

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
January 9, 2011

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**First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2010 – 2011**

Officers

President

Marilyn Mitchell

Vice President

Bill McKnight

Immediate Past President

Dan Wiest

Board Secretary

*Kathleen Jacobs
Johnson*

Treasurer

David Lingholm

Staff

Minister

Rev. Bill Neely

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jenn Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Dessa Cosma

Robert Johnson

Julie Brock

Sally Borden

Newsletter Editor

Robert Johnson

Worship Services

**held every Sunday at
11:00am.**

For What Purpose?

Rev. Bill Neely

Recently in this column, I asked an open question for general feedback: For what purpose does First Church exist? I was happy to receive several responses through email and conversation. They included ideas like: to proclaim liberal religious values in Detroit (values such as religious tolerance, rationality in religion, democratic decision-making, and non-violent conflict resolution), to promote

social justice by partnering with other organizations working to make Detroit stronger, to be a church where people can pursue their own spiritual truths in a loving community, and to be a place where people care for one another and where you know that you are cared for.

The Board also responded to a similar query (not posed by me) in our start-up workshop in November by developing the statement: First Unitarian Universalist Church is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit. I was heartened to see

Unitarian Universalism:

**We need not think a like
to love a like.**

become a financially self-sufficient congregation in the near future. And as you know and have reflected to me, becoming financially self-sufficient is no longer a goal for down the road; it is the pressing need that you must address very quickly.

A trusted colleague encouraged me, as your Interim Minister, to focus on reflecting back to you what I see in your church. I'll be preaching on this a bit in the future, but for now, I'll offer that I see you as serving very similar purposes to those that you expressed: you are an urban center that values social justice and spiritual renewal, and you are a place where you know that you are cared for. You are dedicated to your city and neighborhood, and you are committed to strengthening both through the power of your institution. You do stand for spiritual freedom. Additionally, you have a solid core of lay leaders directly addressing the most important questions before you. Once you've resolved those issues, however you resolve them, you will be able to focus your energy more directly on strengthening those already sound aspects of your congregation's purpose.

In other words, after this essential building and financial work is done, you will be even more effective in being an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in



Detroit. I see a church whose energy and spirit is necessarily and understandably focused on financial survival right now, but once you have been re-made as a self-sustaining congregation, your ministry among each other and in this city will grow. The blessings of your ministry will reach far and wide, and your presence in the city will inspire and nurture. You will be the model of a reborn, re-made congregation focused like a laser on the purpose that it seeks to serve this day, with the strength of today's resources. All will be blessed by the work in which you're engaged now, and the ministry that will broaden once it's complete. You are creative, resilient, and beautiful, and I'm thrilled to start this new year with you in Detroit.

January Worship Calendar

Jan. 2, Love Beyond Belief, Rev. Bill Neely The Unitarian Universalist theologian Thandeka writes of a "love beyond belief" that pulses at the center of our faith. What does this love look like, and how does it shape us and the world?

Jan. 9, True Colors, Julie Brock

Jan. 16, A Dream Deferred, Rev. Bill Neely On Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we'll hold Dr. King's famous dream of racial equality up next to the timeless Langston Hughes poem, A Dream Deferred. How has Dr. King's dream, which is our dream, been deferred? How has it been realized?

Jan. 23, Why Anti-Racism Has Failed, Rev. Bill Neely In 1992, Unitarian Universalists attending our annual General Assembly passed a racial and cultural diversity resolution that eventually fueled the development of a UUA anti-racism program. After becoming familiar with the program, two prominent UU theologians predicted its failure. It now seems that they were more right than wrong. Why?

Jan. 30, Topic TBD, Guest Speaker



Ed Collins working the parking lot during Dally in the Alley.

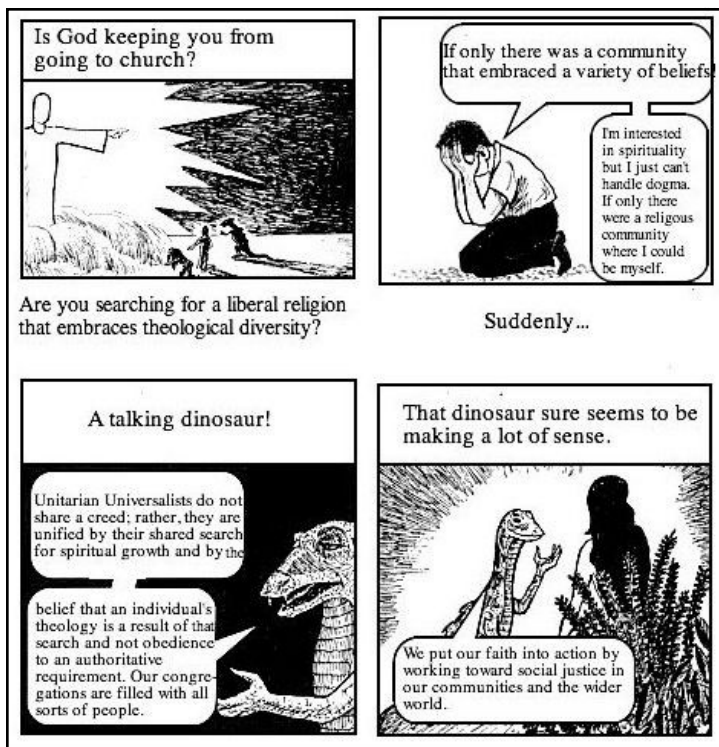
FUNdraisers / Friendraisers

Sherry and Yvonne are donating their services to the church for these fascinating programs. To register for any of these, contact Sherry at 248-543-5297 (day, eve., machine) or esperantosherry@tm.net

