

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | Sunday 5th— Super soup Sunday 12th—Freedom to marry | | 1 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Yoga | 2 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA | 3 7 p.m. Common SENS 6:30 p.m. 1st Friday Game Night | 4 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Imbolc 7 p.m. House Concert at Olga Felton's house |
| | 6 | 7 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 8 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Yoga 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. STITCH Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. Poetry, Prose and Potluck at the Keldsens | 9 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA | 10 | 11 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 3 p.m. decorating for FTM event |
| 10 a.m. First Hour- Four Principle Forum Spirit Circle 11 a.m. Service 12 p.m. Coffee Hour | 13 7 p.m. Faith-In-Action Committee meeting | 14 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 15 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Governance Committee meeting 7 p.m. Gen X/Y | 16 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA | 17 | 18 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group |
| | 20 7 p.m. Board meeting | 21 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 22 Noon Common Reader Book Group 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Friends of Paws & Claws | 23 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA | 24 | 25 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group |
| | 26 | 27 6:30 p.m. Novel Notions at Kathy Arney's house 7 p.m. Dream Group | 28 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 29 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Board - 5th Wednesday | | |

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February 2012

The Vanguard

"A Liberal Religious Presence in Northwest Indiana Since 1874"

COLORS OF LOVE
BY ARUN KUMAR

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Love can be red, like the intense heat of a passionate kiss
the color of sweetness
the color of strawberries
 Love can be blue, like the comfort we take in a pair of denim jeans
the color of strength
the color of perfect skies
 Love can be yellow, bright and warm like the morning sun
like the sounds of laughters of children on the merry-go-round
like the sounds of fun from the boys flying kites in the open fields
 Love can be green, peaceful and serene I can hear your heart beats
it is the feeling of a loving hand that touch a grieving heart
it is the whispering of trusting words to a distressing soul
 Love can be orange, the loudness of it can drive you up a wall
it can drive you to sing like nobody is listening
it can drive you to dance like nobody is watching
 Love can be purple, the courage we need to love bravely and unselfishly
the moment I first kiss you i know that i am not afraid to risk involvementthe day the declaration of your love for me was made known to the world

First Unitarian Church of Hobart
 497 Main Street, Hobart, Indiana



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W O R S H I P C A L E N D A R

(Services are held on Sunday's at 11 A.M. in the church Sanctuary, unless otherwise noted.)

Feb 5

"Imprisoned Lightning"

Rev. Chip

Arizona calls them "illegal aliens," while some prefer "undocumented workers." What are the issues around immigration, and why should we care, here in Indiana? This service will feature the music of Joe Jencks, who has performed in over 400 UU churches. From Carnegie Hall to Caribbean isles, his music has warmed and inspired thousands. This will be the 6th time that Joe and Rev. Chip have collaborated on worship; the previous five got rave reviews.

Feb 12

"Sex-Positive Religion"

Rev. Chip

Sex—between consenting adults!—is something to be celebrated. Unfortunately, that is not the message that most of us got, growing up. Can we find a balancing point between the repressions of old, and the exploitations of our hyper-sexualized contemporary culture?

This service will include frank language about human sexuality.

Feb 26

"Some Assembly Required"

Rev. Chip

We'll explore how Republican "Town Hall" Meetings and Occupy Wall Street protests *both* trace their methods back to our religious ancestors – and how we can reclaim democracy to save our nation and our Unitarian Universalist movement.

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Science Café Spring 2012



Friday, February 24 at the Church. 6:30p.m. Light refreshments. 7:00p.m. Presentation. Speaker and topic not yet finalized at press time. Watch for updates in the weekly "Upcoming in the Church and Community" emails, as well as in the inserts in the Order of Service.

Friday, March 23 – "Why ask WHY? Changing the course of mathematics instruction." Have you reached the point where you can no longer help with your child's math homework? Have you noticed that their new textbooks look very different from the ones that you used when you were in school? Are your memories of high school math filled with joy or do they cause anxiety? In this session, we will discuss the changes in mathematics teaching and learning and how parents can help their children deepen their understanding of mathematics. Presented by Dr. Diana Underwood-Gregg, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education and Director of the Center for Math Teaching and Learning, Purdue University Calumet.

