

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

December 2014



Names & Numbers

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

497 Main St., Hobart, IN 46342
Scott Aaseng, Minister
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2014-2015 Board of Trustees

Maggie Reister Walters, President
Gina Miller, Vice President
Jim O'Gallagher, Treasurer
Tim Cook, Secretary
Stephanie Dowell, Jeff Kime,
Kelly Mahler, Pete O'Day

Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

- Sunday, December 7: Wendy Maters, congregant
A Child's Memory of Pearl Harbor, December 7th 1941
- Sunday, December 14: Rev. Dr. Fred Niedner
A Season Too Long, Too Much, and Too Full:
Some thoughts on discerning wisdom and sanity in a season that multiple religions claim but Target and Amazon.com really own
- Sunday, December 21: Reverend Scott Aaseng
Our Religious Journeys
- Wed, Dec. 24 at 5:00pm: Christmas Eve Vespers Service
- Sunday, December 28: Jerry Ashmore, congregant
Meditation: What is it? What use is it?
- Wed, Dec. 31 at 5:00pm: Jerry Ashmore, congregant
Serving The Greater Good

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



I began my time with you by asking you to think of times when this church really came alive for you. Some wonderful stories came out about times when First Unitarian has been really meaningful to you. Then I invited you to identify the values and characteristics behind those experiences, and you came up with a wonderful list, including acceptance and connection, courage and vulnerability, sharing and service.

In subsequent discussions we have articulated a working mission for the church, based on these values, in terms of three things: Building Community, Growing Spiritually, and Putting Our Values into Action. And I have heard over and over again that the overriding priority is to grow, both spiritually and numerically.

Now I invite you to consider again those experiences and stories of when this church has been most significant in your life. Perhaps it was when you came and found a welcoming place that accepted you just as you are. Perhaps it was a time when you found support in a time of need, or inspiration that gave you a new perspective on life. Perhaps it was a time when this church reached out and made a

difference in the world beyond its walls.

I could say that this was my plan all along, but I'll be honest and say that I've come to a new appreciation of the importance of sharing our significant stories and experiences. I'm learning that it is when we appreciate and articulate the times that have been most meaningful to us that we find strength and encouragement from each other, and discover what we have to share with others. Whatever it is that we are grateful for—that's what we have to share with others.

The next part is how to share it in an invitational way, but I'll leave that for another time. For now I invite you to consider—and to share with me (ministerhobartuu@gmail.com)—stories of times when this church really came to mean something to you. Then we'll know what it could mean for others.

Minister's Office Hours

Wed Dec 3: 1:30-2:30 pm
Thurs Dec 4: 4:30-6:00 pm
Wed Dec 17: 2-6 pm
Sun Dec 21: 10-11 am

Walk-ins are welcome, though emailing for an appointment is helpful.

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

Thank you to all who called, emailed and texted your support and offers of assistance while my husband, Tom, was in the hospital for a week. Severe pain of unknown cause attacked his shoulders, arms and back. We were quickly acquainted with Morphine and Narco. A white blood cell count of 18,000 signaled a massive infection. Two days after he was admitted his blood pressure spiked and his heartbeat became irregular. I swear aliens took over his body. And then, as suddenly as the pain eclipsed him, it vanished. Blood pressure and heartbeat normal. Heart medicine for now, just to be sure. He is happy to be home. My heart goes out to anyone who suffers with chronic pain. I would we could all come together and eradicate pain and suffering with loving thoughts.

Please send your healing energy to members Glenn Keldsen, George Cairns, Renata Kliemchen, Gail Thomas and Emma Hare. Notes, calls and visits welcome!

The new website is being unveiled by Kelly Mahler, chair of the Communications Committee. If you missed the workshop on Nov 16, watch for the next one or call Kelly for instruction.

Popcorn Theology, a multi-generational curriculum built around popular movies has been launched with Back to the Future on Nov 15. Would you like to host a movie at your home or at the church? Call Michele Ferrell for details. (Hey, Michele, do musicals count?...)

