

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

March 2015



## Names & Numbers

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

497 Main St., Hobart, IN 46342  
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### 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, March 1:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "The New Jim Crow"
Sunday, March 8:	Reverend Alison Palm <i>Spiritual Spring Cleaning</i>
Sunday, March 15:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "Growing Spiritually"
Sunday, March 22:	Reverend Misha Lentz
Sunday, March 29:	Reverend Dr. Rudra Dundzila "Worshipping with Recruits at Great Lakes Naval"
Sunday, April 5:	Janet French: <i>Anyway...Hallelujah</i>

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



Many of us gathered in Neighbor Circles for the first time over coffee hour on February 15 to talk about Building Community, the first of our proposed “mission pillars.” There was talk of what we appreciate about our church community: how we are a community of acceptance and genuine caring, a place where people can be who they are and still fit in. We appreciate having a community where people are welcomed, especially those who are LGBT or with different theologies or perspectives. And we appreciate that we are a community where people can develop deep relationships and have deep conversations.

There was also talk of what we hope for in terms of Building Community. Many of us would like more opportunities to get to know each other better, through deeper coffee hour conversations or social gatherings or in small groups.

(One idea I found especially intriguing was having coffee hour conversations with the leader of the Sunday service.) Some of us would like to connect in different ways, perhaps online or through a phone ministry. Others of us would like to find ways to be more inclusive while keeping sight of what binds us together as UUs.

And there was talk of how to Build Community with the wider community beyond our congregation. Some of us wish to be more integrated with community, to get to know others and become friends with them. Many of us would like to do things with other faith communities, including other UU congregations in the area.

Our next “pillar talk”

conversation on Growing Spiritually will be over coffee hour on March 15 (note date change), and our third conversation on Putting Our Values into Action will be on April 12. Of course these three mission components overlap, and part of our challenge will be to integrate them with each other as we develop a more cohesive sense of purpose and of what binds us together. I hope each of you can find a place for your voice in these conversations.

## Minister's Office Hours

Wed March 4: 1:30-3pm  
Tues March 10: 2-6pm  
Wed March 18: 2-6pm

*I will be away at a retreat March 19-22. Walk-ins are welcome, though emailing for an appointment is helpful.*  
ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



# From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

Although I have had different work locations and different bosses, I have essentially had the same “job” for the last 30 years. Is that a sign of commitment or stupidity? Well, to be honest, I don’t know. My work requires a great deal of continuing education and running a business is an endless challenge! I suspect that we all make decisions every day that keep us from risking too much or that have the potential to open up exciting new challenges. I sometimes have the fantasy that I could quit and walk away. But, I don’t. Is it the people I work with? Most of the people I work with are in Indianapolis. Friendly buy hardly close relationships. My partner and I have a staff of 3. Would they really care if someday I “did something else?” Would my clients miss me? A dear friend of mine has been challenged this year and it got me thinking. In less than a year she has been fired from 2 jobs and resigned from 2 other jobs. Rapid job turnover was not her habit. Yet each transition made sense, in context. It seemed sort of freeing, in a way. I tried to imagine myself in her moccasins.

Did you ever notice in our mission statement that we offer a “safe and challenging place” for seekers of truth and meaning. What are your challenges? Or, are you looking for one? Rev Scott Aaseng unveiled the first of our “Faith/Vision Pillars” on Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. A First Hour workshop set the stage for a Worship Service focused on Building Community. Then, Coffee Hour conversations where we found our “neighborhoods” to share How we Build Community as a Congregation, in our committees and in our small groups? What do we do well and what are we hoping to do better? Scott pointed out that connecting, caring and committing are all essential to community building.

Why not try one new thing to challenge yourself and help to build our community in the next month or two? Here are some suggestions:

- Find out who is in your First Unitarian “neighborhood”
- Participate in the next Faith Pillar discussion on March 1
- Celebrate the success of the Freedom to Marry Event on Feb 14 and check out the press

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/same-sex-wedding-rights-celebrated/article\\_fc93193c-18eb-50e4-8d7b-dd27fc56496f.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/same-sex-wedding-rights-celebrated/article_fc93193c-18eb-50e4-8d7b-dd27fc56496f.html) and [http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/same-sex-wedding-rights-celebrated/article\\_fc93193c-18eb-50e4-8d7b-dd27fc56496f.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/same-sex-wedding-rights-celebrated/article_fc93193c-18eb-50e4-8d7b-dd27fc56496f.html)

- Visit the new UU classes on April 1 and April 29
- Give thanks for your bills and bless your ability to pay them
- Attend Regional Assembly April 17 - 19
- Volunteer in the Nursery or the Pre-school RE group
- Attend the 5<sup>th</sup> WED/Thur Potluck or First Friday Game Night
- Visit our Website and pass along your appreciation
- Start to think of yourself as a leader-consider attending Midwest Leadership School in July
- Say thank you to the Worship Team-offer to read the announcements or be a greeter
- Think about generosity all day long. Be thankful in new ways.

See you in church!  
Maggie

# First Hour Forum

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

**March 1:** How Then Shall We Talk? Pt. 2 Leader: Rev. Scott

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Current Topics in UU Leader: Don Parker

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Children's RE Roundtable Leaders: Michele Ferrell & Kristin Schumacher

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** The Wisdom Path Pt.1 Leaders: Maggie Reister & Don Parker

**March 29<sup>th</sup>:** Current Issues in UU Leader: Bob Allen

## Sermons

**March 1:** Rev. Scott "The New Jim Crow."

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Selma campaign of the civil rights movement, the question arises: how much progress have we made? Michelle Alexander's book describes how the US incarcerates more black people than were held captive under slavery, and how this system of mass incarceration has become as oppressive and discriminatory as Jim Crow ever was. How does it work and what can we do about it?

