



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

UUAA December 2018 Newsletter

November 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 12

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

UUA.org | MidAmericaUUA.org | [Side with Love](#)

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

December 2018 | Mystery

UUAA's Worship Planning Team

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

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

December 2, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

The Velvet Sky

As we begin exploring the theme of mystery, we're called to bring our attention to that which usually remains hidden, the vastness of the unknown, and our connection to something larger than ourselves.

December 9, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Have I Got a Question for You!

What spiritual questions are you grappling with? Join us this Sunday for an interactive service that explores our real life spiritual quandaries, questions, and wonderings.

December 16, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Stepping into Trust

As we contemplate our relationship to all that is greater than any one of us, we are invited, over and over again, to step into trust. How do we step into trust? What does trust require of us?

December 23, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

We Dream in the Darkness

"Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly."

- from Shelley Jackson Denham's "Dark of Winter" (SLT Hymn 55)

December 24, 2018

Worship: 4:30pm

Join us for a holiday worship service that is truly for all ages. We will re-create the ancient story of Jesus's birth with a "no-rehearsal" pageant! Participants will be chosen during the service and can be any age (no reading or acting abilities are necessary).

PLEASE NOTE: there are no classes for children that day and the nursery and preschool will be closed. But we will have plenty of family-friendly seating in the service.

Worship: 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Carols and stories, old and new. Candles for hope. Warm gifts of companionship, of presence.

On this holy night of anticipating hope, being together is a more vital practice than ever.

December 30, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Begin with Stillness

We look to a new year of spiritual quest and community building, heeding the wisdom of contemporary UU theologian Kathleen McTigue. We "pause for a moment on the forming edges of our lives, to resist the headlong tumble into the next moment." In this multigenerational service, we will participate in rituals to release the previous year and clear the way for the year ahead.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship and Music
glen.thomas@uuuaa.org





When the world is overflowing with critical unknowns, to engage with mystery takes a certain amount of courage.

With the lengthening darkness and nature's inward turn for winter, this time of year is ripe for pondering mystery, whether on a transcendent or personal level. We have the opportunity to slow down and ask ourselves questions that take time to explore:

- What is my place in the universe?
- What feeds my soul? Where have I been finding joy?
- How can I live my values more fully?
- Where have I become complacent?

It's not that such questions aren't present at other times, but this season invites deep reflection, if we're willing to accept the invitation.

As a congregation, UUAA will be asking itself similar questions in the months ahead as we explore our sense of shared purpose.

- Who are we?
- Whose are we?
- What kind of difference will we make in people's lives?
- What is UUAA uniquely called to do in these times?

In that process - which will come with many unknowns - we can let our imaginations embrace the mystery and magic available when a spiritual community focuses its heart and its hope.

May the New Year bring you meaningful questions to contemplate.

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuaa.org



For Your Calendar

Poinsettia Orders * Now Through Sunday, Decemeber 16



Holiday Poinsettias for Sanctuary Decoration

Congregants can donate a poinsettia for Christmas Eve Sanctuary decoration. Give in honor or memory of a loved one, whose name will be printed in an insert to the Order of Service. The cost is \$15 per plant. Place your order using this [link](#) or during Social Hour on or before Sunday, December 16. You can pick up your plant(s) after the last Christmas Eve service. Questions? Contact Rick Johnson at rrjohnson46@gmail.com.

23rd Annual Evening of Sacred Song * Saturday, December 1



You are invited to the 23rd Annual Evening of Sacred Song, a benefit for the [Poor People's Campaign](#) of Washtenaw County. Musical Director Brian Buckner; Artistic Director D. Yarrow Halstead; Guest Performers Edie Lewis & band artists; 2018 Ensemble La 'Ron

Williams, Robin Wilson, Cassandra Montgomery, Faye Askew-King; Deborah Greene, Jeff Pickell, Nancy Kerner, Gwynne Jennings, Phil Roos, and Sam Clark. Tickets are \$20 in advance [online](#) or \$25 at the door. This event will be held at 7:00pm at UUA and is in collaboration with the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.

