

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

December 2015



Names & Numbers

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

497 Main St., Hobart, IN 46342

Scott Aaseng, Minister

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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, Dec 6:	Reverend Scott Aaseng "What Holidays Shall We Celebrate?"
Sunday, Dec 13:	Cafe Agape volunteers "The Joy of Serving"
Sunday, Dec 20:	Reverend Scott Aaseng TBA
Thursday, Dec 24:	Reverend Scott Aaseng Christmas Eve Vespers Service beginning at 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec 27:	Jerry Ashmore an interactive service on meditation
Thursday, Dec 31:	Jerry Ashmore New Year's Eve Vespers Service beginning at 5 p.m.

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



There are many needs among us, as I am always reminded this time of year. And there are many ways to give, from donating to the Family Giving Project or the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help out those in need, to helping serve meals at Café Agape or tutoring with Northwest Indiana Federation's ECHO project, to working with the Shawl Ministry or reaching out to someone who could use some caring and comfort (and couldn't we all at times...).

Last month several church members and I attended a Center for Congregations workshop on "Creating Congregational Support Teams," about how to better care for those in need. The approach they suggested has a wonderful foundation:

Do what you can (do what you love!)

When you can

With coordination and support.

The idea is to start with what we have to give, and then match it with those needs we can meet. This approach reminds me of Howard Thurman's famous saying:

Don't ask what the world needs.

Ask what makes you come alive

And go do it.

Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

The idea is also not to try to do everything, but simply to do what we can. As Edward Everett Hale put it:

I cannot do everything

But I can still do something.

And because I cannot do everything

I will not refuse to do

The something that I can do.

And the idea is to do this in a coordinated way with support, which is essentially what we are seeking to do by organizing ourselves (somewhat!) as a church community.

I hope we can set up ways to

talk about what each of us does and can do, what each of us gives and can give that makes us come alive. And then go do it, and keep on doing it!

Thanks for all that you do, all that you give, all that you are.

Minister's Office Hours

Wed Dec 2: 2-6 pm

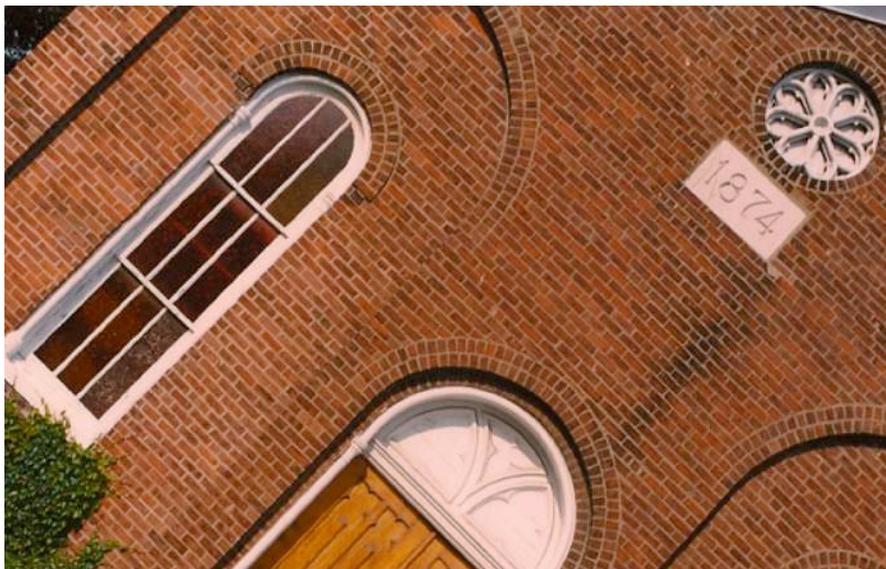
Mon Dec 7: 2-6 pm

Wed Dec 16: 2-6 pm

I will be on vacation Dec 25-Jan 4.

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

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

A First Unitarian small group Ministry was launched in November. It is not loud or fancy or mystical. It is a small group (12 members) who meet once a month for about a year. I think. Some of you have done this before. I am brand new. I was refreshed and touched after 2 hours of respectful, compassionate and personal sharing. I felt that I got to know my group better in this short time than I have over the last several years. Funny how that works. Looking forward to next time.

Our Visitor and New Member Support Team have attended two trainings at Unity Temple in Oak Park with their Professional Membership Coordinator, Tina Lewis. They are putting their new skills to work and planning a Greeter Training in January. Stay tuned!