Friday, April 20 - "The Skinny on the War Against Fat: Critical Approaches to the 'Obesity Epidemic'"

Dr. Carla A. Pfeffer, Dept. of Social Sciences, Purdue North Central, will describe the ways in which fatness is increasingly framed as moral failure and a public health crisis reaching epidemic proportions. Presenting a critical sociological analysis of existing research on links between fatness and health, Dr. Pfeffer provokes consideration of what might be at stake in abandoning a "war against fat" in favor of approaches focusing on "health at every size."

Friday, May 18 - Speaker and topic not yet finalized at press time.

Submitted by Glenn Keldsen on behalf of my fellow Science Café Coordinators Mary Ann Crayton, Peter O'Day and myself.

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SCIENCE CAFÉ

The twenty-sixth monthly edition of Science Café will be held at the Church Friday evening January 27, 2012, beginning at 6:30, when we gather for refreshments. Join science enthusiasts for a program that honors the Humanist counsel in our UU Sources that commends to us "the results of science." The presentation begins at 7:00 PM and lasts 30 - 45 minutes, and it is followed by a brief time of Q&A. Our originally scheduled presenter, Dr. Diana Underwood-Gregg, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at Purdue University Calumet, has an unavoidable conflict, so we will reschedule her for a later date. In the meantime we are looking for a suitable replacement, which we will announce through the weekly "Upcoming in the Church and the Community" emails, as well as through announcements inserted in the Order of Service. As always, childcare will be available, and there is no admission charge. The program is open to the public - bring a friend.

WHY A SCIENCE CAFE? From energy to the environment to evolution, scientific discovery and the social and technological changes that it brings are major impacts upon our lives. The scientific method of pursuing truth (evidence based, theory driven, experimentally tested, peer reviewed and constantly open to revision as the evidence changes) is one of the main ways in which UU's come to understand our world; our UUA Principles statement commits us to the "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," and the UUA Sources statement reminds us that we draw from Humanist teachings, a duty to heed "the results of science."

WHY MONTHLY? Around the country, over 200 Science Cafés meet, usually monthly, in coffee shops, private homes, taverns and even churches, bringing together secular advocates of science education, and liberal religious folks who view their faith and the findings of scientific exploration to be compatible. Monthly gatherings on a consistent day (Science Cafe is always on a Friday - usually the third or fourth of the month) help build a constituency, and allow interested speakers to plan in advance.

Names & Numbers

Rev. Chip Roush
(Cell) 231-709-0032

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219-942-1611

Board of Trustees/Officers:

Don Parker, President / Olga Felton, Vice President

Maggie Reister Walters, Secretary / Glenn Keldsen, Treasurer

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"How come you think humans evolved from monkeys?" asked Lilly, "Don't you think dogs are much smarter than they are?" Lillie is our dog, and she often communicates with me. As far as I know, she does not talk—er, think, I receive her thoughts in my mind—with anybody else.

"Well, girl, I know that you are pretty smart."

"Don't deflect. How do you think chimpanzees compare to dogs? And do you really think humans were once animals?" Once she's on the scent of something, Lilly can be pretty focused.

"First, humans are *still* animals. We have to eat, and breathe, and procreate. Many humans are more intelligent than most other species, but we are all animals. Second, yes. I am satisfied that our ancestors evolved one direction, while chimps and bonobos took a different evolutionary path, starting about 3 million years ago. On a Thursday, I think."

"What?!" protested Lillie. "How can you possibly know it was a Thursday? The margin of error on such an estimate has to be on the order of thousands of years. Which day it was is pure speculation. Plus it probably took longer than one day, to make that evolutionary step."

"It was actually intended as a joke. I think humor is one thing that distinguishes humans (and maybe some other apes) from other species."

"Maybe it just wasn't funny," sniffed Lilly. "And you still haven't mentioned dogs."

"Are you sure you want to get into that debate? Do you see what some of my fellow humans have done to chimps, in the name of language research? Do you want to be locked up and studied, then abandoned—discarded as soon as the funding runs out? Do you want to be vilified by religious crusaders?"

"Do you really think that dogs have been better treated by human scientists?"

"Good point. But you haven't been criticized and misunderstood by biblical literalists."

"You're deflecting again," whined Lillie. "Answer the question, please."