Ending White Supremacy: From Ferguson to Standing Rock to Palestine * Sunday, December 2



Join us at 1:00pm in Fahs Chapel to view an insightful and inspiring video from the 2018 General Assembly. Four women discuss the impact of white supremacist ideology on people of color and how UUs can be "co-conspirators" in liberation movements for Black Lives, Native Americans, Palestinians, and other oppressed communities through solidarity and direct action. The featured panelists are:


- Rev. Danielle DiBona: UU Minister, member of the Wampanoag Tribe, and recipient of the 2018 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism
- Leslie MacFadyen: Lead organizer for the Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective and founder of Safety Pin Box
- Sandra Tamari: Co-chair of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Steering Committee and Director of Strategic Partnerships at Adalah Justice Project
- Tracey Rogers (moderator): Activist, Astrologer, Life Coach, and Member of UUJME



Memory Loss Caregiver Support * Wednesday, December 5




The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group offers participants a safe place to share and receive support. If you are a caregiver who would like some support, please join us in the David Room from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. Bring a friend or someone you may know who is also caring for someone with memory loss. All are welcome. Questions? Call Meredith Ley at 734-717-0213.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, December 5


This is the last monthly Senior Dinner for the year! We will meet at 6:00 pm at Hot Pot Chen at 2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. Drop-ins are welcome since no reservations are necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



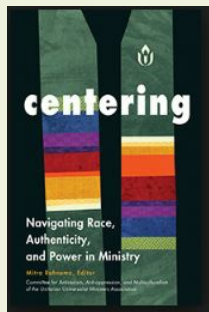
Friday Fun Night * Friday, December 7



Join fellow congregants in celebrating the season! Dinner begins at 6:00pm: Lasagne (gluten free and vegan options will be available), salad bar, fruit salad, and cherry bake. Dinner will be followed by holiday crafts of ornament and card making, and decorating gingerbread people. Visit with Santa as we decorate the UUA Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. The children's movie will be *Polar Express* and the adult programming for the evening is a discussion of the book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*. Questions? Email fridayfunnight@uuaa.org.



UUA Challenging Racism Book Discussion * Friday, December 7



The Challenging Racism Group will facilitate a discussion of *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, ed. Mitra Rahnema (pages 1-87) from 7:00pm to 8:45pm in the Fahs Chapel. We will focus on the experience of UUA religious professionals in white congregations and on what kind of culture we need to sustain if they are to be their authentic selves as they work here. Our own Rev. Manish has authored an essay (pages 66-79) and four reflective inserts. The book is available from the UUA Bookstore and Amazon (Kindle). A few copies are available for checkout in the office. Questions?

Contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu. All are welcome.

Save the date: Sunday, January 13 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel, the Challenging Racism Group will continue to facilitate the discussion of the rest of *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry*, ed. Mitra Rahnema (pages 80 to the end). As before, we will focus on UUA religious

professional of color and our need to sustain their work without being whitewashed. This section contains more reflective inserts authored by Rev. Manish. Questions? Contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu. All are welcome.



Community of Writers Holiday Reading * Sunday, December 9



To begin the holiday season, the UUAA Community of Writers is happy to invite families, friends, and visitors in the congregation to our Fourth Annual Holiday Reading! The reading will be held in Jackson Chapel from 1:15pm to 2:45pm, followed by conversation and refreshments. Thirteen members of the group will read their original

writings on a variety of subjects and in several writing genres, such as poetry, memoir, fiction, personal essay, and satire. A moderator will present a brief preface to introduce each writer, and each reading will be approximately five minutes.

After the readings, everyone is cordially invited to share a social time of conversation with the writers while enjoying coffee and pastries!

Since March of 2015, the Community of Writers, offered through the UUAA Adult Spiritual Growth and Development program, has met monthly on the second Sunday, welcoming everyone interested in and pursuing the writing arts. Our December meeting has become a holiday event, welcoming the congregation to share our writings and become acquainted with this opportunity to participate in an enjoyable, supportive community of writers.

We will begin the New Year on Sunday, January 13, 2019 with our meeting from 1:15pm to 2:45pm in the David Room. All those interested in creative writing are welcome!