The custom of commemorating significant and abiding dates, has long been

with us. It is what calendars were invented for, it seems. The Bicentennial. Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday. Your 20th wedding anniversary. The 200th year since Lewis and Clark set out. The passage of 400 years since the Jamestown English landed. All cause for commemoration. What about the 140th Anniversary of First Unitarian? Yes, we believe this is cause for celebration. What did the founders of First Unitarian Church of Hobart envision 140 years hence? Would they have expected that generations unknown to them would honor the memory of their part in 1874? The idea of institutionalizing memory via anniversaries is an idea as old as history. Many look to the ecclesiastical calendar for holidays as well as holy days. Consider a megalithic monument like Stonehenge, more than 5,000 years old, which has been shown to be an accurate device for calculating the winter and summer solstices. The anniversaries of solstices and equinoxes

are critical for sorting out an annual calendar, which was a tool for knowing when to sow seeds. A calendar that got out of whack would have meant disaster for agricultural people. Sow too early and the young sprouts freeze; too late, and the crops may not bear fruit before the snows fly again. The likely result: famine or extinction. These were the anniversaries it was fatal to miss.

Anniversaries are naturally backward looking and, perhaps, force us to reflect. Why are we here? What is our purpose? What are we called to do? It is the moral response to time ticking away. Sew too early...famine or extinction. What will we be celebrating in 2024, our sesquicentennial? How will we fill our community with love, alleviate oppression, reach out to each other in meaningful ways? I can't wait to find out!

Blessed be.

Maggie

New U.U. Sessions

Wednesday, December 3

Session 3: "Serving as a Unitarian-Universalism,"

led by Connie Barnes and
Carla Banks
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.,
repeated 7– 8:15 p.m.

Session 4: "Exploring Issues within
Unitarian-Universalism,"

led by Scott Aaseng
3:45 – 4:30 p.m.,
repeated 8:15 – 9 p.m.

Both sessions need to be attended;
it is up to you to decide which times
work for you.

**Please note, the two sessions that
were offered in November and two
sessions above need to be
attended in order to qualify for
membership.**

**Come to The Christmas Eve
Vesper Service on
December 24, 2014 at 5 pm**

**Coffee Hour is your
contribution, so please bring
a dessert or candy to share.**

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, December 5.

Join us for our game
and potluck night. Bring your
favorite game (board and card
games), and a dish to share. Or
just bring the food and see
what everyone else is playing.
Be sure you are able to explain
any game you bring, in case
others have never played it
before. We eat at 6:30 p.m.,
and we break out the games
soon after. Contact Patricia
Riley-Churilla at 219-929-9372.

Neighbor Circle Connectors Meeting

**Saturday, December 6 at 10:00
a.m.** at church

Souper Soup

Noon Sunday, December 7.

Our annual soup contest. If you
think you can beat previous
years' winners, now is your
chance to shine. The winner
gets his or her name on the
plaque and a whole lot of glory.

Just as much fun is all the
eating. Your ticket gets you a
tasting bowl to try any and all of
the soups, then you vote with
your dollars for your favorite.
Bring your Crockpot with your
best soup, or bring a dessert,
some crackers or cheese,
cornbread, whatever. We
appreciate all of it. Tickets are
\$5 each, or a maximum of \$20
per family. The proceeds from
this event help our work at Cafe
Agape, the community dinner

at the First Presbyterian Church
that we host one Saturday each
month. Sign up on the clipboard
in the Fellowship Hall, or contact
James Johnson.

Common Reader Book Group

Noon Wednesday, December 10th
at Von's Victorian Tea Room, 310
North Main Street, Hobart for
lunch and dessert. Members and
friends are invited to join us. RSVP
to Wendy at wwm3@frontier.com

Monthly Birthday Coffee Hour

**December 14, after service.
Second Sunday Birthday Coffee
Hour.** Folks who have birthdays in
the month of December are
invited to bring coffee hour treats
on the second Sunday,
December 14, giving the rest of
us the opportunity to wish you a
Happy Birthday!

Wheel of the Year

7:00 pm, Saturday, December 20, our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate Yule in the fellowship hall. The ritual will be followed by a potluck, so bring a dish to share. This event is open to the public. All ages are welcome, but no childcare is provided so that children may participate (you may accompany your child in the nursery if they need a break). Minors must bring a parent. Participants must sit within the Circle, and give their name during introductions. For more information, contact Kele Ivey at paganhooker@gmail.com or Patricia Riley-Churilla at (219) 331-1297.

Comfort Shawl Ministry

The Comfort Shawl Ministry has been busy knitting shawls and baby and lap blankets. These are available to members and friends on Sundays. See Wendy Masters, Janet French, or Sandy Ashmore.

Visitors and New Member Support

Members of The Visitor and New Member Support Team met on Wednesday, the 12th of November. The New UU Sessions were given during the afternoon and repeated during the evening. Four visitors

participated in Sessions 1 and 2. The sessions were led by Rev. Scott Aaseng, along with Brian Barnes, Connie Barnes, Carla Banks, Connie Karras, and Kristen Neria. Childcare was provided during the evening sessions by Carla Banks. Sessions 3 and 4 will be given on Wednesday the 3rd of December. Rite of Membership will be in December or early January.

Please continue to welcome visitors to our church. Please invite visitors to sign our guest book and join us for coffee hour.

Fundraising: SC RIP

Holiday shopping season is upon us. With a little advance planning to buy your SC RIP cards before going shopping, you can really benefit the church. Here are some examples of the many retailers who accept SC RIP cards and the kinds of profit we can make by using them.

Gasoline - Family Express and Speedway both pay 4%. Each \$100 you spend (and that's not hard to do at the gas station) would net us \$4.

The deadline for submissions for the January Vanguard is Monday, December 15. Please email them to both noelevans@frontier.com and firstunitarian@frontier.com

Groceries - Jewel and GFS Marketplace give us 4%, so a \$50 card for Jewel would be worth \$2 profit for the church. Strack and Van Til is worth 2% to us, and Walmart gives us 2.5%.

Restaurants give us a higher margin, ranging from 3% at Dairy Queen to 9% at Olive Garden and Red Lobster, with Chili's at 11% and others in that area. Ask to see the list, since there are too many restaurants to list each separately.

Other retail stores include Barnes and Noble, at 9% profit for us, Cabela's at 11% and Bass Pro Shop for 13% profit. Lands' End and L.L.Bean online retail stores are each at 16%, so a gift or gift card from them would be a wonderful bonus for us as well as a nice gift. There are many, many more, so be sure to ask. Remember, you pay face value for the cards. The retailer gives a discount when we buy it, and that difference is our profit. So it does not cost you any more than the amount you would have paid. Using SC RIP cards for your everyday needs as well as for gifts and special purchases makes money for the church with no extra cost to you. If you have any other questions or need to make an order, see Beth Porch.

New Year's Eve Service and Potluck

5:00 pm, Wed, December 31
Serving The Greater Good. In the New Year we must set a strong intention to work towards the Greater Good. But, what is the Greater Good? How do we know that we are right? What are the obstacles to this process? Each of us must wrestle with this question if we are to move towards our highest human potential. Jerry Ashmore

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	3 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. New UU Sessions repeated 7 – 9 p.m. 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 pm NA 7 pm Concerned Citizens meeting	4 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	5 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	6 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 10:00 a.m. Neighbor Circle Connectors Meeting
7	8 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	9 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	10 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	11 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	12	13 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
14 12 p.m. Monthly Birthdays Coffee Hour	15	16 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	17 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 pm NA 7 pm Board meeting 7 pm Concerned Citizens meeting	18 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	19	20 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year
21	22	23 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	24 5 p.m. Vespers service	25 Church office closed	26	27 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
28	29	30 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	31 5 p.m. New Year's Eve service and potluck			

Events
elsewhere

Common
Reader Book
Group

Café
Agape

Noon Wednesday,
December 10th at Von's
Victorian Tea Room, 310
North Main Street, Hobart

9 a.m. Saturday,
December 27. at the
First Presbyterian
Church of Hobart



For the most current information on what's happening at First Unitarian, sign up to receive the weekly Wednesday email

Café Agape

9 a.m. Saturday, December 27.

Every Saturday, the Presbyterian Church of Hobart hosts Cafe Agape, a free community meal. First Unitarian volunteers coordinate a meal once a month. This month's coordinators are Michele and Tracy Ferrell. They are looking for people to arrive at the Presbyterian Church to prepare food from 9 - 11 a.m., to serve food from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and to help with clean-up from noon - 2 p.m. (Help with all if you can.) There is a sign-up sheet in Parish Hall or contact Michele and Tracy at mtfer1973@gmail.com

Note from the Editor

If you have any photos or artwork related to our church and /or our activities, please consider submitting them digitally for publication here in the Vanguard. Space is limited, but one or two per issue may brighten things up.

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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[Recipient]

Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
Address Line 4