Faith in Action members are busily preparing the Family Giving Project for 2015. There is still time to help! We also faithfully staff Café Agape each month and new volunteers find joy and meaning in this simple program. We prepare and serve a meal to our community.

Some of us visited our friends at the MCC Church in Portage for the Transgender Day of Remembrance - this day of remembrance memorializes those who have been killed as a result of transphobia (a hatred or fear of transgender and gender-nonconforming people), and it acts to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

Perhaps you were one of the pairs of hands who prepared the Thanksgiving Feast on Sunday, November 22. Or, maybe you noticed another member knitting a Rainbow Skarf.

You might have overheard a conversation in the Fellowship Hall noting plans to paint signs of protest or to join others in Cincinnati to support Black Lives Matter. Black Lives Matter, according to Wikipedia, is an international

[activist](#) movement, originating in the [African American](#) community, that campaigns against violence toward [black people](#). BLM regularly organizes protests around the deaths of black people in [killings by law enforcement officers](#), and broader issues of [racial profiling](#), [police brutality](#), and [racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system](#). We will continue discussions about BLM and what we at First Unitarian stand for during First Hour sessions in January. Join in!

Our Connectors Team supports us in so many ways. With cards, visits, calls, rides to church and more. Would you like to be a Connector? Do you need some help? Call Janet French or our Minister, Scott Aaseng for more information.

Celebrate the season on Saturday, December 19th with CUUPS Yule Ritual. Attend the candlelight Christmas Eve Vespers Service. Welcome introspection and the light within during the darkest month of the year.

Blessed be,
Maggie

First Hour Forum

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

Dec. 6 "What Holidays Shall We Celebrate?"
Host: Rev. Scott

Dec. 13 Long Strange Trip: The 2000-year History of Unitarian Universalism, Part 4
All welcome. Each session is self-contained and you do not need to have seen the series from the beginning.
Host: Don Parker

Dec. 20 Long Strange Trip Pt. 4, cont'd.
Host: Don Parker

Dec. 27 Open Forum.

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec 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

The deadline for submissions for the January Vanguard is **Monday, December 21.** Please email them to both noelevans@frontier.com and firstunitarian@frontier.com

6:30 p.m., and we break out the games soon after.
Contact Patricia Riley-Churilla.

Common Reader Book Group

12 noon Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Von's Victorian Tea Room, 310 Main Street, Hobart (near the corner of Main and 3rd, west side of street). All members and friends are invited to join us. It will be helpful to let me know you are coming.

Jan 13th 2016: Beginner's Good-Bye by Ann Tyler; book will be available in late December; see Sandy Ashmore.

Questions, contact Wendy Masters.

Shawl Ministry

Calling all knitters, crocheters, & shoppers: Last year in mid-winter the Shawl Ministry along with the help of many other members and friends donated a number of hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to Cafe Agape, a Faith in Action monthly program. We invite you to knit, crochet, sew, and purchase these items to donate in Jan/Feb. We have gratefully received several donations of yarn which are available for making these projects. Questions, please see Wendy Masters.

SCRIP Program

SCRIP is an on-going, simple fundraising strategy First Unitarian uses. As the holiday shopping season soon is upon us, we would love to see all of you using this to shop and give. We have a list of \$10 cards for stocking stuffers and thank-you gifts. And don't forget your everyday expenses: gas, groceries (including the new Whole Foods), drugstore, as well as Amazon cards are available, so every expense can be utilized to make money for the church. It is possible for you to donate \$50 or more to the church without spending a penny extra, just by using SCRIP cards. You'd be surprised how fast it adds up! For more information or to order your cards, see Beth Porch. Also, we hope to soon have SCRIP Reload, so you can order and reload your cards yourself at home. This will alleviate the need to remember your checkbook on Sunday and plan a week ahead. We will be excited to let you know when that is ready to use, so pay attention to the Weekly Updates for more information.

Other Fundraising

Rummage Sale went very well this fall, as usual. We currently have about \$1800, with just a few items still to be paid for. Much thanks to all the hardworking volunteers; we couldn't do it without you and we wouldn't want to try! We will start thinking about the spring sale in January, after we relax from the holidays!

