

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

August 2015



Names & Numbers

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

497 Main St., Hobart, IN 46342
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2015-2016 Board of Trustees

Maggie Reister Walters, President
Gina Miller, Vice President
Tim Cook, Secretary
Jim O'Gallagher, Treasurer
Stephanie Dowell, Jeff Kime,
Kristen Neria, Steve Midmore

Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Aug 2:	Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis, guest minister "That's Good; That's Bad."
Sunday, Aug 9:	First Unitarian musical director Jeremy Jacobsen sacred and spiritual secular music including some Bach, blues banjo and hollering.
Sunday, Aug 16:	Jenny Peek "UU and the Philippines: a Greater Story"
Sunday, Aug 23:	Multiple Congregants and Friends "Why do I connect with this Church?"
Sunday, Aug 30:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "Looking Ahead"

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



The last week of June was truly momentous. It began with Confederate flags coming down around the South, and ended with the White House lit up in the colors of the rainbow flag after the Supreme Court declared marriage equality the law of the land. And yet it was also a week when the victims of the massacre in Charleston were laid to rest, and there was another wave of black churches being burned. While it was a week of historic progress, it was also a week that showed that we still have a long way to go in overcoming injustice in this country.

At the UUA General Assembly in Portland, we heard repeated calls to do more to stop the ongoing violence against African Americans. Many of these calls had to do with undoing the mindsets and structures of racism in our own white communities. African American scholar Cornel West gave a rousing talk that was extraordinarily affirming of Unitarian Universalists and our commitment to justice, saying that we, and especially our youth, give him hope for the future. And yet he acknowledged that despite being a 62 year-old black man who has worked against racism all his life, he still finds vestiges of white supremacy in his own soul, and he "has a hunch" that most of us probably have more work to do in that regard as well.

Another call came from our UU brothers and sisters from St. Louis. They are joining with others in calling for people around the country to consider expressing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement on the weekend of August 7-9, the anniversary of the events in Ferguson that launched the movement

into national prominence. There will be events in St. Louis (see <https://midamericauua.org/events/showingup> for details), as well as locally here in Northwest Indiana (<https://www.facebook.com/Midtowncdo?fref=ts>). The Unitarian Church of Evanston also has lawn signs available; contact Gail Smith GailSmith@gmail.com for information.

I've been thinking about Black Lives Matter in light of our first UU principle affirming the worth and dignity of all people. Yes, that means that all lives matter, yet when there is an ongoing pattern of repeatedly and systematically diminishing or denying the worth and dignity of some lives, we have a special obligation to say so and a special obligation to do something about it. That is why it continues to be important to continue to speak and act in ways that say LGBTQ people are equal, and that is why it continues to be important to speak and act in ways that say Black Lives Matter, in the face of all that says they do not.

The events in August will be an opportunity to join with our UU brothers and sisters around the nation in saying black lives matter because all lives matter, as well as an opportunity to join a national gathering to continue the push to undo the pattern of abuses documented in the book, *The New Jim Crow*. It's not just about Mike Brown, nor is it just about excessive force by some police or a few white people. As Cornel West and others point out, that which

diminishes and denies the worth of dignity of black lives does not come just from a few white people. It is rooted in the mindsets and structures of dehumanization that diminish us all. Affirming that Black Lives Matter affirms our own humanity, even as it affirms the humanity of those whose lives continue to be devalued.

Our commitment as UUs is to stand on the side of love, in the face of all that would contradict love. For love is the doctrine and the spirit of this church.