"Okay. Well, one thing I know is that dogs are much smarter than squirrels – like that one there."

And she was off, obeying her ancient instinct to chase all squirrels. I'm still smarter than my dog. In my opinion, the scientific tale of evolution is no less wondrous or awe-inspiring than any other creation story. I honor Life's continuing evolution through and among all of us.

With Spirit,
Chip



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This month, as we approach Chip's half-year anniversary with us, the board will be doing his mid-term evaluation, and deciding, with his input, on whether or how much beyond his current year with us we wish to have him stay. Your input and feedback is not only welcome, but something the congregation needs. Feel free to share your views with any board member.

It's worth recapping where we've come to this point in our church life. Our congregation has been growing slowly but steadily, about 5% each year for the last several years, both in membership and in giving. Everyone in the congregation leadership agrees that this is not the result of one thing or person, but that our congregation has 'caught the spirit' of Beloved Community. There is always more to be done, but we have a shared sense of mission, of serving both our own people and the wider world.

When Roger announced his planned retirement, he gave us the opportunity to think about our future and growth as a congregation, as we plan for our ministry and minister going forward. The result was that we decided to engage an Interim Minister, to help us in that process of discernment. By UUA rules, an Interim CANNOT stay more than 2 years. The Interim's job is to 'speak truth to power', help us plan, but also tell us about some of the things we may need to work on to be a truly Beloved Community.

Chip has been a 'good fit' for us, and some have asked if he can stay on. As appealing as the idea is, it doesn't fit with either UUA rules (which Chip has to abide by even if we don't want to) and Chip's own family plans. So we need to look forward to not only who our minister will be, but what kind of minister we want going forward.

Chip works for us full-time, and that means that he draws more salary and benefits from us than did Roger, who was half-time. Chip has been more involved in congregational life than Roger, who had to split responsibilities with the other congregations with which he worked. During a time of growth and discernment for us (figuring out who we want to be spiritually and how we want to serve the community), Chip's full-time involvement with us has been important, but it's also not financially sustainable for us at our present level of congregational income. Income is growing, but not enough currently to sustain a full-time minister.

Our Search and Finance Committees and the Board are working to balance finances against income growth projections, at the same time looking at what model of ministry will best serve us: full-time, ¾ or half-time, yoked (serving 2 churches as Roger did), and how we will grow that ministry toward an eventual full-time minister as the congregation grows.

The trick is to figure out where we go from here in a way that is sustainable and still keeps us on the track we are on, to be a congregation that is more serving of its members, offers more opportunity for spiritual growth, and also serves the mandate to make our world better because we are here to act to do so.

Where we all come personally into this discussion is in examining our own stewardship, and stewardship is many things, not just one. Are we giving financial support at a level that both serves the congregation's needs and reflects our own passion for why we are part of it? Are we 'evangelists' for Unitarian Universalism? (You may laugh or even recoil at the word, but many of our leading UU thinkers today call for 'evangelism' about what they call the 'good news' of UU – precisely because we have a responsibility to take back that term from those who would claim that their 'good news' is the only 'good news', and that those who don't agree with them are somehow less than the children of God.) Do we stand up against those who say that UU is a cult, or means you can believe anything you want, or nothing at all? I've often said that UU is one of the most demanding faiths to hold – not the least demanding – because we each have a responsibility to shape our own spirituality. That, too, is stewardship, which must begin in our own hearts, and only then can we make it part of Beloved Community.

So this is once again a call for everyone to be a part of the process. We won't all agree, but we are all part of Beloved Community, and we will get there together.

Namaste!

Don

ATTENTION: As the church works toward becoming a greener sanctuary, please note that our Michigan recycling program is beginning again effective immediately. It is the same program as before: Some glass bottles, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans are stamped (very lightly) on the top or it is written on the label "MI 10c". This item goes in the dark green garbage can with the hole in the lid. **PLEASE only put these types of recyclables in this can.** All other recyclables go in the tall blue recycle bin. And don't forget to bring your paper to deposit into our big green and yellow bin in the parking lot. That bin is for almost any kind of paper.