How to Get Your Book Published

On Saturday, January 22, Sherry A. Wells--speaker, attorney, writer--will give this workshop from 9 to 3 with our own Elayne Sikelianos cooking lunch. At a recession rate of \$75, including lunch, it makes a great GIFT (!) for that wanna-be author or for yourself, for those who've not yet written a word to those with manuscripts in progress. In Memorial Hall--a comfortable place to learn. Sherry is donating her fee to the church.

To register, contact Sherry Wells at (248) 543-5297 or esperantosherry@tm.net on or before Jan. 14

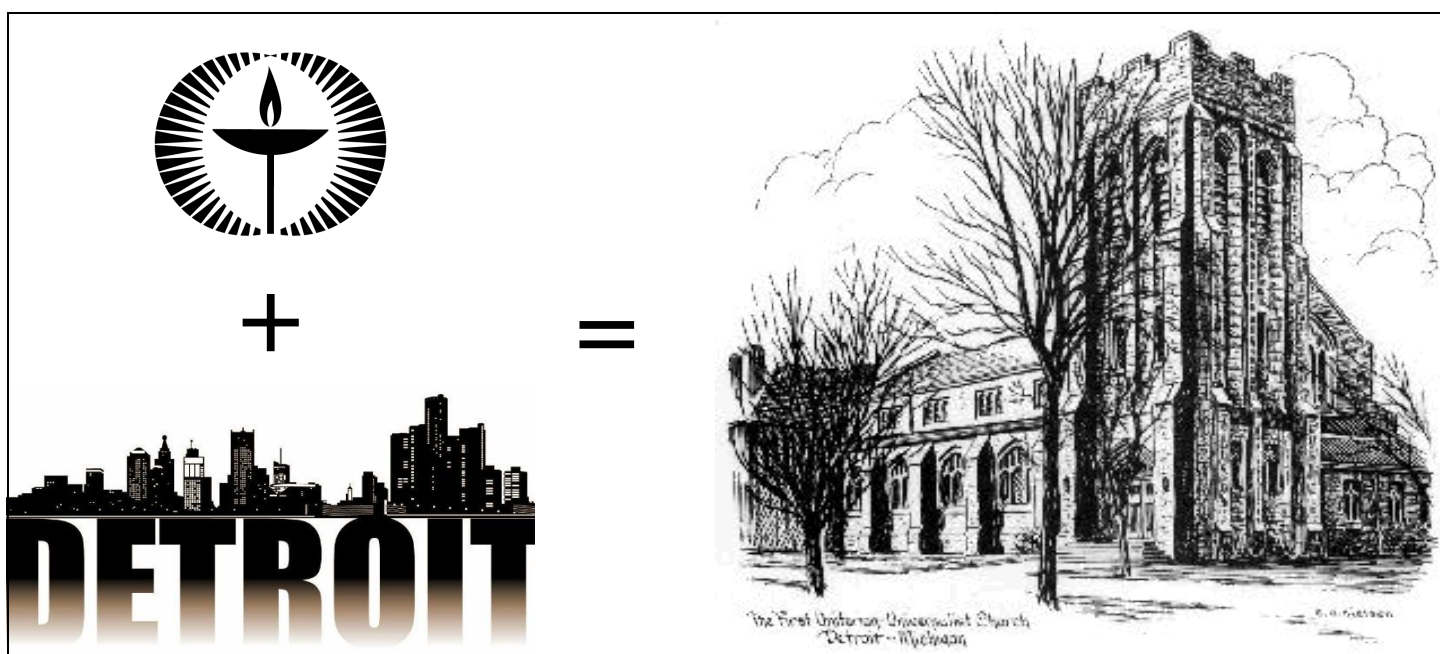


Jewelry Making

Also on Saturday, January 22, Yvonne Ham will offer Go Home with a Pair of Earrings in the morning from 9 to 11 and Make a Beadwoven Bracelet from 1:00 to 3:00. The fee for each class is \$20 and includes materials. Also in beautiful Memorial Hall.

ALSO

The (New) Alliance offers Wills and Witnesses to be Sunday, January 16, at 1:30 p.m., after the potluck. Attorney Sherry A. Wells will guide us through the Michigan Statutory Will and the Advanced Directives forms. We can fill them out then and there, with each other as Witnesses. In Memorial Hall (how fitting!). Start the New Year off right with these documents in place.



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