

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

April 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, April 5:	Janet French "Anyway...Hallelujah"
Sunday, April 12:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "Putting Our Values into Action"
Sunday, April 19:	Kim Swift "Reflect on the Spirit of this Place"
Sunday, April 26:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "Green Boat, Blue Boat"

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



Many of us gathered in our Neighbor Circles over coffee hour on March 15 to talk about “Growing Spiritually,” the second of our proposed mission pillars. Many of us found it difficult to put what spirituality means to us into words. But connections and interconnectedness was a common theme that came out, as was the importance of nature, art, and especially music. Others talked about overcoming negativity, or having a sense of wonder, awe, and peace. One group wondered if we couldn’t just talk about “Growing,” since spirituality is such an elusive concept that not all of us share an affinity for. On the other hand there was a desire to foster the spiritual growth of our children.

As for ways of Growing Spiritually, “deeper coffee hour conversations” was the most common response, as it was in response to our previous conversation on

“Building Community.” Clearly this is something to look at, so I am proposing to facilitate an open coffee hour conversation about the sermon (for those who wish to join me) after the service on April 26.

Other top responses were “small covenant groups” (again like last time) and “one-to-one conversations.” I plan to explore these more in the future, perhaps initially through First Hour forums about them.

Those who are interested in Growing Spiritually through the Empty Circle Zen Group, Yoga, CUUPS, First Hour, Spirit Circle, or Choir need only look at the church calendar to find these opportunities.

We finished our

conversations by sharing what we are grateful for. A common theme expressed was a simple sense of gratitude that we are here. As one person put it, we are “mathematically lucky to be in existence!” And so we are.

We will have our third “pillar talk” conversation on “Putting Our Values into Action’ over coffee hour on April 12. I hope you can join us.

Minister’s Office Hours

I will be on study leave at the MidAmerica Ministry Days and Regional Assembly April 15-19.

Wed April 1: 1-2:30pm

Tues April 7: 3-5pm

Thurs April 23: 2-6pm

Wed April 29: 1-2:30pm

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

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

I had a lovely Sunday day planned. Really, lovely. A Fascinating first hour discussion at church, "How then shall we talk?" Finding new ways to listen, share and honor each other. How to build behavioral covenants to foster healthy Community in all of our communal settings. To be followed by a sermon that is right up my alley, "Growing Spiritually" one of our proposed Mission Pillars. In addition, we are exploring Generosity as a Spiritual Practice as we launch the annual Generosity/Pledge Drive. A span of 6 weeks to ponder and revisit what this community means to you, what gifts are you called to share? Are you a good listener? A teacher? A musician? Do you knit? Like to talk on the phone? Are you a techie? Good with numbers? Love to cook? Organize? Sell stuff? Host? Travel? Build things? Garden? Stuff envelopes? Give advice?

And then, after church. a treat for me! A trip to the Chicago Lyric Opera for a Premier performance of The Passenger. A modern opera taking place on a Cruise ship in the 60's – the story of a former SS agent in Auschwitz who encounters a woman whom she believes to be a former prisoner and who she is sure to be long dead. Rave reviews! Three handkerchiefs! Box seats!

Ah, but I digress. Because that's not what happened. As I drove into the gravel parking lot my cousin texted me. My uncle was near the end. I called my brother and we rearranged our day. Soon we were all in the car, headed for Pontiac, Michigan, a nearly 4 hour drive. Generosity: showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected. I was annoyed with myself. I should have known, I should have gone up on Saturday. It was going to be a long day. I would be tired tonight. Whenever I allow irritations of the day take over I cease to be gracious.

My beloved Uncle was on Oxygen and morphine. Sleeping. I held his hand, I talked to him, I put my head on his chest, I kissed his forehead. Did he know I was there? Gracious. "showing divine grace" My aunt was glad to see us...and peaceful about his rapid decline. He had said things to her

over the last 2 weeks that perhaps he had never put into words. My Uncle Bill was a little on the stoic side. Suddenly he was giving voice to his feelings. Thanking his wife for their 50 + year marriage. Telling his son that he loved him. Except for my father, my Uncle was the only person alive who remembered me when I was born. I never doubted his love. He made me laugh and sent the funniest emails – no, really, THE funniest. A wordsmith and a punster. And, a lifelong musician. I am so going to miss him! ... "It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving." —Richard Braunstein, author My day did not go as planned but we don't always get to make those choices. I know for me, if I focus on love then I am ready to give. I invite us all to join together in beloved community. Standing on the Side of Love. Called to give of our time, our talents, our treasure, ourselves.