So let's recap on our recycle/garbage programs:

- * If the item is paper, it goes into our box under the welcoming table or outside in the big green and yellow bin.
- * If the item is plastic, glass, or aluminum, **AND** is stamped or written on the label "MI 10c", then it goes in the dark green garbage container with the hole in the lid near the coat rack.
- * If it is not one of the two listed above, but it does have a recycle symbol on it somewhere, then it goes in the tall blue recycle bin.
- * If the item does not fit into one of the above listed categories, then it is actual garbage (until we get composting up and running.) Then it actually can be thrown away (for now).

Your help is greatly appreciated in these matters because it is not anyone's idea of a fun time to sort through this garbage, so please follow the simple guidelines listed above or simply ask someone, and we will figure it out.

Thanks for your cooperation in helping our recycling program!!!

Cheryl Powell & the
Faith-In-Action Committee



Save the Date

Musician Joe Jencks will perform at First Church, the first weekend of February. After a concert on Saturday night, he will co-lead Sunday's worship service with Rev. Chip. Joe has performed at over 400 UU churches; he and Chip have presented worship together five times previously.

Famous UUs Nearby

Marilyn Sewell (author of several books, and story of the movie "Raw Faith") and Bill Schulz (current UUSC President; former president of our UUA and of Amnesty USA) will be in Chicagoland in April, at the Central Midwest District Assembly. Held at the Marriott Oak Brook Hill Resort, April 27-29, it will be educational, inspirational, and just plain fun. Check out the district website for more information: www.cmwd-uua.org

UU Quiz

Congratulations to Glenn Keldsen for being the first to answer last month's quiz. He won a gift certificate to the Remarkable Book Shop in Merrillville. The first person to tell/call/email Rev. Chip with the correct answer to *this* month's quiz will also win a prize. In fact there are two prizes – one each for a person who read the Vanguard online, and as a traditional paper copy. When you send/tell your answer, please include how you read the newsletter.

Quiz: Arrested on November 18, 1872, this person was born in February and later attended a Unitarian church in New York state. Who is it, and why is this person remembered?

Kudos

to the mystery donor who wrote a sizable check to help prevent a family's eviction; to all the volunteers who cook and/or serve during our monthly turn at the Agape Café; to the RE committee for the Roots and Wings programs – especially the field trips; to Jane Van Hatten for collecting bags and goodies from various Valpo businesses, to make 60+ gift bags for people around the winter holidays; and last but not least, to Peter Martin who spent endless hours in the murky belly of the church, in order to improve our Sanctuary sound system.

Know of other members' selfless acts? Please tell Rosemary Petroff, for future recognition in this column

Office Hours / Pie with the Parson

Rev. Chip is available for meetings most days, from 6:30am through 10pm; call or email to set up an appointment. He also schedules times that he will be available without an appointment. Just stop by the following places and times (Office Hours are at the church):

Wednesday 2/8 Pie with the Parson 11a-1p Broadway Café, Valpo

Thursday 2/9 Office Hours 11a-1p

Monday 2/20 Office Hours 5-7p

Tuesday 2/28 Office Hours 11a-1p

Home or Away

Rev. Chip will take his February week home from Monday, 2/13, through Sunday, 2/19. He will be available by phone or email; although the response time will not be as quick as when he is here in the Region. He has no professional engagements outside the region in February. His March week home will be the week of March 5-11.

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POETRY, PROSE AND POTLUCK

The "Poetry, Prose and Potluck" (PPP) group meets monthly in one another's homes, where we break bread together, check in, and share poetry and prose readings. Some of these readings are original, but most are not. Indeed, if you just want to come and listen, that's fine too. We enjoyed our December meeting at Fred and

Mary Pat Bone's home in Valparaiso. It was both a culinary and a literary delight. Our next get-together will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 8, 2012, at the Keldsen home in Chesterton. If you would like to come, please contact the Keldsens either by phone or through the church office. That way

our hosts will know how many places to set, and they can advise you on what kind of food might be needed.

