

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

October 2015



## Names & Numbers

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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### 2015-2016 Board of Trustees

Maggie Reister Walters, President  
Gina Miller, Vice President  
Tim Cook, Secretary  
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Stephanie Dowell, Jeff Kime,  
Kristen Neria, Steve Midmore

## Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Sunday, Oct 4:  | First U "Connectors"<br>"Creating Connection": A look at the ways we make meaningful connections, create room for others, and why it matters. |
| Sunday, Oct 11: | Welcoming Congregation Committee  |
| Sunday, Oct 18: | Reverend Scott Aaseng<br>"Growing a Culture of Hospitality"   |
| Sunday, Oct 25: | TBA   |

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



We had a wonderful Friday evening gathering as part of our Leadership Retreat in August. As we did last year, we each shared things we are grateful for at our church, and things we are looking forward to. And as I did last year, I'd like to share some of them with you because I think they are worth passing along.

People were grateful for the sense of support from those who have been there for us, including some who are no longer with us. There was gratitude for the resilience of this community, as we carry on the legacy of those who came before us. There was (and is) gratitude for all the people who make this church work, and for the ways in which we help each other do what needs to be done. There was gratitude for the continuing sense of caring even when you aren't always able to be around, of not being forgotten but being welcomed back after being away for a while.

There was appreciation for the growth taking place, both as a community and as individuals; one person shared how he is learning to move beyond his own dogmatism towards more love and wholeness, and how that makes him happy.

Another person shared how a newcomer to the church observed the openness and caring in this community, and what a profound environment this creates for the children here: "All they will know is love." She was grateful that this is a community where we cultivate love.

As for what we are hoping for, people are looking forward to new people transitioning into our community and into leadership, and to more children being among us. Some are looking forward to continuing our legacy of welcoming and acceptance, while others are looking forward to continued growth spiritually and otherwise. Some are looking forward to pursuing social justice in a more whole way, while others are looking forward to continuing to take care of our church so that it is still there for the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and beyond.

We also came up with some major goals for the next year, for which we have set up cross-committee task forces to address: 1) expanding our presence in and impact on the broader community, 2)

engaging each other and guests, including families, 3) managing and expanding our resources to support our mission, and 4) taking care of our facilities to make them more welcoming, serviceable, and environmentally friendly.

But the most common response to what people are looking forward to was: "More of the same." Let's keep moving in the direction we are going. Let's keep love going and growing in this community, for the good of all.

## Minister's Office Hours

Thurs Oct 8: 2-6 pm  
Wed Oct 21: 2-6 pm  
Wed Oct 28: 2-6 pm

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

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



# From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

Last month we had a guest in our pulpit, Cheryl Rivera, from the Northwest Indiana Interfaith Federation. Cheryl's message was one in a series of Sundays devoted to income inequality. She talked about the "sin of silence." "Silent voices do not question or protest. Silence in the face of injustice is evil." "Worse," she said, looking at me, "is the silence of good people. We give consent to the degradation of our own humanity. We are complicit in our own demise." Those are harsh words, but she had my complete attention. She emphasized addressing the root cause of hunger, income inequality, unemployment, poor healthcare. A foodbank is good but it is a band-aid. "Why are they hungry?" she demanded. A community organizer and President of the NSW Interfaith Federation, Cheryl outlined the groups focus on education and jobs. She gave us concrete opportunities to "give your faith legs." From tutoring and mentoring at East Chicago Middle School, lobbying for local jobs in Gary at IU Northwest's new construction, Methodist Hospital and the work to expand the Gary Airport. Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Principles reflect our goal of justice for all and respect for the Interdependent web of all existence. Cheryl opened with some scripture from her faith tradition, "whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me." We all understood that when one suffers, we all suffer.

We have new opportunities this month to, "give our faith legs." In addition to Café Agape, check out these events.

Saturday, October 3 - Gary Blight Busters community Cleanup Day. Meet at the church at 6:15am to carpool.

October 9, 10, 11 - Gary Film Festival, IUN Opening Night, "The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution"

October 10 - United Male Chorus of Gary and Calumet Region, Genesis Center, 4 PM. See Gail Thomas for details

More chances to grow (spiritually):

Spirit Circle

First Hour/Wisdom Path/Intergenerational Workshop

Worship Services

Wheel of the Year

Opportunity to build our community:

Small Groups

Choir

Caring Committee Connectors

Four Task Forces from the Leadership Retreat

Silence is not an Option. Try new ways to give your faith legs. Let your voice be heard!

