

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

February 2016



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, Feb 7:

Reverend Scott Aaseng

Becoming An Anti-Racist Church

Sunday, Feb 14:

Dr. Jon Cleland

The Great Story of our Universe

Sunday, Feb 21:

Reverend Scott Aaseng

The Power—and Danger—of a Single Story

Sunday, Feb 28:

TBA

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



As you have probably heard by now (and I apologize if not), I will be finishing my ministry at First Unitarian in July. My other ministry, with the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI), has grown to the point where it has become an actual position, and I was named Director starting last month. This work combines my calling to congregational ministry with my calling to social action—strengthening congregational social ministries across the state and combining them with partner organizations to make a real difference in the political sphere—and in many ways I feel it is my true calling.

I certainly have mixed feelings about leaving, and I will miss you when I do. I have wrestled with when to make this transition, and there is rarely a perfect time for these things. But I do have confidence that this congregation has found both a solid footing and a rising sense of energy to keep growing in terms of Building Community, Growing Spiritually, and Putting Our Values into Action. Trusting yourselves, trusting each other—and asking for help when you need it—will surely carry you through whatever lies ahead.

This will be especially important as you consider making a commitment to becoming an anti-racist congregation in the months ahead. This is the direction the Board is moving towards, in response to and in consultation with the Faith in Action Committee, and I fully support it. It would be perhaps similar to the commitment the congregation made several years ago in declaring itself a Welcoming Congregation committed to full inclusion of and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The times, our UU values and broader UU community, our African American sisters and brothers, and the deep yearnings of many of our hearts all call for a stronger commitment to justice for and with people of all colors in our society.

As we work towards committing ourselves—in a specific way—to the worth and dignity of every person and to justice, equity, and compassion for all (our first two Principles), I encourage us to hold fast to our third Principle as well: accepting each other and encouraging each other to spiritual growth. Each of us has something to say, none of us has all the answers, and we

grow best when we are both accepted (not judged) and encouraged to grow by those around us. And as we reach out towards others in the community to work together for justice, we need to strengthen our rootedness in our values and our stories and follow the inner journey of working through how racism (like sexism, homophobia, classism and all the other isms) has impacted each of us.

That's a lot for one newsletter article! I look forward to further conversations with each of you in the months to come.

Minister's Office Hours

Tues Feb 2: 2-6 pm
Thurs Feb 11: 2-5 pm
Wed Feb 17: 2-6 pm

I will be at a conference Feb 26-28.

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

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

“We are buried up to our necks in a history of violence and brutality against people of color.” The Rev. Meg Riley,, UU World

Many First U Members attended a Brunch and Program on Saturday, January 16 at Merrillville High School to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. The program was crafted by High school and Middle school students from Merrillville. Skits, presentations and music highlighted victories of the past 50 years and new injustices that shock and dismay our communities. Members of the STAND club (Socially Together and Naturally Diverse) created this event 8 years ago. Over 250 people from the community attended.

Saturday evening First Unitarians joined with the Gary Black Lives Matter chapter for a Peace Vigil at Gateway Park. The names of Tamir Rice, Lacquan McDonald, Jamar Clark and scores of other people across the country killed by gun violence at the hands of police or by senseless violence were read. They carried signs with photos of the deceased.

For 2 hours each Sunday in January First Hour was visited by many guests for BLM Conversations. We shared personal experiences with discrimination, racism and the civil rights movement. We explored institutional racism and how we can stand for justice, especially in the areas of police policies, prison reform and drug law reform. These open meetings have given our members a chance to be heard and to participate in the process as we create how we, the First U community, will stand for justice and how we will stand up against racism and oppression. This is our third Mission Pillar, putting our values into action.

Area High Schools joined for a Leadership and Diversity Workshop at Merrillville High School on Monday, January 18. Students of different race, ethnic background and ages participated in a full day of activities, cross cultural conversation and visioning justice in their school and community. I was so inspired! These kids are awesome. Gives me hope for the future of our planet.