Minister's Office Hours

Wed Aug 5: 2-6 pm

Wed Aug 19: 2-6 pm

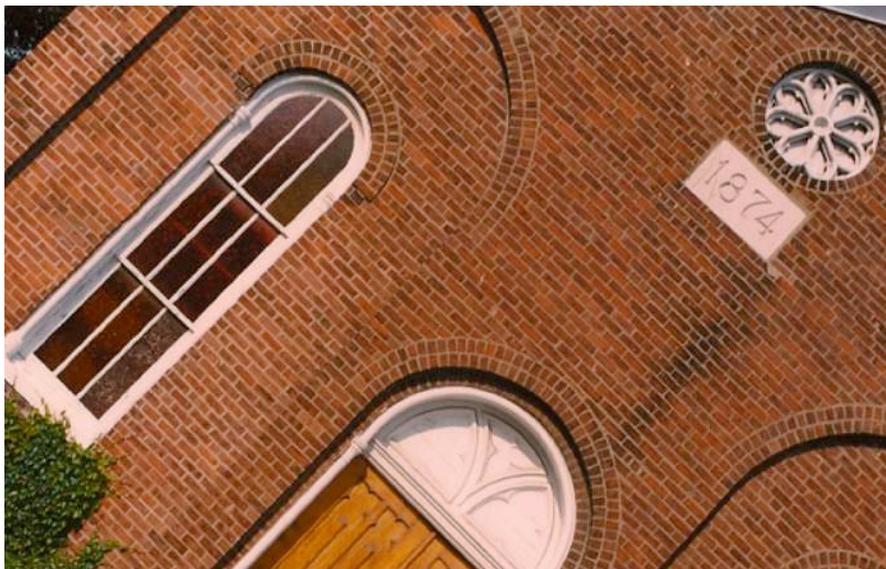
Fri Aug 28: 2-5 pm

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

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com

I will be on vacation from Aug 10-16.

Please contact Janet French in case of pastoral emergency.



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

A cup of coffee, a juicy slice of watermelon, a lazy breakfast. I am actually on vacation! Children are jumping in the Lake, toddlers are giggling happily, mom packs a picnic lunch for the boat. Adults catch up on family news. Six families meet up at a large rental house on Lake Keowee, South Carolina. Time to sleep in, time to relax, time to visit. Time.

August is when First Unitarian takes some time to reflect and plan together. This month the Board of Trustees will host the annual First Unitarian Retreat. All committee chairs and committee members are invited and urged to attend. We will gather for pre-retreat fellowship and activity on Friday evening, August 28th from 6:30 – 9:00 pm. We are looking for a host –no cooking required! Potluck snacks only. We can hang outdoors, weather permitting. Please contact Maggie, Gina or Rev Scott if you would be willing to host us in your location or have a suggestion. Expected attendance is 20 – 25.

On Saturday, August 29th, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at church, we will convene to refresh our spirits and continue the work of implementing our three Mission Pillars, Building Community, Growing Spiritually and Putting our Values into Action. This is the perfect setting to address questions and concerns for the Board and bring your committee goals to share. Each committee will receive updated information packs including a current membership directory, Bylaws, what requests need Board action and lots more. 2015 – 2016 will emphasize coalition building between committees, improved communications and outreach.

We hope to see you there!

Maggie

First Hour Forum

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

Aug 2 Wisdom Path Session #3
Hosts: Maggie Reister and Don Parker

Aug 9 Seventh Day Initiative (green congregation)
Hosts: Connie Karras and Kristen Neria

Aug 16 Experiences in the Philippines
Host: Jenny Peek

Aug 23 UU and Current Events
Host: Don Parker

Aug 30 Report from the board retreat
Hosts: Maggie Reister and Rev. Scott

Sermons

Aug 2 Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis will speak as a guest minister. The title of his sermon will be "That's Good; That's Bad."

Aug 9 First Unitarian musical director Jeremy Jacobsen performs an array of sacred and spiritual secular music including many postlude selections from throughout the year. Expect some Bach, blues banjo and hollering.

Aug 16 Jenny Peek will speak on "UU and the Philippines: a Greater Story." Jenny will share her experiences in the Philippines and also some interesting facts on how Unitarian Universalism developed there. How do our stories as seekers of religious freedom connect? Come explore the question together.

Aug 23 Why do I connect with this Church? Hear from multiple speakers about how and why they find meaning at First Unitarian Church of Hobart.

Aug 30 Reverend Scott Aaseng "Looking Ahead"

Wheel of the Year

7 pm Saturday, August 1, our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate Lammas in the fellowship hall. We will celebrate the start of the harvest season. 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 or Patricia Riley-Churilla

Shawl Ministry

Shawls, baby and lap blankets, cancer caps, and other items are available for the comfort of members and friends. Please see one of the members of the Caring Committee; Janet,

Marti, Connie K, Jerry A, or Wendy. For those of you who would like to crochet or knit items, yarn is available for your use.

