

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

January 2016



## 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

### 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, Jan 3:  | Maggie Reister and David Bart<br>"Burning Bowl" Join us in our annual ritual to let go of what is no longer needed thereby making room for the new year.   |
| Sunday, Jan 10: | Reverend Scott Aaseng<br>"Healing the Heart of Democracy"  |
| Sunday, Jan 17: | TBA  |
| Sunday, Jan 24: | Reverend Scott Aaseng<br>Ta-Nehisi Coates' <i>Between the World and Me</i>   |
| Sunday, Jan 31: | Allison Schuette<br><b>And Who Is My Neighbor?</b> Many of us were raised to "love thy neighbor as thyself," but how many of us, when it comes down to it, even recognize who "the neighbor" is? |

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



In January we will continue our congregational conversation of Black Lives Matter in earnest. All five Sunday First Hour forums, as well as several Sunday services, will be devoted to this important issue which has taken center stage among UU congregations around the country, as well as in society as whole.

I'd like to suggest several goals for this process. One is that we promote understanding of differing viewpoints in the congregation. We may not all agree on exactly what is communicated by the phrase "Black Lives Matter" or what to do about it, but I think it's important that every one's voice is heard and, more importantly, understood, in keeping with our 5<sup>th</sup> principle that "all people have a say" (children's version) and our mission pillar of Building Community as a democratic community. In keeping with our 3<sup>rd</sup> principle of acceptance and encouragement to spiritual growth, we all need to feel accepted and understood in order to grow in our understanding of what is required of us at this time.

But another important goal is to promote thoughtful inquiry into how and why black lives do or do not matter in our society, in keeping with our 4<sup>th</sup> principle of a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Why is it even a question whether Black Lives Matter? Why is it

important to say so? Why wouldn't we say so? How can we learn to listen first and foremost to the voices of those most marginalized and most affected by racism in our society, namely our African American sisters and brothers? I believe this is a matter of Growing Spiritually, another of our mission pillars.

My ultimate goal is that this congregation moves towards an affirmation that black lives do matter—similar to this congregation's commitment as a Welcoming Congregation to justice and full inclusion for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities—and that we Put Our Values into Action as an expression of both our final mission pillar and all of our other principles:

- How can we affirm the worth and dignity of each person (1<sup>st</sup> principle) in everything we do as a church, from the language we use to the way we express our presence in the community?
- How can we promote justice, equity and compassion (2<sup>nd</sup> principle), particularly in terms of criminal justice and other laws and policies?
- How can we join with others, particularly other faith communities and organizations in Northwest

Indiana, in working towards a world with peace, liberty, and justice for all (6<sup>th</sup> principle)?

- How can we recognize, express, and live out our interdependence (7<sup>th</sup> principle) with people in places like Gary who are so close and yet so far away?

A couple of resources I will be drawing upon in upcoming sermons are [Healing the Heart of Democracy](#) by Parker Palmer, and [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates. I invite you to join me in reading and discussing these important books.

Above all, I invite you to reflect on and truly know that your life matters, and that you have both a stake and a role in making sure that all lives truly matter in a society which shows over and over again that they do not.

## Minister's Office Hours

Tues Jan 5: 2-6 pm  
Wed Jan 20: 3-6 pm  
Wed Jan 27: 2-6 pm

*Days off are Saturdays and Mondays.*

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

**A**t the Board Retreat in August we created a way for our committees and groups to collaborate and start to build our collective vision. We designated the 5th Wednesday gatherings to come together and develop these ideas. Janet French and I are working together to guide this process. All this teambuilding is sort of uncharted territory for us. We thought it would be helpful to summarize the purpose of our four task forces, the committees involved in each and all the designated chairfolk.

**The next Last Wednesday Potluck Gathering is January 27th, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Please bring a dish to share.**

Each task force is to set their goals for 2016 (no more than 3) and submit to me or Janet French before January 27th.

## **TASK FORCE I**

Chairpeople: Kelly Mahler, Carl Wolf

Expanding our presence in the community.