Questions? Contact Co-facilitator Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com.



On the Horizon

News and Announcements

Delegation to the U.S.-Mexican Border | 2019 Trips

Join us as we travel to the American southwest to learn about important spiritual and civic issues related to our nation's southern border. Senior Minister Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti will personally lead two delegations during 2019 to Arizona, where we will meet with local grass-roots organizers as well as travel for a day to Mexico. The two travel opportunities will be in May and November of 2019, with a series of once-a-month seminars leading up to the first trip. We will be collaborating with the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice and an organization called Borderlinks, which specializes in experiential education related to border justice issues. For more information on Borderlinks, please feel free to visit <http://borderlinks.nationbuilder.com/history>.

Delegation Dates:

Saturday, May 11, 2019 through Thursday, May 16, 2019 (6 days, 5 nights)

OR

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 through Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 (6 days, 5 nights)

To learn more, use this [link](#).



Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry (AIM)

In June 2018 the AIM team celebrated our 5th anniversary. We want to take this opportunity to get your feedback about how well we are doing in our mission of strengthening accessibility and inclusion in our congregation.

Accessibility means how easy it is to access our building and get around inside for people with disabilities (e.g., the Sanctuary, restrooms, classrooms, etc.). Inclusion means how welcome all people with disabilities feel in congregational activities (e.g., no social stigma, inclusive policies).

We welcome everyone to participate in this brief [survey](#) and want to assure you that your information will be kept confidential. You will be asked to include your name. If you feel uncomfortable answering a particular question, feel free to leave it blank. This survey is for congregants ages 15 and up. If you are a parent of a child, there will be a section for you at the end. Please fill out and respond online <https://goo.gl/forms/mdF1onCKuT7ZuzPI3> or at church on a paper copy.

Please respond by Thursday, December 13, 2018.



Grocery Certificates/Scrip

Find gifts for everyone on your list while raising funds for UAAA by using the ShopWithScrip.com/GiftGuide. Shop gift cards from over 750 top brands, including Best Buy, Amazon, Home Depot, and more. Whether you are buying as a gift or to use yourself, UAAA earns with every gift card purchased. It's simple, it's thoughtful, and it's truly the gift that keeps on giving. Questions? Contact Carolyn Barber at cbarber@umich.edu.



Friends of Restorative Justice



The Friends of Restorative Justice (FORJ) and the Dispute Resolution Center joined together to sponsor an evening of education and advocacy for restorative justice at Washtenaw Community College on October 25, 2018.

There was a reception and presentation by [Dr. Reuben Miller](#), Associate Professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. In his impassioned speech, Dr. Miller expressed the need for us to bring healing to our victims, our offenders and our community. The event also included a showing of Healing Justice, a documentary that examines the impact of trauma, redefines justice within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, and moves us toward empathy, reconciliation, and healing to bring about social

and transformative change.

Over 150 people including many from our UUAA Congregation attended the film and panel discussion which included the following representatives: Anna Lemler, Youth advisory Council; Marquan Kane, Young Citizen of the Year; Debra Wright, Home of the New Vision; and the Honorable Judge Carol Kuhnke, who spoke about the need for transforming our justice system and for bringing healing to our community.

The event was organized and coordinated by Brenda Dulin, Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center, Margaret Pekarek and Kathy Friendrichs, Friends of Restorative Justice, and Germaine Smith, Dispute Resolution Center. If you are interested in the work of Friends of Restorative Justice, contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com or go to the website: www.friendsofrestorativejustice.org.



Mindful Eating



The Mindful Eating Team hosted a well-attended panel discussion on November 9 called "Seeds of Change: Incarcerated Women and Youth; Adult Ex-Offenders Find Purpose in Gardening." The Ann Arbor Public Library co-hosted, along with Friends of Restorative Justice.