On January 17, 2016 Richard Morrisroe graced our pulpit. Mr. Morrisroe is a former Catholic Priest who answered Dr. King's call

to march on Selma. He was only 25 years old, leading an all black congregation in Chicago. He met (though he insisted he did not “know”) Dr. King. He was shot on the day in 1965 when Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Myrick Daniels was shot and killed for his work of helping to register African-Americans to vote. Morrisroe was shot in the back with a 12 gauge shotgun and was only able to walk after 2 years of physical therapy. His story was not about his near fatal injury. It was about Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream and what drew him to this justice work. What an honor to meet this soft-spoken attorney.

I attended the Crossroads (Merrillville/Crown Point) Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on January 19. The Guest speaker was US Representative Pete Viscloskey. I felt inspired again about Indiana. He told us about the progress of the Gary Airport, the South Shore Line, job and wage growth. He also shared the lack of bi-partisan work on legislation. He lit up when I asked about penal reform. No one asked him that question all week! This is actually an area where bi-partisan work is happening. Let's hope so!

“The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.” Paul Farmer

Blessed be, Maggie

First Hour Forum

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

Feb. 7 Becoming An Anti-Racist Church: What Next?
Host: Rev. Scott

Feb. 14 'Science and Faith' including making science exciting for children (all ages)
Host: Dr. Jon Cleland

Feb. 21 RE Intergenerational: 'Love Stories' (all ages)
Host: Kristin Schumacher

Feb. 28 Faith In Action Forum

Official Call

Let it be known that a Congregational Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Hobart will be held immediately after the morning worship Sunday, February 7th.

The Congregational Meeting is to appoint the Search Committee for a new minister. Nominations are being accepted by the Board.

The deadline for submissions for the March Vanguard is **Monday, February 15.** Please email them to both noelevans@frontier.com and firstunitarian@frontier.com

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb 5. 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.

RE Bake Sale

Noon Sunday, February 7, the religious education kids are having a bake sale during Coffee Hour, to raise money for the Campagna Academy for Easter baskets for their foster children. Donations of toys, candy, and Easter basket supplies will be accepted, or baked goods to sell.

Common Reader Book Group

12 noon Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Church. All members and friends are invited to join us. It will be helpful to let me (Wendy Masters) know you are coming.

We will be reading Mother Theresa by Kathryn Sprinks. Bring your lunch and join the discussion. See Sandy Ashmore for books.

During her lifetime, Mother Teresa resisted having her full biography written. Then, in 1991, realizing that accounts of her life and work could inspire

others, she gave Kathryn Spink, who had long been intimately involved with the work of Mother Teresa and her order and co-workers around the world, permission to proceed with a complete biography on the understanding that it would not be finished until after her death. Now, revised and updated, Kathryn Spink's definitive, authorized biography is "simply the best . . . around," according to James Martin, SJ, author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*. "Thoroughly researched, sensitively written and unfailingly inspiring, Kathryn Spink's book should be, after Mother Teresa's own writings, your first resource for understanding one of the greatest saints in Christian history."

MARCH: [Last Policeman](#); Ben Winters
APRIL: [I Feel Bad About My Neck](#); Nora Ephron
MAY: [Devil in White City](#); Erick Larson and/or [The White City](#); Alec Michod
JUNE: [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#); [Mary Ann Shaffer](#) and [Annie Barrows](#)

Shawl Ministry

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to all who knitted, crocheted, purchased hats, scarves, gloves, socks for January's Café Agape. Michele Ferrell said: "I don't think there were any left, and everyone was really pleased with them. Several [people] came to show theirs off before they left. Thanks!" Hopefully, you will consider donating once more for February's Café Agape on the 27th. We invite you to knit, crochet, sew, and purchase these items to donate. We have gratefully received several donations of yarn which are available for making these projects.

Questions, contact Wendy

Second Sunday Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration

February 14: Help celebrate our February birthdays during coffee hour following the worship service. 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:

February 2, Richard Johnson;
February 4, Carl Wolf;
February 8, Janet French.

Red Cross CPR Certification

6 p.m. Monday, February 15, (includes infant CPR) and First Aid Certification in Parish Hall, presented by instructor Joe Kalocinski.

Cost: \$40 paid in advance by February 2, to Sandy Ashmore or June Wefler. Class size is limited; minimum age 13 (great for babysitter resumes). Wear loose, comfortable clothes. Sign-up sheet is in Parish Hall.