Committees involved: Communications, FIA, Worship, Fundraising, Board of Directors

Actions include: Internal and external marketing such as social media, "Upcoming", Vanguard, Weekly Bulletin, Website, Banners hung in Parish Hall, Social Action such as Meals on Wheels, Hobart Prison, Black Lives Matter, Cafe Agape, Fight for 15

## **TASK FORCE II**

Chairpeople: Connie Karras, Carla Banks, Marti Pizzini

How We Engage, Care for and Welcome Each Other

Committees involved: Visitor/New Member Support, Hospitality, Lifespan Faith Development (1st Hour-"4th Principle Forum"/Spirit Circle/children's RE), Caring

Possible Content: Welcome guests (making outsiders insiders), deepen understanding of our history and our community, covenanting, interfaith education/dialogue

Goals in process: Plan and present Hospitality and Greeter Training; Caring Committee to roll out Caring Support Teams

## **TASK FORCE III**

Chairpeople: Don Parker, Rosalind Davila

Expand and manage our resources

Committees involved: Finance, Governance, Fundraising  
Resources include: funds, stewardship and faith

development. Our Human Resources include Staff and staff pay, Church Leadership, committee members confidence and friends. Goals in process: Develop and administer Time and Talent Survey/Assessment

## **TASK FORCE IV**

Chairpeople: James Johnson, Tracy Ferrell, Zeta Allen

Taking care of Facilities, Improving our appearance and being more welcoming

Committees involved: Buildings & Grounds, FIA, Visitor & New Member Support, Hospitality, Finance

Goals in process: Prepare and submit application to Indiana Landmarks for 2016.

We are making great progress! Please share this information with your committees and meet with your task force before January 27th to finalize and flesh out your goals. Contact Janet French or myself if you would like some coaching. We have excellent consultants in our community. Don't hesitate to use us. We are all in this together!

Blessed be,  
Maggie

## First Hour Forum

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

### **Black Lives Matter Discussion, January First Hour Forum**

**Series** Please join the Faith-In-Action (FIA) Committee at 10am Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall throughout the month of January to discuss Black Lives Matter. This national movement has captured the will, hearts, and attention of people throughout the country, including the Unitarian Universalist Association and many other denominations. See UUA President Rev. Peter Morales' Pastoral Message on Black Lives Matter here:

<http://www.uua.org/news/press-release/pastoral-message-movement-black-lives> FIA hopes to

lead these discussions to understand the thoughts of First U members on the fight for racial justice and to ultimately formulate the role that First Unitarian of Hobart will play in this ongoing struggle. This is a great opportunity to practice our 4th Principle: "A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning," in order to then put into practice our 2nd Principle: "Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations," that sets the stage to live in accordance with our First Principle that respects "the inherent

worth and dignity of every person." We will be using resources provided by the UUA. The workshops will be led by the following members of FIA:

**Jan 3** Connie Karras

**Jan 10** Carl Wolf

**Jan 17** Tracy Ferrell

**Jan 24** Gail Thomas

**Jan 31** John Halstead

## First Friday Games & Potluck

**6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan 8.** 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.

## Second Sunday Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration

**January 10:** Help celebrate our January birthdays during coffee hour. The birthday folks will bring coffee hour treats, thereby giving all of us the chance to let them know--We're glad you were born!

**Birthdays: January 23,** William Halstead; **January 25,** Laurie Eberhardt; **January 27,** Ariston Fouch, Kristen Neria and Tim Cook; **January 29,** Glorie Kemper.

## Common Reader Book Group

**12 noon Wednesday, Jan. 13** at Church. We will be discussing *Beginner's Good-Bye* by Ann Tyler. Sandy Ashmore will have books available at church on or about the first of each month.

All members and friends are invited to join us. It will be helpful to let me know you are coming. Reading the book is not a requirement!

Feb 10th: *Mother Theresa*; Kathryn Spink  
March 9th: *Last Policeman*; Ben Winters  
April 13th: *I feel Bad about My Neck*; Nora Ephron

Following Book Group at about 1:30, those interested in knitting, crocheting, sewing, and/or knotting can stay to do so for the Shawl Ministry (see below). 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.