The panel consisted of the following: Melvin Parson, who founded "We the People Growers Association" in Ypsilanti, where his goal is to provide jobs for men and women who are reintegrating into the community after incarceration; Emily Griswold, director of the Chelsea Farmers Market and facilitator of a gardening program in the Jackson County Youth Center; and Ellen Baron, vocational horticulture instructor at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

The panelists spoke of their own journeys in gardening and farming and how they brought that love into the correctional system. They gave examples of how the people they work with have felt that they've found something meaningful to do. Some have even gone on to work in the garden/farm industry after release.

The audience asked many questions and were very receptive to learning about this topic.



Sharing the Collection

Your Contributions Make a Difference!

The Sharing the Collection Committee is happy to share the good news: In our November collections, we raised \$3,482 for Alpha House alphahouse-ihn.org and \$2,604 for Re-Member. So far in 2018, we have raised over \$24,000 to benefit non-profit organizations in Washtenaw County who are serving the needy and the disadvantaged.

Help us do more; mark your calendar for this upcoming collection:
Sunday, December 2: Community Action Network (www.canwashtenaw.org)

We are currently evaluating applications for 2019. Visit our webpage at bit.ly/sharingthecollection.

Are you not able to attend services on the Sunday of Sharing the Collection? You can mail a check to the church, noting "Sharing the Collection" in the memo line. Questions? Contact Bob Dinan at bdinan83@gmail.com.



QUUest Bookstore



Win a Free Copy of Michelle Obama's New Memoir, *Becoming!*

A great read or a great gift!

Fill out an entry form at the bookstore table during Social Hour (one per person please) and drop it into the designated box after Sunday services December 2, December 9, December 16, or December 23. The winner's name will be drawn at noon on Sunday, December 23.



Partner Church Transylvania

Meet Our Transylvanian Hosts and Friends

Seven people from UUAA traveled to Transylvania in August and stayed with seven different families. Over the next few months, we'll tell you about our hosts.

I stayed with Rev. Istvan Buzogany-Csoma, his wife (Rev. Csilla), and their daughters, Boglarka (10) and Eszter (7). Since Rev. Istvan and his wife were responsible for the entire schedule, a confirmation service of three teens, and a dinner at their home, you can imagine that my time with them was busy, hectic, and a lot of fun. They live in a small village about 25 minutes by car from Kezdivasarhely, so I enjoyed both country and city life and time in the car as we traveled back and forth. The extra time in the village allowed me to see more of life there than on my previous visits.

I was able to spend time with our new scholarship student, Nora, and her parents, Edit and Vilmos (Bobby) Gabor. Both Edit and Bobby are prime supporters of the village Unitarian church and also of the minister and his family. On our last night with my hosts, we all climbed into the van (that we helped them purchase) and went off to a folk festival, enjoying barbeque and music.



Here we all are -- our group, our hosts and their children, Bobby (holding our gift quilt) and his wife (just behind him.) Ildiko Bucs, the Kezdi church Board chair, is second on right of the second row. The three youth who were confirmed hold their

confirmation certificates. Questions? Contact Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



Yearend giving is upon us! Are you planning on going to the border next year with Rev. Manish or wishing you could, but can't? Make a financial commitment now to those very people who are the reason for the trip, our Central American and Mexican neighbors seeking asylum.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) can also spread your gift to the world. With partners on the ground in more than 25 countries, your dollars can help support work that larger organizations do not, such as dealing with emotional trauma in populations facing harsh human rights abuses, reuniting asylum seekers and their families, helping reestablish schools for communities devastated by natural disasters, and protecting the rights of human beings around the world. UUSC has earned four stars from Charity Navigator. For further information, contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Food Buckets



As the holiday season approaches, it is important to remember the significant impact your contributions have made to our community. SOS and Unified Health and Beyond are grateful for the donations made to their food pantries by our congregants and welcome more.

Add a nonperishable food item or personal care item to your cart as you go about your holiday shopping. One item per UUAA family adds up to hundreds of items to deliver to our fellow Washtenaw County residences experiencing food insecurity.

Contributions can be left in the Food Buckets outside the Sunderland Library in the SGD wing. SOS and Unified Health wish lists can be found above the Food Buckets. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



UUSC Coffee Project

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Lillian Fineman

Lillian is originally from Atlanta, GA and moved to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is one year away from completing her Masters in Epidemiology along with a Certificate in Genetics. Her primary academic interests include infectious disease, especially vector-borne diseases in developing countries. Lillian is a huge animal lover!