**March 8:** Rev. Alison Palm "Spiritual Spring Cleaning." We are in the midst of the season of Lent, a six-week Christian season of preparation and penitence. It is a season often ignored by Unitarian Universalists. What can we learn from Lent? What might a UU Lenten practice look like?

**March 15:** Rev. Scott "Growing Spiritually."

What do we mean when we talk about "spirituality," and how might we grow in it, whatever it is? This is the second of three sermons about our proposed mission pillars. We will also explore Generosity as a spiritual practice, as this Sunday is the start of the pledge drive part of our ongoing focus on stewardship.

**March 29:** Rev. Dr. Rudra Dundzila

"Worshiping with Recruits at Great Lakes Naval"

Did you know Unitarian Universalists hold chapel services at Great Lakes Naval for Unitarian Universalist recruits? The young adult congregants are curious seekers about Unitarian Universalists. How can local congregations help this regional ministry?

p.m., and we break out the games soon after. Contact Patricia Riley-Churilla at 219-929-9372.

## March 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 **March 8**, enjoy the gift of coffee hour and let participants know We're Glad You Were Born!

March 10, Rosalind Davila  
March 13, Pete O'Day  
March 15, James Johnson  
March 28, Connie Karras

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.

## 2nd Coffee Hour Mission Pillar Dialogue:

## Growing Spiritually

**Sunday March 15:** What does spirituality mean to you, and how might the church support spiritual growth? Join the second of our Mission Pillar conversations as we explore together what is working, as well as hopes and new ideas. Participants are invited to again sit with Connectors in their Circle, with a place for everyone.

## First Friday Games & Potluck

**6:30 p.m. Friday, March 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



## Common Reader Book Group

### Noon Wednesday, March 18th.

Bring your lunch. As last month's group was postponed, we are still 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

## Wheel of the Year

### On Saturday, March 21, at 7:00 pm,

our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate the Spring Equinox 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](mailto:paganhooker@gmail.com) or Patricia Riley-Churilla at (219) 331-1297.

## Semi-Annual Rummage Sale

Our official dates are April 24 and 25. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to do a little clutter-clearing, now you don't have to get mad at yourself for procrastinating! You just wisely left it for the right time. As you pack up those unused and unnecessary items, you can enjoy thoughts of the people who will use them and

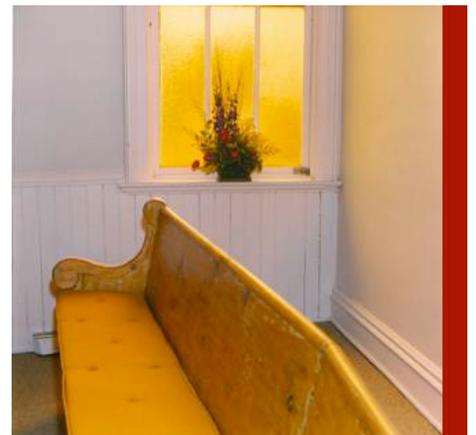
The deadline for submissions for the April Vanguard is Monday, March 16. Please email them to both [noelevans@frontier.com](mailto:noelevans@frontier.com) and [firstunitarian@frontier.com](mailto:firstunitarian@frontier.com)

the money the church will make. Triple Win! We will begin accepting donations the Sunday before, and all that week. We will need volunteers to set up, tear down and to work the sale days. If you have larger items or need help moving them, or if you have any questions, contact Rosalind Davila through the church office.

Rosalind will also have use of a garage to store things temporarily, if necessary. If you need boxes to store your items, talk to Beth Porch.

## Ongoing Fundraising

Don't forget to plan ahead to order **SCRIP** cards. We have a limited inventory, and can order hundreds of cards from different businesses. Once you get in the habit, it's easy and it costs you nothing. You will only pay face value for your cards, but we make a percentage from the business. It's free and easy! What could be better! Contact Beth Porch through the church office or Sundays at coffee hour.



# New UU Sessions

New UU Sessions in the Parish  
Hall of the church  
Choice of afternoon or  
evening sessions

Sign-up Sheet is posted or call  
the church at (219) 942-1611

## **Wednesday, April 1:**

Session 1: "Sharing Personal  
Religious Odysseys"

Led by Rev. Scott Aaseng

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

repeated 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Session 2: "Learning the History  
of Unitarian Universalism"

Led by Brian Barnes

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

repeated 8:15 pm – 9:15 pm

## **Wednesday, April 29:**

Session 3: "Serving as a  
Unitarian Universalist"

Led by Connie Barnes and  
Carla Banks

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

repeated 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

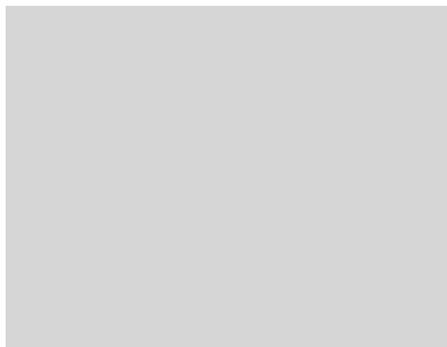
Session 4: "Exploring Issues  
with Unitarian Universalist"

Led by Rev. Scott Aaseng

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

repeated 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Please note, all four sessions  
need to be attended if one  
intends to become a member.



# March 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	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 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year
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
29	30	31 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group				

Events  
elsewhere

Café Agape

9am-2pm Sat. March 28 at  
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*

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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### [Recipient]

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