

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

February 2015



Names & Numbers

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

497 Main St., Hobart, IN 46342
Scott Aaseng, Minister
ministerhobartuu@gmail.com
Jan Zorn, Office Manager
firstunitarian@frontier.com
(219) 942-1611
www.firstunitarian-hobart.org

2014-2015 Board of Trustees

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

Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, February 1: | Reverend Scott Aaseng
<i>Building Community</i> |
| Sunday, February 8: | Reverend Dr. Findley Campbell of the Hyde Park Unitarian Church in Chicago
<i>Pre-Selma Service</i> |
| Sunday, February 15: | Reverend Scott Aaseng
<i>The New Jim Crow</i> |
| Sunday, February 22: | Reverend Dr. Carol Munro Mosley
<i>"How Many Miracles Does It Take?" Looking at the story of the Exodus and what it can teach us about recognizing God's active presence in our lives.</i> |

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



At various discussions over the last year and a half, I have been suggesting that, based on what I have heard you say, the working mission of First Unitarian might be articulated in terms of Building Community, Growing Spiritually, and Putting Our Values into Action. To me, these three “mission pillars” echo our covenant promises “to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another.”

To extend the conversation about what these mission pillars might mean for our congregation, we will have a series of three sermons and coffee hour conversations over the next three months. On Sunday, February 1, I will preach about Building Community, and we will gather at coffee hour (hopefully in Neighbor Circle groups) to talk about what community means to us and what we hope for in terms of Building Community. Likewise on March 1, we will talk about Growing Spiritually, and on April 12 we will talk about Putting Our Values into Action.

Before all this, on Jan 29 (perhaps after you receive this newsletter) we will have had a 5th Thursday Leadership Gathering to talk about how we are already doing these things. The idea behind this process is not to re-invent the wheel or to launch a whole new set of programs, but to build on what we are already doing to make our life together stronger and more intentional. We also hope to sharpen our sense of mission and perhaps develop a set of goals to guide our decisions and actions in the year or years ahead.

This process is a work in progress, and I apologize for the late notice about it. Your flexibility, patience, and open-mindedness will be much appreciated. The “mission pillars” (despite the moniker) are not set in stone, but are open to more accurate or creative articulations. Kind of like life, we are seeking a balance of planning ahead and making it up as we go along—er, I

mean living in the moment. Let us move ahead boldly to discern who we are and who we want to be—perhaps even who we are called to be.

Minister's Office Hours

Tuesday, Feb 10: 3-6
Wednesday, Feb 18: 2-6
Thursday, Feb 26: 2-6

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

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

“Do you want me to light a candle for you?” my mother asked me over the phone. This offer usually followed some long tale of woe, a tearful confession, a problem I feared I could not solve. Maybe even a performance I dreaded. “Yes,” I answered dutifully. I am not sure I believed it would make a difference. Was she really going to light a candle? “What color?” “What color?!! Really??” “Green” I played along. Or, yellow, or white. Mom seemed to know things. She had magic. Sometimes she could see the future. She could see and hear my grandma (and quote her word for word!) after she passed. But she didn’t pass that gift along to me. My brother got it and he didn’t even want it. He told God he didn’t want to know the future. So, why did she offer to light a candle for me? What does it mean? Perhaps she hoped to dispel the darkness in my mind, to calm me, to help me focus or just to share my concern. It worked, mom! It always worked.

Because you lit a candle for me –

I dared to have a difficult conversation with my daughter and found a new basis for our relationship, I respectfully expressed my discomfort to a colleague, I shared my disappointment with a girlfriend without sacrificing our friendship, I challenged my business partner and did not undermine our partnership, I wrote a letter to my son in hopes of building a bridge to his silent suffering.

The use of candles in worship and celebration dates back to, well, probably to the invention of fire or religion. Used by Buddhists, Christians, Pagans, Jews, Humanists and UUs, candles are used to symbolize the sacred. Candles are lit for many reasons. To honor a loved one, to meditate, to call for peace and justice, to share a concern, to celebrate love, to invite magic. The ancient Greeks believed that fire was stolen from the Gods. It can connote knowledge and reason.

On January 18 Scott invited us to observe our own implicit bias. (Dare I say, darkness?) It has been proven that we all have implicit biases that change how we perceive and interact with others. Doctors, judges, police officers, teachers...none are

exempt. Yet, if asked, most of us would reject the notion that we are biased or prejudiced, certainly not about race, gender or sexual orientation. But, is that honest? If I search my heart I know it's true. I am a little uncomfortable with difference. Different gender, different color, different sexual orientation and, yes, differences in education and class. I'm not proud of it. Maybe not a lot uncomfortable. But, still...if I am comfortable I suspect somebody else is adapting for my comfort. Is there even such a thing as objectivity?

We have the opportunity on February 28 to engage in Class Conversations together and get real about privilege and access. Together with other UUs we will build community while learning about each other's experiences at this all-day workshop at First Unitarian. All are invited!!

When we part, we extinguish the chalice, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts...

Blessed be,

Maggie

First Hour Forum

10 a.m. Sundays in the Parish Hall main room upstairs.

February 1: Putting our Community Vision into Practice;
Leader: Rev. Scott

February 8th: Leader: Faith In Action

February 15th: "How Then Shall We Talk?" Leader: Rev. Scott

February 22nd: UU and Current Events; Leader: Don Parker

Leadership Gathering

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. January 29, Fifth Thursday Leadership Gathering.

Congregants, committee chairs, board trustees, staff and friends of First Unitarian Church: Please join us for a potluck gathering in the basement. Discuss the work our church is doing on building community and visioning for our future.

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb 6. 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.

February Birthdays

Please take a moment to say Happy Birthday to those of us celebrating this month.

Each month's birthday folks generously provide coffee hour treats on that month's second Sunday, so this month, on **Feb 8**, enjoy the gift of coffee hour and let participants know We're Glad You Were Born!

February 4, Carl Wolf

February 8, Janet French

To add your name to our birthday list, just add your name next to your month/day on the newsprint easel in the Fellowship Hall.

Celebration

I now pronounce you free to marry! Yes, marriage equality is now the law in Indiana. And in honor of that decision, the Welcoming Congregation Committee is throwing our final, and most celebratory, Freedom to Marry event.

Join us on **Saturday February 14th, from 1:00 – 6:00** at the Hobart Community Center, 111 E. Old Ridge Road. Festivities include food, cake, music and dancing. Additionally, since Marriage Equality is now the law in Indiana, we will be marrying committed couples who bring a valid marriage license. Two officiants will be there to provide ceremonies for couples who can choose either a more spiritual, or a more secular style. Ceremonies will be performed early enough to allow plenty of time for enjoying the rest of the event.

The Freedom to Marry reception is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and tickets are required, so please get your tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freedom-to-marry-reception-tickets-15297021804>

For more information, contact Kele Ivey at paganhooker@gmail.com, or Patricia Riley-Churilla at 219-331-1297.

Freedom to Marry

Common Reader Book Group

Noon Wednesday, February 18th. Bring your lunch. We are reading the beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith". Francie is eleven years old. It is 1912. The Nolan family lives in an apartment in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. In the courtyard is a tree, called the Tree of Heaven, which always grows, regardless of whether or not it is watered. It even grows in cement, but only in the poorest neighborhoods. Both Porter County and Lake County Libraries have books and tapes available.

Shawl Ministry

A reminder to the congregation that the items made by the Shawl Ministry are available for members and friends. See a member of the Caring Committee.

If you knit, crochet, sew, or shop, Faith in Action has requested hats, mittens, gloves, scarves (men's, women's children's, any size) for Café Agape.

~Wendy Masters~
Wwm3@frontier.com

Organizing for Change: Addressing Classism in Your Faith Community

**Saturday, February 28, 2015
9am to 4pm**

Join First Unitarian Church of Hobart and UU Class Conversations for a workshop exploring class and classism and the role of classism in escalating inequality. Class Conversations helps UUs get real about privilege and access by building on our faith community's ongoing diversity and anti-oppression work – from race to gender to sexual orientation – and by exploring the little considered, almost taboo, subject of class. We infuse this exploration with our history, our principles, and spiritual traditions.

This interactive, full-day workshop provides an opportunity for participants to identify their own class backgrounds and then develop language, concepts, and strategies to bridge class differences. Participants examine the practices of their groups and organize toward eliminating classism and

The deadline for submissions for the March Vanguard is Monday, February 16. Please email them to both noelevans@frontier.com and firstunitarian@frontier.com

becoming more class-inclusive. The goal of the workshop is to strengthen commitment to social justice and effectiveness in making change both within UU groups and beyond.

To register or obtain additional information, contact Carl Wolf, cj1972rm@gmail.com, or call 219-805-8974. Workshop fee is on a sliding scale from \$1 to \$50 and includes lunch.

To learn more about UU Class Conversations, explore our web resources at <http://www.uuclassconversations.org/> or contact Rev. Dorothy Emerson at 781-483-3133.



February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	4 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens meeting	5 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	6 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	7 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
8 12 p.m. Monthly Birthdays Coffee Hour	9 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	10 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	11 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	12 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	13	14 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
15	16	17 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Board meeting	18 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	19 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	20	21 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
22	23	24 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	25 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	26 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	27	28 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Workshop: Class Conversations

Events
elsewhere

Freedom to Café Agape
Marry
Celebration
9am-2pm Sat. Feb. 28 at
Presbyterian Church of
Hobart

Saturday Feb 14th from
1:00 – 6:00 at the
Hobart Community
Center, 111 E. Old
Ridge Road



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

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

P.O. Box 291
Hobart, IN 46342

[Recipient]

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