She is a lifelong vegetarian and has a "mini zoo" of seven animals at home. Lillian also enjoys volunteering and is currently serving as the Service Committee Chair for the UUAA 20's & 30's group, Ignite.



Mary Phelps



Mary and her husband are life-time Ann Arborites. She is the mother of four adult sons and grandmother to four precious little ones. She spent her career working to support clinical research and is passionate that research be conducted both efficiently and ethically. She has been attending UUAA for over two years and has never felt more at home, as well as inspired and challenged, in a spiritual community. She is grateful to have found the right place for her!



Susan Randall & Mark Sanderson



Mark

Mark and his wife, Susan, moved to Ann Arbor five months ago from Sioux Falls, SD, where they were members of All Souls UU for many years. Mark is retired from a vocational career in social work and teaching. They feel good about UUAA being their new congregational home, which was a positive influence on their decision to move here. However, the main "lure" was their granddaughters, ages two and a half and one. Mark and Susan are enjoying getting to know them and being a part of their lives and being a part of this congregation.

Susan

Susan is a sociologist (Ph.D. Boston University), retired nonprofit executive, founder of Deer Creek Herbs and Teas, and joyful grandma. After 41 years in Sioux Falls with deep ancestral roots on the prairie, discovering Michigan and the Great Lakes is a sensational opportunity.



Sherry Smith

Sherry lives in Dexter with her Siamese cat, Mocha. Sherry works at UM at MLibrary. Her wife, Michele Donnelly, passed away in late summer after being treated for Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for two-and-a-half years. Michele and Sherry loved camping on Lake Michigan, eating good food with friends,



laughing, and caring for their four-legged family members. Sherry has joined this congregation for spiritual community, progressive social change, and compassionate presence. Relationship-building is one of the things she values most.



Membership



Becoming a Member

Stepping Stones



Experience being part of the congregation by attending Sunday services and seeking out groups of interest.



Learn about the UU faith and history by attending an Introduction to Our Faith class. (For more information about registering for upcoming sessions, check the Sunday *Bulletin* or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.)



Upon completing Introduction to Our Faith and learning about the rights and responsibilities of membership, arrange with the Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss to sign the membership book and submit paperwork.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin Deadline Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

Holiday Deadlines for Publications

January Newsletter Deadline Friday, December 14 at 9:00am

All submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Combined December 23/30th Weekly Bulletin Deadline Wednesday, December 19 at 5:00pm

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Reserving a Room at UUA

Submit your room requests by using our room reservation form link ([Request a Room](#)) found on the lower right corner of the home page at www.uuaa.org. Completing this form will allow the Room Team to accommodate requests for accessibility needs, room setup, audio/visual equipment, and special arrangements for large groups.

The UUA room reservation calendar system is divided into two sessions:

- The **Congregational Program Session** | through Sunday, May 19, 2019
- The **Summer Program Session** | begins Monday, May 20, 2019.

Recurring events will be scheduled only within each session. If a recurring event flows into the next program session, a new room reservation request will need to be submitted.

If you are expecting 50 or more attendees, please submit a room request form and allow extra time for your request to be processed, as it will need to be approved by the UUA staff prior to being placed on the calendar. Questions? Email room@uuaa.org.



Building Hours * December 1-21

Sunday | 8:30am to 4:00pm
Monday to Thursday | 9:00am to 9:00pm
1st & 3rd Friday | 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Other Fridays | Closed
Saturday | 9:00am to 4:00pm

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



Holiday Building Hours * December 22- January 1

Holiday Hours December 22- January 1

Saturday, December 22 | Building Closed
Sunday, December 23 | 9:00am to 1:00pm
Monday, December 24 | 9:00am to 10:30pm
Tuesday, December 25-Saturday, December 29 | Closed
Sunday, December 30 | 9:00am to 1:00pm
Monday, December 31-Tuesday, January 1 | Closed



See what's happening on our social sites:

