

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

September 2015



## Names & Numbers

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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### 2015-2016 Board of Trustees

Maggie Reister Walters, President  
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## Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Sept 6:	Samuel Love "Inequality in the midst of Abundance"
Sunday, Sept 13:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "Coming Together" water ingathering: Please bring water from someplace important to you to share.
Sunday, Sept 20:	Reverend Cheryl Rivera "Silence is Not an Option."
Sunday, Sept 27:	Carl Wolf "Universalism and the Fight for \$15"

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



**B**uilding community. Growing spiritually. Putting our values into action. I trust these mission pillars are starting to sound familiar by now. We already do these as a church, and I'd like to start stepping up how we put them into practice in intentional ways.

Small covenant groups are a wonderful way of both Building Community and Growing Spiritually, and a number of people expressed interest when I asked about them in the spring. So we'll have a meeting after worship on Sunday, September 13 to explore options for launching at least one or two small groups which would commit to gathering regularly in a spirit of acceptance and encouragement to spiritual growth (our 3<sup>rd</sup> UU principle). These would not be entirely different from Spirit Circle or some of the other groups that already meet, but they would involve a higher level of commitment and a bit more structure. There are many UU resources for small group ministry, and we'll explore which one might work best for us. Please come or let me know if you are interested.

Partnering with community organizations can be a good way of Putting our Values into Action in

effective ways. Members of our Faith in Action and Building & Grounds committees have begun partnering with the [7<sup>th</sup> Day Initiative](#) to become a more green congregation and live out our value of caring for the interdependent web of which we are a part (our 7<sup>th</sup> UU principle). Rev. Cheryl Rivera will be preaching and presenting at First Hour on Sunday, September 20 about the [Northwest Indiana Federation of Interfaith Organizations](#), which is effectively putting our values of justice, equity, and compassion (our 2<sup>nd</sup> UU principle) into action locally. This will be part of our month-long emphasis on exploring income inequality.

Finally, we may have an opportunity to look at how we, and our facilities in particular, can better advance our mission pillars in our community. We are being encouraged to apply to [Sacred Places Indiana](#), a new training program for faith communities with historic houses of worship, to assess and expand the capacity of their congregations and buildings to advance their primary mission in the community. Representatives from the Board, Buildings & Grounds, Faith in Action, and Finance

Committees will be attending an orientation in Indianapolis on September 26 to learn more. We will report back to the congregation at our 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Leadership Gathering at the church at 6:30 on September 30. Everyone is welcome to bring a potluck dish and attend.

Exciting possibilities for coming together around our mission pillars and moving ahead as a unified and flourishing congregation!

## Minister's Office Hours

**Thurs Sept 10: 2-6 pm**  
**Wed Sept 16: 2-6 pm**  
**Wed Sept 30: 2-6 pm**

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

[ministerhobartuu@gmail.com](mailto:ministerhobartuu@gmail.com)

*I will be on study leave from Sept 1- Sept 7.*



# From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

My best friend in the world lives in San Francisco. I met her for the first time when she flew to Bloomington, Indiana to study with one of IU's renowned piano instructors. Her own piano teacher's professor. I was there to study vocal music. We met during an entrance exam and have been dear friends since 1978. Today, Marilyn lives north of San Francisco with her Japanese American husband, Craig, and their two adopted daughters from China. Most would assume that she birthed these children – one parent obviously Caucasian and one obviously Asian. The mezuzah in their doorway and the Menorah in the dining room tell a different story. They are Jewish.

Fast forward to August 22, 2015. I am singing in Symphony Hall on Michigan Avenue, downtown Chicago. Singing "My Beloved Pipa", a popular Chinese folksong, re-crafted into a song of the revolution in the 1950s. This concert, The Yellow River Cantata Concert, commemorates 70 years since the end of World War II, the defeat of the fascist Japanese. Twenty-four singers from Northwest Indiana together with 13 other choirs of Chinese singers and the South Shore Orchestra. If you look hard you can see Don Parker and Dick Hagelberg onstage. The Chinese women are all wearing lovely, identical lavender dresses – the men in tuxes. For me, it was just a concert, learning to pronounce a new language (Chinese!) and sing rich, multi-layered chords. An historic artistic collaboration. But for those of Chinese descent, there was nothing romantic about this war. Japan marched down the continent of Asia in 1937 and 38 burning, raping and massacring women and innocents. Estimates of the slaughtered range from 40,000 to 300,000 at the "Rape of Nanjing." As with the Holocaust, there are many today who still deny the event took place. My Beloved Pipa is not a nice little folksong, it is a violent song of revenge against the Japanese, a nationalistic battle-cry. When we started to sing the mostly Chinese audience stood and cheered.

The next day was Sunday and Pete O'Day delivered "Why This Church?" His faith journey at First Unitarian began 14 years ago, in the fall of 2001. "I was lonely," he said. "The whole world

was crying out for war, crying out for revenge." Coincidence? Or, am I just looking for a theme? Ironically, my Jewish friend of Japanese descent, Craig's parents were victims of the forced relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WW II. Mostly peace loving Americans jumped on the bandwagon of fear and retaliation. These Japanese American **citizens** lost their homes and, well, just about everything else. "I showed up here one Sunday, looking for refuge from the drumbeat of war."

One of the things I love about our Unitarian Heritage is that for 140 years (here in Hobart) we have showed up for each other as a community, we stand up for peace and Social Justice and we weave that activism into our spiritual selves with the practice of 7 principles. Not the 7 Suggestions or the 7 good ideas. Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. "Inherent worth and dignity of every person... justice...compassion...free and responsible search for truth...democratic process...world community...peace...: It's good to remember why we are here.

Blessed be,

Maggie

## First Hour Forum

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

**Sept 6** John Halstead hosts the second in a series of forums on income inequality.

**Sept 13** Gail Thomas hosts the third in a series of forums on income inequality.

**Sept 20** Rev. Cheryl Rivera of the Northwest Indiana Interfaith Federation hosts the fourth in a series of forums on income inequality.

**Sept 27** Connie Karras hosts the fifth in a series of forums on income inequality. After the service, there will be a Fight for \$15 protest outside the church.

## First Friday Games & Potluck

**6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept 4.** 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.

**Church focus for the month of September:**

**Income Inequality**

## Common Reader Book Group

**7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9** at Church. Pre-discussion dinner is at 5:30 pm, Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Road, Hobart. All are welcome. Common Reader's choice for September is *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, a non-fiction work by [John Berendt](#).

October 14th: *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; October will begin our day meetings at Church at noon. Bring a lunch

November 11th: *To Kill and Mocking Bird* and/or *Go Set a Watchman* and/or *The Mockingbird Next Door* by Marja Mills.

## Faith in Action Movie Night

**7 p.m. Friday, September 11,** presented as part of the Income Inequality activities. "The Take," a Canadian documentary film released in 2004 by the wife-and-husband team of Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis. It tells the story of workers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who reclaim control of a closed Forja auto plant where they once worked and turn it into a worker cooperative.

## Second Sunday Birthday Celebration

**Coffee Hour, Sept 13.** Help celebrate our September 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!

Sept 2, Kim Swift;  
Sept 5, Bob Allen & Don Parker;  
Sept 7, Anne Floy;  
Sept 9, Brian Barnes & Sharon Koeln;  
Sept 12, Gail Thomas;  
Sept 16, DJ Lackey;  
Sept 19, Connie Barnes;  
Sept 26, Ranata Kliemchen

## Political Science Café

**7 p.m. Friday, September 18,** presented as part of the Income Inequality activities. Stephen Edwards from the Socialist Alternative will speak on "The Fight for \$15."

## Coffee Connectors

**10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept 22:** at Spill the Beans 7992 Broadway, Merrillville, near the intersection of Broadway and 80th Pl; (219) 795-1720 [spillthebeanscoffee.net](http://spillthebeanscoffee.net)

Join Hobart UUsers for coffee, tea and conversation.

## Shawl Ministry

Shawls, baby and lap blankets, cancer caps, and other items are available for the comfort of members and friends. If you prefer to knit or crochet hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves, these are also needed.

Those who do not craft are encouraged to make a donation of yarn or fabric or money. We request only washable/dryable yarns and fabrics. Kits are also available for fleece lap blankets; no sewing needed. See Wendy Masters with questions

# Wheel of the Year

**7 pm Saturday, Sept 26**, our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate Mabon in the fellowship hall. This is the celebration of the autumn equinox. 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.

## Worship Notes

Your worship committee has set some new goals for communication, collaboration and coordination as we ramp up our fall services. For instance, you will notice the theme of income inequality pervading the September calendar—not only with worship services but also with the First Hour Forum and the Faith in Action committees. To do this type of coordination, we are collaborating with the communications folks to find better ways to share calendars and planning documents. So stay tuned as we work on tools and themes. If you have suggestions for themes you would like to see in upcoming months, drop a line to Gail Thomas or Kim Swift with your ideas.

Continuity is another word we are using for services as we re-introduce the “hymn of the month.” For September, we will be learning and singing #134 “Our World is One World” as this fits our income inequality theme. Feel free to share your ideas for hymns with Jeremy or the worship committee.

The worship calendar is getting filled up quickly this fall due to some great ideas from all of you. So keep sharing your thoughts and ideas with the committee members. We also appreciate all the help from church members who are willing to do a presentation or contribute to services in large or small ways. We continue to seek out new voices from the church members to do readings, announcements, or light the chalice. Please let us know if you are interested. And don't be surprised if we just come out and ask you as we try to fill our services with more member participation.

## Visitor and New Member Support Team

*"To everything, Turn! Turn! Turn!  
there is a season, Turn! Turn! Turn!"* are some of the lyrics to a song made famous by The Byrds and written by Pete Seeger of Peter, Paul and Mary. It reminds us that change is inevitable, and sometimes painful.

The deadline for submissions for the October Vanguard is Monday, September 21. Please email them to both [noelevans@frontier.com](mailto:noelevans@frontier.com) and [firstunitarian@frontier.com](mailto:firstunitarian@frontier.com)

This month, Co-Chairs Connie and Brian Barnes are stepping down from their leadership positions after ten years of tireless, devoted service to First U to enjoy their retirement. However, they will still be involved with the committee and we look very forward to working alongside them in the future. We wish them health and happiness as they embark on this new chapter of their lives and are so very grateful for the foundation they laid, upon which we have the opportunity to build toward the future.

Carla Banks and I will be serving as your new co-chairs and while we know we have big shoes to fill, we are looking very forward to the congregation helping us transition into this new phase of growth for First U.

While certain things will be changing, such as a new online sign up sheet for greeters to facilitate congregational participation and lessen the clutter of the parish hall, one thing that will not change is the groundwork laid by Connie & Brian - their passion to bring people together in the community and welcome them into a home where they are truly loved as they are.

Blessed Be, Connie Karras and Carla Banks



# September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	2 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	3 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	4 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	5 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
6	7 Church office closed – Labor Day	8 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	9 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Common Reader 7 p.m. NA	10 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	11 7 p.m. FIA Movie Night	12 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
13 Second Sunday Birthdays  Small Group meeting	14 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	15 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	16 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Board 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	17 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	18 7 p.m. Political Science Café	19 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
20	21	22 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	23 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	24 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	25	26 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year
27	28	29 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	30 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:30 p.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7 p.m. NA			

## Café Agape



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

Every **Saturday**, the Presbyterian Church of Hobart hosts Cafe Agape, a free community meal. First Unitarian volunteers coordinate a meal once a month. Due to several scheduling conflicts, First Unitarian will host two weekends of Café Agape in September.

Michele Ferrell will coordinate **September 5**, and Gail Thomas will coordinate **September 26**. Anyone interested in volunteering this month should plan to arrive at the Presbyterian Church to prepare food from 9 - 11 a.m., to serve food from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and to help with clean-up from noon - 2 p.m. (Help with all if you can.) Please contact Michele Ferrell or Gail Thomas. Thanks!

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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### [Recipient]

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Address Line 3  
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