Tibetan Monks

6-8 p.m. Monday, Aug 3. Tibetan Monks from Drepung Gomang Monastery. This group will be returning to Northwest Indiana between August 1-9. Our church will be one of their stops on Monday, August 3 from 6-8 pm. They will lead a Dharma Talk speaking about their culture and sharing a chanting ceremony with those who join us. The group of 9 monks are touring the U.S. as part of a fundraising and awareness tour to support their monastery and share the healing and beauty of the sacred arts. They will be selling merchandise from Tibet to help support their tour during their visit to First UU. You can learn more about the group and their other engagements in the region by following them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DGMonksMillerBeach?fref=ts>.

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug 7. 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.

Sign Up to host Coffee Hour!

Two or Three as a Small Group or a Committee!

Sign Up Sheet is on the Coffee Hour Table

Second Sunday Birthday Celebration

Coffee Hour, Aug 9. Help celebrate our July birthdays.

The birthday folks will be contributing to our coffee hour treats, thereby giving all of us the chance to let them know-- We're glad you were born!

Coffee Connectors

10:00 a.m. Monday August 10,
at Red Cup Café
115 Broadway, Chesterton,
Indiana 46304 (219) 929-1804
Join Hobart UUs for coffee, tea,
treats and conversation.

Common Reader Book Group

7 p.m. Wednesday, August 12,
at the church. Pre-discussion
dinner, 5:30 p.m. at the New
Hong Kong Restaurant 7814 E
Ridge Rd, Hobart, IN 4634 in
Strack and Van Til Shopping
Center. August's book is
Catcher in the Rye, 1951 novel
by J. D. Salinger. The *Catcher in
the Rye* is set around the 1950s.
The events narrated take place
in the few days between the
end of the fall school term and
Christmas, when Holden
Caulfield is sixteen years old.
The story begins on the
Saturday following the end of
classes at the Pencey prep
school in Agerstown,
Pennsylvania. What is it about
this book that has it listed every
year on the Banned Book List?

Read it (or not) and join the
discussion.
September is the non-fiction
*Midnight In the Garden of Good
and Evil* by John Berendt.

Worship Committee

Your worship committee has been busy over the summer months. We have new members – John Halstead and Trish Neary--and lots of energy after the worship discussion during First Hour in June.

Thanks to everyone who participated in that discussion and to Janet French for organizing it. We received a lot of good suggestions and comments.

One of the issues brought up at that First Hour discussion was parking. While this is not just a worship topic, it does affect the overall experience of visitors and members participating in the services. We would like to ask able-bodied folks to consider where you park. Please leave the parking spaces in the back lot near the ramp open for folks who have mobility issues. Remember we can always park in the bank parking lot next door since they are closed on Sunday

The deadline for
submissions for the
September Vanguard is
Monday, August 17.
Please email them to both
noelevans@frontier.com
firstunitarian@frontier.com

Visitor and New Member Support Team

During the month of July, Joan M. Davis, a long time member of the First Unitarian Church of Hobart, and her friend Carla Brocksmith came to the worship service. Joan now resides in Indianapolis, and she was so thrilled to be back in Hobart and the surrounding area. Zeta Allen introduced Joan to the congregation. Zeta went on to say how active Joan had been in our church community. Meeting Joan for the first time, was such a joy for me to be able to place a name with a face. Please continue to welcome visitors to our church!

Annual Leadership Retreat

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday,
August 29** at the church. This group will also meet for a social gathering on Friday evening, August 28, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., location to be determined.



August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year - Lammas
2	3 6 p.m. Tibetan Monks	4 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	5 2-6 Rev. Aaseng office hours 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	6 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	7 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	8 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
9 Second Sunday Birthdays	10 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action	11 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	12 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Common Reader	13 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	14	15 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
16	17	18 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	19 2-6 Rev. Aaseng office hours 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Board meeting 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	20 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	21 5-8 p.m. Wedding rehearsal	22 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group Noon - 4 p.m. Wedding
23	24	25 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	26 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	27 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	28 2-5 p.m. Rev. Aaseng office hours	29 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Board retreat
30	31					



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

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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[Recipient]

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