Pagan Apologetics

6 – 9 p.m. Monday, February 22, Pagan Apologetics study sessions, "Helping Pagans develop the tools to defend their own individual faith." Using Pagan "scriptures," poems, books, and other sources from within the Pagan community. Sessions 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 for more information.

Faith in Action

"The Religious Freedom Reformation Act (RFRA) is rearing its ugly head again, and this time, it's much worse. On January 19th, 2016, lawmakers scheduled hearings for Wednesday, January 27th @ 4pm on two short-sighted bills (SB 100 & SB 344) that harm LGBT Hoosiers. Then, late that same night, they muddied the waters even more by scheduling a hearing that same day for SB 66 - aka RFRA 2.0.

You remember how bad RFRA was? Well, SB 66 is even worse. It would repeal the existing RFRA law and replace it with an even more heinous measure that makes it easier than ever to discriminate against LGBT Hoosiers.

Under SB 66, an individual or business could ignore LGBT non-discrimination laws on the books of 13 Indiana municipalities to discriminate against LGBT Hoosiers - and it would be perfectly legal.

Tell your lawmakers to STOP IT. Go here and make your voice heard:

<http://action.freedomin.org/page/speakout/sb66>

* SB 100 claims to update Indiana's civil rights law to protect LGBT Hoosiers, but presents more problems than solutions. This bill would override existing municipal civil rights protections and write broad religious exemptions into law (among other issues).

* SB 344 is a non-starter, to say the least. It seeks to update Indiana's civil rights law but excludes any and all protections for transgender Hoosiers.

Let's be very clear: Although LGBT Hoosiers currently have no protections under state law, these misguided bills would be even worse than the status

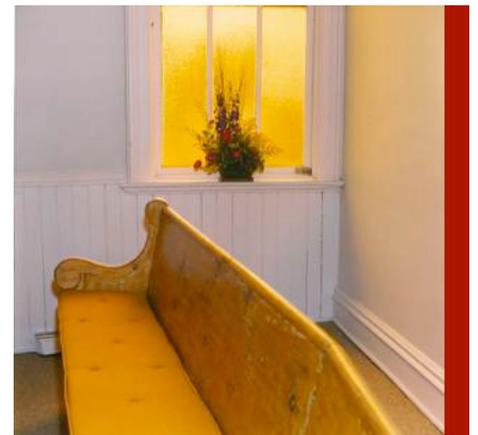
quo. And if lawmakers pass any of them in their current form, LGBT Hoosiers would be more vulnerable to legal discrimination than ever.

While you won't be reading this until after a Freedom IN Rally at the Statehouse has taken place on January 27th, there is still much you can do to let your lawmakers know that LGBT discrimination isn't a Hoosier value. Request a constituent meeting with your representative, write a letter to the editor, and attend rallies that protest these discriminatory bills. There is strength in numbers. Show up to show down bigotry. Briana Brown, our region's Freedom IN organizer, wants to work with us against this latest legislation that would turn back the hands of time.

Contact Briana by email: briana.brown@freedomindiana.org
For updates and to get involved, go to the Freedom IN official website:

<http://www.freedomindiana.org>
and the Freedom IN Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/freedomindiana.org/?fref=ts>

Contact FIA Committee Co-Chairs Connie Karras or Tracy Ferrell to help with our efforts against these bills. Join us at the next FIA Committee meeting Monday, February 8th from 7pm - 9pm in the parish hall. FIA meetings take place the second Monday of every month.



February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 3 p.m. Rev. Scott 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Small Group	3 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Small Group	4 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	5 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	6 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
7 10am First Hour RE 11am Service 12pm Youth RE bake sale 12:30pm Congregational Meeting	8 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	9 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	10 12 p.m. Common Reader 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	11 2-5 p.m. Rev. Scott 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	12	13 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
14 10am First Hour RE 11am Service 12pm February Birthdays Coffee Hour	15 6 p.m. CPR	16 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	17 2 p.m. Rev. Scott 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Board meeting 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens	18 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	19 7 p.m. Political Science Cafe	20 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
21 10am First Hour RE 11am Service	22 6 p.m. Pagan Apologetics	23 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	24 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	25 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	26	27 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
28 10am First Hour RE 11am Service	29					

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 (usually the fourth Saturday). Our volunteer date this month is **Saturday, February 27**. 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. Thanks!

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

P.O. Box 291
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[Recipient]

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