, our denominational international long arm, is at work for us through partner organizations around the world working for environmental injustice, economic justice, and safeguarding rights at risk.

Honduras offers a powerful example of the ways in which UUSC can shape change. Recently, Rev. Kathleen McTigue led a delegation to Honduras, where religious leaders and human rights activists requested support in their denunciation of the November elections, widely suspected to be rigged. They were asked to accompany people demonstrating their discontent and anger with the political situation in which they find themselves. Because of the support provided by the delegation, conflict with the government forces overseeing the demonstrations was avoided. However, in other parts of the country, there have been at least 30 deaths in violent clashes with the army and police using tear gas and live ammunition. Protest is a dangerous undertaking in Honduras. The utilization of bilateral US-Honduras aid has, unfortunately, succeeded mostly in strengthening the repressive government. The situation has led to the flight of many Hondurans to the US seeking asylum. To act in support of the people of Honduras, visit the UUSC web site for talking points to use in contacting your representatives.

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.

April Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the *April 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 Wednesday, March 21.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org



Building Hours

UUA March Building Hours

Sunday | 9:00am-4:00pm

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

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

2nd, 4th & 5th Friday | Closed

Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm

Office: Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-5:00pm



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

See what's happening on our social sites:

