

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

January 2015



Names & Numbers

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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2014-2015 Board of Trustees

Maggie Reister Walters, President
Gina Miller, Vice President
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Kelly Mahler, Pete O'Day

Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 4: | Worship Committee and Congregation
<i>The annual "Burning Bowl" celebration service</i> |
| Sunday, January 11: | Volunteer thespians from the congregation
<i>"Outlawing Jellybeans & Other Injustices"</i> |
| Sunday, January 18: | Reverend Scott Aaseng
<i>From Selma to Ferguson...Then What?</i> |
| Sunday, January 25: | Rev. Dr. John Nunes
<i>"Re-imagining our Life Together"</i> |

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



Recent events in Ferguson and Staten Island have been weighing heavily on me, as I'm sure they have been on you. They are just the latest in the long history of racial tension and violence in our country, and they call out for our response.

Ken Wiley is an African American UU who serves as Director of Religious Education in Parker, Colorado. He writes in the UUA's [Standing on the Side of Love](#) blog:

We cannot know exactly what happened; [Mike] Brown became one of many unarmed black and brown people killed by law enforcement. The city of Ferguson—and members of the broader St. Louis community—decided enough was enough...

I believe that as people of faith—as those who profess to believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person—that we can no longer sit idly by as our unarmed black and brown family members are killed...nor watch as their character is posthumously assassinated by media and citizens alike. Black lives matter...

The harrowing truth is that I

could be the next Mike Brown. My household had two parents. I have a college degree and a job. My pants don't sag. In the wrong situation, though, my 'respectable' nature might not save me.

I sometimes wonder—would my faith stick up for me as my character got questioned, as my blackness robbed me of my humanity in the eyes of many? These questions keep me up at night. But I have hope that you would...

I urge you, my fellow UU's...show up and have the hard conversations.... You will hear pain, and frustration, and even anger. Live into the discomfort. What you may hear is a tragic, sometimes fatal reality for your fellow human beings... Stand (and sit, and witness) on the side of love.

I ask you this as a Black American. I ask you this as a Unitarian Universalist. Whether you are young and

black or seventy and white, you are one of my people.

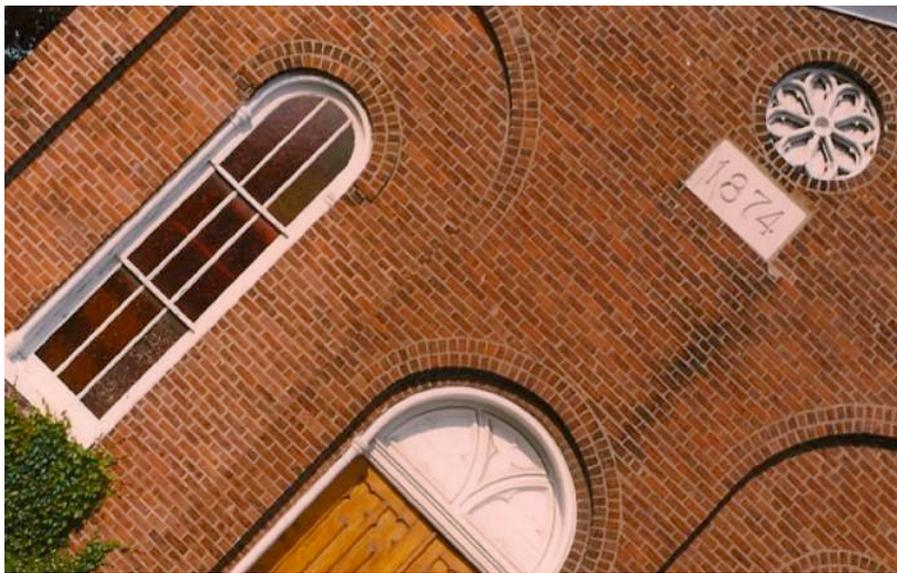
Church is one of the places where we can have the hard conversations that we need to have about race in this country, in the context of our covenantal promises to “dwell together in peace, seek truth in love, and help one another.” I encourage you to join me at 10 am on Sunday, January 18—Martin Luther King Sunday—for a First Hour conversation about recent events in Ferguson and Staten Island, as we seek to stand on the side of love with each other.

Minister's Office Hours

Rev. Scott will be on vacation
Dec 25 – Jan 1

Wed Jan 14: 2-6 pm
Wed Jan 21: 2-6 pm
Thurs Jan 29: 3-7 pm

Walk-ins are welcome, though emailing for an appointment is helpful.
ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

I quietly entered the library and took my seat. A very lively discussion about generosity was in progress. The smell of incense wafted through the room. Folks took turns sharing stories about panhandlers and unexpected kindnesses, missed giving opportunities and regrets. Or even a change in attitude. The listeners nodded, laughed and even shed a tear. The stories were different but the theme was the same. Generosity, when we get it right, blesses the giver. When we miss, well, we miss. The opportunity to share is passed, a moment of connection lost. Perhaps a lesson learned. "Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment." — [Jean de La Bruyère](#) (1645-96), French writer Perhaps there are opportunities all around us. Generosity: showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected. "A readiness to give" takes a certain mindset. About 25 years ago I was elected President of a large professional women's organization and I started to think about the messages I was sending at any particular moment. Was I displaying confidence? Patience? Generosity? Leadership? Professionalism? Was I gracious? I like that word a lot. Gracious. "showing divine grace" I imagined that it was part of my purpose to show love/caring to my clients and colleagues. Instead of whatever irritations of the day were on my mind. Henry David Thoreau preached simplicity of life and elevation of purpose. Fred Niedner, in our pulpit on December 14, shared his insights about the season of giving. A season that seems to have been co-opted by Target and Amazon. How do we - how do I? - subdue the jaded, cynical, even tyrannical parts of me and shine a light on my most generous self? I imagine there are a few others like me who harbor regrets about missed opportunities to give. What I wouldn't give to spend one more day with my mother! To listen to her every word, study her expressions, give her my full attention, delight in her laughter, hold her hand, touch her face. Just one day... "It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving." —Richard [Braunstein](#), author My mother was poor after her divorce. And angry. It was hard to listen to her "anti-dad" rhetoric. She was not joyful and certainly not very gracious. What a sacrifice she made to reclaim her self! In time

she was transformed and gave from her heart freely. Even when she lived in memory care she was helping and encouraging others.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." — [Winston Churchill](#) (1874-1965), British wartime prime minister and statesman So, here's to a new year of giving from the heart. What can you give? A listening ear, being more fully present, time, talents, finances, hit the pause button on your road rage, be more welcoming, mend a relationship. "When it comes to giving until it hurts, most people have a very low threshold of pain." — [Anonymous](#) Happy New Year! Let us give to each other and to the world as we are called to do.

"If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble." — [Bob Hope](#) (1903-2003), American comedian

Maggie

First Hour Forum

10 a.m. in Parish Hall Main Room
(upstairs)

Jan. 4 Open

Jan. 11: UU Study Action Issues
Update. Leader: Don Parker

Jan. 18: *Ferguson, Staten Island,
and Us*. Leader: Rev. Scott

Jan. 25: UU Current events from
UU World. Leader: Bob Allen

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, January 3. 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.

Jim Gordon Annual Chili Cook Off

It's that time of year again!!

Have you signed up to bring your favorite Chili for The Chili Cook Off?

The date is January 25 , 2015. Plan to vote early and often!

Worship Committee

We are looking for a few volunteers for the January 11 theatrical service: "Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices." No experience necessary and we can work with a variety of ages! This will be a fun interactive service the whole family will enjoy. Come lend your voice and try out your acting skills in this fun skit.

If acting isn't your thing, maybe you would like to lead a service on a topic or just help out with doing a reading or leading a children's story. The worship committee is looking for assistance throughout the year in leading and assisting with services. Contact Kim Swift, co-chair of the committee, for more information or to volunteer. Email her at kimberlyswift@frontier.com.

Greeters Needed

Looking for an attainable New Year's resolution for putting your UU beliefs into practice? Be a Greeter on Sundays at either the front or back entries. Help to welcome newcomers and spiritual seekers to our fellowship. Won't you be a part of this vital ministry just once this year? See Don Parker or sign up on the clipboard in the parish hall

Monthly Birthday Coffee Hour

January 11, after service. Second Sunday Birthday Coffee Hour.

Folks who have birthdays in the month of January are invited to bring coffee hour treats on the second Sunday, giving the rest of us the opportunity to wish you a Happy Birthday!

UUSC Guest At Your Table (GAYT)

Collection Sun. Jan. 18th. Don't forget to pick up your GAYT collection box, collect your spare change, and convert it to a check to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), the international service organization of Unitarian Universalists. UUSC puts UU principles into action in development, justice and sustainability projects world wide. UUSC depends on support from UU congregations and individuals, and contributions of \$125 or more will be matched by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock, Long Island, New York. Information, GAYT boxes, and envelopes are available at both sanctuary doors.