Blessed be,

Maggie

## First Hour Forum

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

**Oct. 4** Economic Justice: Wrap-up and What Next?  
Host: Faith In Action

**Oct. 11** The Wisdom Path (cont'd)  
Hosts: Maggie Reister and Don Parker

**Oct. 18** Growing a Culture of Hospitality  
Host: Rev. Scott

**Oct. 25** Intergenerational Program  
Host: Children's Religious Education (RE)

## First Friday Games & Potluck

**6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct 2.** 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.

### Bring In Your 'UU World' When You're Done With It!

Please DO NOT tear off the back address panel (because that makes it look tattered). We promise to White Out over it. We will RECYCLE your 'UU World's' by using them as giveaways on the Visitors' Table.

Leave your donated 'UU World' on the table in the office.

## Common Reader Book Group

**12 noon. Wednesday, Oct. 14** at Church. Bring a lunch. All are welcome. Common Reader's choice for October is *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

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

## Second Sunday Birthday Celebration

**Coffee Hour, Oct 11.** 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!

## 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, 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.

## Rummage Sale

Our semi-annual rummage sale is scheduled for **9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23rd** and **9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24th**. All that stuff cluttering your house can finally find a good home, and you can find some new treasures to replace it!

Please help spread the word to all your friends and neighbors. We will begin taking donations at any time. Please make sure clothes and other articles are clean and in good repair. Smaller items or boxed things can go downstairs in the former Teen Room. Larger things can be stored temporarily; contact Rosalind.

As usual, we will need all the help we can get for setting up all that week, as well as working the sale days. If you can give an hour, we'll be glad to have you! And remember, volunteers get first dibs on the good stuff! Even more important is tear-down which has to be done much more quickly. We would very much appreciate help with transporting larger items.

Please contact Rosalind Davila for more information or to volunteer.

# Wheel of the Year

**7 pm Saturday, Oct 24**, our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate *Samhain* 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 or Patricia Riley-Churilla.

## Worship Notes

October's theme for the month will be "Building Community." We hope you enjoy and can see many of the elements that get woven into these themes. Jeremy is trying to use the theme of the month to choose hymns and his music. Rev. Aaseng, of course, ties the theme into his sermons. And we are trying to cross-pollinate with other teams such as the First Hour Forum folks to get that theme discussed before the service too.

## SCRIP

SCRIP is an on-going, simple fundraising strategy First Unitarian uses. We will soon be able to utilize SCRIP Now and ReLoad. These work in conjunction with the current SCRIP program, but you can order and reload your cards yourself at home. This works around the necessity to remember a week ahead of time to bring your checkbook and order your cards. SCRIP has been an easy money-maker for us so far. We hope that this will increase participation and bring in even more. With the holiday shopping season soon upon us, we would love to see all of you using this to shop and give. And don't forget your everyday expenses. Gas, groceries, pharmacy; we all need these things and may as well get a little back for the Church at the same time. We will keep you all informed when we are ready to go. Please see Beth Porch with your questions.

The deadline for submissions for the November Vanguard is Monday, October 19. Please email them to both [noelevans@frontier.com](mailto:noelevans@frontier.com) and [firstunitarian@frontier.com](mailto:firstunitarian@frontier.com)



# October 2015

| Sunday                        | Monday                               | Tuesday                             | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                               |                                      |                                     |   | 1<br>Church office closed<br>5 p.m. TOPS<br>8 p.m. AA | 2<br>Church office closed<br>6:30 p.m. First Friday<br>Potluck and Games | 3<br>7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group  |
| 4                             | 5<br>5:30 p.m. Seventh Day Goal Team | 6<br>7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group  | 7<br>5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga<br>7 p.m. Concerned Citizens<br>7 p.m. NA                        | 8<br>5 p.m. TOPS<br>8 p.m. AA                         | 9  | 10<br>7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group   |
| 11<br>Second Sunday Birthdays | 12<br>7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting | 13<br>7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 14<br>Noon Common Reader Book Group<br>5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga<br>7 p.m. NA                   | 15<br>5 p.m. TOPS<br>8 p.m. AA                        | 16   | 17<br>7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group   |
| 18                            | 19                                   | 20<br>7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 21<br>5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga<br>7 p.m. Board meeting<br>7 p.m. NA<br>7 pm Concerned Citizens | 22<br>5 p.m. TOPS<br>8 p.m. AA                        | 23<br>9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Rummage sale                                       | 24<br>7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group<br>9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Rummage sale<br>7 p.m. Wheel of the Year |
| 25                            | 26                                   | 27<br>7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group | 28<br>5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga<br>6:30 p.m. Leadership meeting<br>7 p.m. NA                    | 29<br>5 p.m. TOPS<br>8 p.m. AA                        | 30   | 31<br>7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group   |

## 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. Connie Karras, Kristen Neria, and John Halstead are looking for anyone interested in volunteering this month on **Saturday, October 24**. Volunteers 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 Connie Karras, Kristen Neria, or John Halstead. Thanks!

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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### [Recipient]

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