Submitted by Glenn and Suzanne Keldsen on behalf of the entire PPP group

**HOSPITALITY**

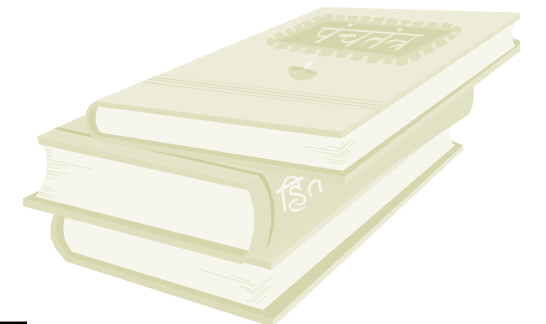
Hospitality is looking for sponsors of coffee hour this is a long standing tradition of the church where the congregation of the church gathers for a coffee, a small snack (such as veggie tray chips cake and other sweets) and socializing after Sunday service at 12. We are currently looking for individuals or groups to sponsoring this tradition. Spon-

soring consists of bringing in the food for the day or the week before making a donation of 40 \$ or more to the hospitality committee and let us do the work and you can take all the credit. You can also help out with the hospitality committee by helping in the kitchen or coming to James Johnson on a Sunday during hospitality and

get more information on other ways to help

James Johnson –Chair for Hospitality

Wednesday, February 22nd, Common Reader Book Group will meet at Dottie Stewart's residence at Miller's Assisted Living in Portage (5911 Lute Road, west of Willowcreek Road) at 1:30 p.m. It is a two-story building; meet on the second floor. Phone: 763-2273. Lunch will be at the Great Wall Buffet in the shopping center near the corner of US 6 and Willowcreek Road at noon. Phone: 763-7778. February's topic is Poetry. Choose a favorite poem/poet to share/discuss.. Please join us. Wendy Masters wendymm3238@yahoo.com



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First Friday Game Night, brought to you by CUUPs

Friday February 3, 6:30-9:00pm

Join us for food, and fun and games! Bring your favorite board game and a dish to share. Pot luck begins at 6:30, games at 7:30. Contact Patricia Riley-Churilla at (219) 929-9372 for more information.

Wheel of the Year, brought to you by CUUPs

Saturday February 4, 7:00

The Wheel turns again, and even in this season of snow, unseen things are beginning to stir. Come join us as we observe Imbolc. Bring a dish to share for continued fellowship following the ritual. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by a parent. Child care is not provided so that attending children may feel that they are part of the community.

Fourth Annual Freedom to Marry Reception, brought to you by the Welcoming Congregation Committee

Sunday February 12, 3:00-6:00pm

Another year has passed, and although the BGLT community has made some progress to full and equal rights, we aren't there yet. Join us as we celebrate love in all its forms and bring awareness to marriage equality.

This event is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are a *must* so we know when we are full. And when we are full, admission to the event will be closed, so please make sure you RSVP as soon as possible. Seating is limited and the event keeps getting more popular.

If you are interested in helping plan, working at the event, and/or attending, please contact Kele Ivey at (219) 613-4991 or Patricia Riley-Churilla at (219) 929-9372. Or catch us on Facebook.

T H E S T I C K L A D Y



Did You Make A New Year's Resolution for 2012?

Every Sunday during Coffee Hour, talk to someone you do not know!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have you done this yet??????????????????

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The Membership Committee hosted coffee hour on January 7, 2012 to honor two new members, Karen Livengood Steele and Gina Miller. Both had signed the book in private. During the worship service the two new members were recognized by Rev. Chip Roush, and they each received a rose. A big thank you to the following on The Membership Committee (Brian Barnes, Connie Barnes, Carla Banks, John Disco, John Klecka, Jeff Kime, Gretchen Lewis, Diane O'Connell, and Rev. Chip Roush) for making the coffee hour a success.



The New UU Session will be given on April 18th and April 25th. Both dates are Wednesdays. A sign up sheet will be in The Parish Hall. Afternoon and evening sessions will be available. The Date for Rite of Membership is May 20, 2012. Please note, all four sessions need to be attended if one intends to become a member.

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Session 1: "Sharing Personal Religious Odysseys"

led by Brian Barnes

2:30 - 3:45 p.m., repeated 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Session 2: "Learning the History of Unitarian-Universalism"

led by Rev. Chip Roush

3:45 - 4:15 p.m., repeated 8:15 - 9:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Session 3: "Serving as a Unitarian Universalist"

led by Connie Barnes and Carla Banks

2:30 - 3:30 p.m., repeated 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sessions 4: "Exploring Issues within Unitarian Universalism"

led by Rev. Chip Roush

3:30 - 4:30 p.m., repeated 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.



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