The deadline for submissions for the February Vanguard is **Monday, January 18.**

Please email them to both [noelevans@frontier.com](mailto:noelevans@frontier.com) and [firstunitarian@frontier.com](mailto:firstunitarian@frontier.com)

## Connectors Meeting

**Sunday, Jan 17, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** in the Basement Library

Important new agenda items include Caring Committee - Connector Liaisons, and exciting Caring Support Teams Review and Updates. Connector participation is always appreciated; Please let Janet French know whether you're able to be attend. Thanks

## Political Science Cafe

Please join the Faith-in-Action Committee (FIA) **Thursday, January 21, 8pm** in the Parish Hall for a an interview streamed live from Beirut, Lebanon with Salma Kahale, Executive Director of Dawlaty, a Syrian organization committed to democracy, human rights, non-violent activism and gender equality. A graduate of the London School of Economics and Management, Kahale is also a former UN worker and currently one of the organizers of Planet Syria, a campaign of non-violent Syrian activists striving for global engagement to stop the violence and extremism. As the Syrian refugee crisis continues, we are called as Unitarian Universalists to respond in solidarity by UUA President Rev. Jerry Morales and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee President and CEO Bill Schulz. See their joint statement here: <http://www.uua.org/news/press-release/uusc-and-uua-respond-global-refugee-crisis> More information about

Planet Syria: <https://www.planetsyria.org/en>

## Pagan Apologetics

Helping Pagans develop the tools to defend their own individual faith. The sacred writings of Paganism are many and varied; they inform our spirituality, we use them in ritual, and to help us make decisions for ourselves and our families. The Pagan Apologetics study sessions are designed to help Pagans defend their individual beliefs using Pagan "scriptures," poems, books, and other sources from within the Pagan community. We will examine texts, such as The Charge of the Goddess, and others, to demonstrate Pagan ethics, views of the afterlife, and relationships with those of other faiths, among other topics. This course is useful for those who frequently interact with people of other religions who may have questions about our faith, and where we see our source(s) of authority.

Sessions begin **January 25, from 6:00 - 9:00pm**, and continue on the fourth Monday of the month through 2016. Each session will be independent of other sessions, and there will be review from previous sessions. Contact Patricia Riley-Churilla

## Hospitality/ Greeter Training

CALLING ALL CONGREGANTS!  
**Sunday, January 31st, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.** and then again from **1 p.m. - 2 p.m.** (session repeated to accommodate more).

The Hospitality and Visitor & New Member Support Team Committees are partnering to create a support network of congregants who will

greet and host visitors throughout the Sunday morning experience. We are trying something new in 2016: youth greeters to help younger visitors feel welcome, so if you're a young adult or child who loves to make new friends, please attend this meeting with a parent. Contact Connie Karras for more information and to reserve your spot. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall next to the coffee hour sign-up sheet.

## Visitor and New Member Support

During the Rite of Membership on Sunday, December 20th, the First Unitarian Family officially welcomed home eleven (11) adults and two (2) children during the 11am service. Participants signed the Membership Book and then received a white rose symbolizing peace. Welcomed are: Jeannie Novak, David Bart, Joe Hiestand, Starr Koelm, Brandon "Buster" Wright, David James "DJ" Lackey, Melissa "Missie" Bishop-Perrigo, Robert Perrigo (and their three year old son Spencer and 5 month old daughter Arwen), Mark Tade, Cathy Tade and their son John Tade. We look forward to sharing your spiritual journeys in the days to come. Blessed Be.



# January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church office closed	2 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
3 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service 12:30 p.m. Task Force	4	5 9 a.m Chicago Area UU 2 – 6 p.m. Rev. Aaseng office hours 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	6 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	7 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	8 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	9 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
10 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service 12 noon Second Sunday Birthdays 1 p.m. VNMST	11 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action	12 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	13 12 p.m. Common Reader Book Group 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	14 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	15	16 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
17 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service  12:30 p.m. Connectors	18	19 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	20 3 – 6 p.m. 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	21 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA 8 p.m. Political Science Cafe	22	23 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
24 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service 12 p.m. Chili Cook-Off	25 6pm - Pagan Apologetics	26 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	27 2 – 6 p.m. Rev. Aaseng office hours 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:30 pm Last Wednesday 7 p.m. NA	28 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	29	30 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Wheel of the Year
31 9 a.m. Hospitality/Greeter 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service 1 p.m. Hospitality/Greeter						

## Wheel of the Year



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

### 7 p.m. Saturday, January 30.

Our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate Imbolc (Mid-winter or Groundhog Day) 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 child care is provided so 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.

## Café Agape

Every **Saturday**, the Presbyterian Church of Hobart hosts Cafe Agape, a free community meal. First Unitarian volunteers coordinate a meal once a month. Carl Wolf and Stephanie Dowell are looking for anyone interested in volunteering this month on

### **Saturday, January 23.**

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 Carl Wolf and Stephanie Dowell. Thanks!

### First Unitarian Church of Hobart

P.O. Box 291  
Hobart, IN 46342

### [Recipient]

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