Souper Soup was also a success, with \$378 raised. Thanks to all the soup makers and the soup eaters! This is a fun fellowship, with lots of visiting and conversation, and we had several visitors that day. The money raised goes to support our work at Cafe Agape each month.

Visitor and New Member Support Team

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35, The Holy Bible's New Testament, English Standard Version (ESV)

Think back to a time when you were in an unfamiliar place - you knew no one, recognized nothing, wondered if people would welcome you, and just felt out of place. Doesn't feel good, does it?

We've all found ourselves the "Stranger at the gate" in need of a welcoming, helping hand. And how about the strangers who are torn from their homelands and have nowhere to go, their basic needs in jeopardy, such as the Syrian refugees being turned away by several US states due to fear of terrorism? As UUs, we are called to welcome all strangers, no matter their skin color, belief system, etc.

Let's work together to do our best to make everyone who walks through the doors of First U - and those of us who are already here - feel welcomed and valued, no matter who they are and what they believe. Do we see a newcomer and think, "Someone from the Visitor & New Member Support Team will greet her" and keep walking? Well, someone else probably will, but the whole congregation is the support team, not just a few individuals who sit on a committee. "The New Colossus," a [sonnet](#) by American poet [Emma Lazarus](#) (1849-1887), written in 1883, reminds us we are all in this together. In 1903, the poem was engraved on a bronze plaque and mounted inside the lower level of the pedestal of the [Statue of Liberty](#): "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Hospitality Training is beginning in January and is open to the congregation. Let's lift our lamp beside the golden door and welcome each other with open arms and hearts to the table to break bread in fellowship.

Contact Connie Karras for more information and to reserve yourself a spot in the class. Refreshments will be served.

New Member UU Session II is Sunday, December 6th from 1 - 3pm. We are excited to announce that seven adults and two children will soon become First U congregants after completing this second and last session. The Rite of Membership service will be Sunday, December 20th @ 11am, so please be in attendance if you can to welcome these new congregants to our First U family!

As you may have already noticed, the parish hall has taken on a new look. Things have been rearranged and removed to allow for a more open, welcoming space, and more improvements will be coming. The Visitor Table is now a small table next to the main parish hall entrance, and if you can't find your name tag, Connie Karras, Sandy Ashmore or James Johnson know. The committees are working hard together to make the improvements the congregation wants, so please don't hesitate to let Scott and/or your committee members know your opinions. We are seeking elders to partner with Task Forces 2 and 4 to be sure our church's history is preserved, so please let Board President Maggie Reister know if you want to be involved in this process.

Faith in Action

For the month of January, the Faith-in-Action (FIA) Committee and Rev. Scott Aaseng will be hosting congregational discussions addressing the Black Lives Matter movement and social justice during 10am First Hour Forum, to include having signage on our church grounds. All are most cordially invited to attend and participate.

Since Rev. Cheryl Rivera's call to action during her moving sermon at First U, "Silence is NOT an Option," three First U congregants have become digital literacy mentors for The East Chicago (IN) Hope and Opportunity (ECHO) Community PTA Program, "ECHO" for short. Here's a little write-up about it from 2013 that explains better what it involves: <http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=3032>

No experience as a literacy volunteer is required. If you love children and want to help our most precious resource succeed, call ECHO Organizer April Friendly for more information and to schedule a training session, and let FIA Co-Chair Connie Karras know you're interested.

The Gary Chapter of Black Lives Matter meets every Wednesday from 7 - 8:30pm, Trinity United Church of Christ, 1276 W. 20th Ave., Gary, IN. Email: gary2ferguson@gmail.com

Contact FIA Committee member Gail Thomas for more information.



December 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. Concerned Citizens 7 p.m. NA	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 1-3 p.m. New UU, session II	7	8 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	9 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	10 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	11	12 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
13	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. Board meeting 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	17 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	18	19 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year
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. Vespers Service	25 church office closed	26 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
27	28	29 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	30 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	31 5 p.m. Vespers Service		

Events
elsewhere

Common
Reader

12 noon Wed, Dec 9
Von's Victorian Tea Room,
310 Main Street, Hobart

Café Agape

9am-2pm Sat. Dec 26 at
Presbyterian Church of
Hobart

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. Tracy and Michele Ferrell are looking for anyone interested in volunteering this month on **Saturday, December 26**. 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 Tracy and Michele Ferrell. Thanks!

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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[Recipient]

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