Blessed be,

Maggie

First Hour Forum

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

April 5 Wisdom Path
Leader: Maggie Reister

April 12 Current issues in UU
Leaders: Don Parker and Bob Allen

April 19 Wisdom Path
Leaders: Maggie Reister and
Don Parker

April 26 FIA and Living Our Values
Leaders: FIA

May 3rd: Children's RE Roundtable
Leaders: Michele Ferrell &
Kristin Schumacher

Sermons

April 5: Janet French
"Anyway...Hallelujah!"

As our Christian brothers and sisters celebrate Easter, Unitarian Universalists--Christian and not--also honor that which saves us. Included: Music Director Jeremy Jacobson's rendition of Leonard Cohen's Halleluia.

April 12: Rev. Scott
"Putting Our Values into Action"

April 19: Kim Swift, education program manager at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Celebration Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, April 12 after the service.

A sign up sheet will be posted in The Parish Hall. Salads and desserts are needed. We will be celebrating the end of our Annual Generosity Pledge Drive.

"Reflect on the Spirit of this Place"

A service to celebrate Earth Day. Kim will share her perspective on the urban land ethic found in Northwest Indiana and the Dunes and how others can get involved to sustain that land ethic for future generations.

April 26: Rev. Scott
"Green Boat, Blue Boat"

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, May 6:

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.

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, April 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.

April 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. This month, on **April 12**, we will combine the celebration of birthdays with the culmination of the Generosity Pledge Drive in a Celebration Luncheon.

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.

Visitor and New Member Support Team

Two Co Chairs and Two Connies: Connie Barnes and Connie Karras. Connie Karras having been an active member of this committee now joins Connie B in coordinating efforts to make our visitors welcome at our church.

Common Reader

Wed, April 15, noon at Church. April's Common Reader book choice *The Scarlett Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorn was published in 1850. "Much of Hawthorne's writing centers on [New England](#), many works featuring moral [allegories](#) with a [Puritan](#) inspiration. His fiction works are considered part of the [Romantic Movement](#) and, more specifically, [Dark romanticism](#). His themes often center on the inherent evil and sin of humanity, and his works often have moral messages and deep psychological complexity."

Please bring your lunch. Join us in discussing this American classic.

Popcorn Theology

Saturday, April 18th. The Religious Education Committee will present the movie "Wall-e". This is a multigenerational religious education event, with potluck to begin at 5 pm and the movie to begin at 5:30 pm. We will include discussion and activities, ending around 9pm. Feel free to come late or leave early, these are informal events. All ages are welcome and encouraged. Bring a dish, dessert, or beverage to share, if you wish.

Semi-Annual Rummage Sale

Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 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 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 questions, contact Rosalind Davila. For questions concerning the corresponding Bake Sale, contact Chuck Hinson or Beth Porch.

SCRIP

Don't forget to order SCRIP for Easter Basket stuffers. A few \$10 cards would be almost as welcome as the chocolate bunnies. And if you are hosting Easter Dinner, you will need an extra card for the

The deadline for submissions for the May Vanguard is Monday, April 20. Please email them to bothelevans@frontier.com or firstunitarian@frontier.com

grocery store! If you are going out of town, then you need gas cards and a nice hostess gift, too. We have some inventory, and can order almost everything you want. This is the easy fundraiser, so plan ahead and purchase your cards, and earn money for the church without any extra cost to you. See Beth Porch for the list of cards we can get, and to place your order.

Putting it All Together -- Mission Pillar Dialogue and Potluck

Wed, April 29th at 6:30 p.m.
5th Wednesday Potluck Gathering: "Putting It All Together." We've talked about our three proposed "mission pillars" at retreats, workshops, and coffee hours, and it's time to talk about next steps. We'll talk about whether Building Community, Growing Spiritually, and Putting Our Values into Action are the right mission pillars for our congregation, and what to do with them. All members are welcome-- please bring a dish to share.



April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:30 – 4:45 p.m. repeated 7 – 9:15 pm New UU Sessions 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 pm Concerned Citizens meeting	2 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	3 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	4 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 9am -4 pm Empty Circle Zen Retreat
5	6	7 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	8 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	9 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	10	11 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
12 12 p.m. Celebration Luncheon	13 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	14 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	15 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	16 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	17	18 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 5 p.m. Popcorn Theology
19	20	21 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	22 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	23 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	24 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Rummage Sale	25 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Rummage Sale
26	27	28 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	29 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:30 p.m. Mission Pillar Dialogue & Potluck 7 p.m. NA	30 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA		

Events
elsewhere

Café Agape

9am-2pm Sat. April 25 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

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P.O. Box 291
Hobart, IN 46342

[Recipient]

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