Neighbor Circle Connectors Meeting

Sunday, Jan 18 at 12:30 in the library. We'll reconnect and discuss what's working and what not so well. See Janet French or Wendy Masters for questions or more information.

Common Reader Book Group

Noon Wednesday, January 21.

Bring your lunch. The book is "Behind the Beautiful Forevers" by Katherine Boo. It is the winner of the 2012 National Book Award for Nonfiction; "... a brilliantly written, fast-paced book, based on three years of uncompromising reporting, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human."

Comfort Shawl Ministry

1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21. We have lots of yarn available, but we need knitters, crocheters, and needle workers to use it! We could use several men's shawls, two gender-neutral baby blankets and several lap blankets (gender-neutral); cancer and baby/children's hats are always welcome. These items are to be shared with members and friends. We have had a special request for hats: men's, women's and children's for the January Café Agape. Yarn available in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you. Wendy Masters
wmm3@frontier.com.

Visitors and New Member Support

Session 3 and Session 4 of The New UU Sessions were held on Wednesday, the 3rd of December during the evening.

Two couples attended the sessions that were led by Rev. Scott Aaseng and Brian

Barnes. The following members of The Visitor and New Member Support Team were also in attendance:

Connie Barnes, Jeff Kime, Carla Banks, Connie Karras, and Kristen Neria. Child care was provided by Carla Banks. Please continue to welcome visitors to our church.

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

Popcorn Theology

5 p.m. Saturday, January 24, the religious education department will be showing the movie "Willow" as part of our Popcorn Theology series. This is being offered as a multigenerational RE event, all ages are welcomed and encouraged. Bring a dish, dessert or beverage to share, if you wish. Potluck to begin at 5 p.m.; movie to begin at 5:30 p.m. with discussion and activities afterward. Feel free to come late or leave early, if need be, this is an informal event.

Jim Gordon Chili Cook Off

Noon Sunday, January 25. We always have a wide variety of tasty chilis, from traditional to way-out-there combinations! If you think you can out-do last year's winner, sign up now in the Parish Hall. If you would rather just taste-test everything, that's good too. Either way, this fun midwinter event is going to be something to look forward to. By this time in the winter, we are all ready for an excuse to get out of the house. We also look for donations of desserts, cornbread, crackers (Cheezits!) or any other goodies you would like to share. To sign up or for more information, see James Johnson.

Committee Chairs: It's Budget Time (Already?!?)

The Finance Committee wants to remind all committee chairs to consider what changes they may want to make to their budgets for the 2015-2016 church year, which begins on July 1, 2015. Preliminary budgets will be due in April, so we want to give you and your committees time to consider possible projects and changes. If you need more information or guidance about the process or changes you are interested in making, ask any member of the Finance Committee (Jeff Kime, Valerie Lambert, Pete O'Day, Jim O'Gallagher, or Don Parker).

The deadline for submissions for the February Vanguard is Monday, January 19. Please email them to both noelevans@frontier.com and firstunitarian@frontier.com

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day, church office closed	2 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	3 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 11 a.m. Memorial service
4	5	6 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	7 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens meeting	8 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	9	10 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
11 12 p.m. Monthly Birthdays Coffee Hour	12	13 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	14 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 pm NA	15 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	16	17 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
18	19 MLK Day, church office closed	20 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	21 Noon Common Reader Book Group 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Board meeting 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens meeting	22 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	23	24 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 5 p.m. Popcorn Theology
25 Noon Annual Chili Cook Off	26	27 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	28 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 pm NA	29 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	30	31 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year

Events
elsewhere

Café
Agape

9 a.m. Saturday,
January 31. 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

Regional Assembly to Explore the New Era of UUism

Join fellow UUs the weekend of April 17-19, in Naperville, Illinois (a western suburb of Chicago) for Regional Assembly 2015. It will be a great chance to be together as one region to explore The New in a New Era of Unitarian Universalism with presentations by two major speakers: the Reverend Rosemary Bray McNatt and the Reverend Dr. Marlin Lavanhar. You can benefit from workshops designed to strengthen your congregation, deepen your social justice

work, and enrich you on a personal level. Come and experience the Regional Business Meeting, good food, and time for meeting new friends and old from congregations across our great Region, culminating with the joy of shared worship and musical celebration on Sunday morning. See <http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>.

Central Midwest, Heartland, and Prairie Star Districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association joined together as MidAmerica Region in July 2013

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[Recipient]

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