

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

March 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, March 6:

Reverend Scott Aaseng

Our Personal Journeys Toward Community

Sunday, March 13:

Various Voices

Here We Have Gathered

Sunday, March 20:

Reverend Scott Aaseng

Our Multiple Identities

Sunday, March 27:

Janet French

Rolling Away Stones on Easter

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



As you may have heard, there was an extended conversation at last month's Board meeting about how to express our common concern for racial justice. In the end, the Board committed to engaging in a process toward becoming an anti-racist congregation, including conversation among ourselves, discussion with others, connecting with and supporting other organizations, and working toward a public declaration of our commitment.

Along the way, things were said that were troubling to some and infuriating to others, and so it's important to recognize that the conversation has only just begun. Nevertheless, I think progress was made in the important process of hearing where each of us is coming from, not so that we all end up thinking the same thing, but so that we can move toward a common place of understanding. I encourage you to talk with Board President Maggie Reister and other Board members so that they can hear where you are coming from and we can continue to grow toward mutual understanding.

Several people have asked if I could reiterate some of what I said in my sermon last month, so let me do that here:

My understanding of racism is not just about personal prejudice, but about the system that results in vast inequities among people of different races in our

society. Doing everything we can to change all of that is what I believe it would mean to become an anti-racist church.

It's not about becoming a color-blind church. It's about treating people as people and dealing with the vast differences in the ways people of different colors are treated in our society.

It's also not about trying to become morally pure or deciding who's racist and who isn't or blaming and shaming people for being racist, as if racism was a sin worse than any others for which we must be made to feel guilty. This isn't about purity or guilt or blame; it's about justice and equity and compassion. And it's not about nailing people for being wrong; it's about making things right, which is what restorative justice is all about.

Racism is a disease that has a devastating impact on all of our lives—we all suffer because of racism—and it is a disease that needs to be fought and cured like the systemic cancer that it is. Sometimes it may take the surgery of truth-telling or even the radiation of anger, and at times that may be uncomfortable or even downright scary. But we all need racism to be cured.

As my colleague Alan Taylor has written, "To say that the church should stay away from political engagement is to say we should ignore how fear, hatred, and deception have taken hold in our world." If we are about anything, we are about the love that overcomes fear and hatred, we are about the search for truth that overcomes deception, and we are about service that seeks a better life for all.

May we continue to dwell together in peace as we seek to build community with justice and equity and compassion for all. May we continue to seek truth in love as we seek to grow spiritually in our honoring of every person's worth and dignity. And may we continue to help one another as we seek to put our values into action for a better tomorrow.

## Minister's Office Hours

**Weds March 2:** 2-6 pm  
**Weds March 16:** 2-6 pm  
**Thurs March 24:** 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

Have you visited the UUA Website lately? No, it's not that they have a spiffy new banner/logo or "must-see" pictures. They didn't rewrite the content. I just checked out the Beliefs and Principles page. Basic. "We are [people of all ages](#), [people of many backgrounds](#), and [people of many beliefs](#)." OK. Does ANY other faith tradition say they are a people of MANY beliefs? I don't think so. A religion that does not dictate a creed or a single belief to which all must subscribe. Amazing. "We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world." [UUA Website](#)

We **create** spirituality and community beyond boundaries! Our Mission Pillars affirm our focus: to build community and to grow spiritually. We began 2016 with purposeful discussions about racism. We shared personal stories and experiences, learned more about institutional racism, the current Black lives matter movement and ongoing oppression as we dialogued on this difficult topic. The racism we are talking about is not just personal prejudice, but the system that results in the vast inequities among people of different races in our society. We all suffer because of racism. "...working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world." Our third Mission Pillar is putting our faith into action. So, you might be wondering, what's next? How do we come together as a church family to work for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world? To address the vast inequities.

A large amount of time at the February board meeting was devoted to reviewing a proposal from the Faith in Action Committee. Nearly 20 members attended the meeting and participated in this earnest conversation. The Board has committed to this process of moving towards a congregational commitment to becoming an anti-racist congregation. We expect this congregational commitment will be presented for vote in June at the 2016 annual congregational meeting. The Board represents all of us. Not one person or one committee. Everyone. We welcome your comments and

participation in this ongoing conversation.

Scott pointed out in his sermon on Feb 21st there is always more to learn, no matter how much we think we know. In fact, you could say that going beyond a single story is the essence of what our quest for truth is all about. I am learning that my story, no matter how passionately I believe it, is just – my story.

We are gathering resources to sharpen our skill and understanding. We hope to bring the "Cross Cultural Competency" workshop to Hobart soon and plan to enroll several leaders in the Beloved Conversations curriculum training so that we can embrace this work. We are planning a community forum on March 29th with Merrillville and Hobart community leaders - from the Mayor's office, the police department and the school system. Please mark your calendars!

"Unitarian Universalism affirms and promotes seven [Principles](#), grounded in the humanistic teachings of the world's religions. Our spirituality is unbounded, drawing from scripture and science, nature and philosophy, personal experience and ancient tradition."

Blessed be,

Maggie

# First Hour Forum

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

What are we?

Where do we come from?

Where are we going?

As we prepare to enter Search for a new minister, this whole month our First Hours and worship services explore our own personal, congregational and religious roots: Where Do We Come From? All are welcome!

March 6

10:00 First Hour: From Whence We Come: Mapping our spiritual journey  
Scott Aaseng/Janet French

A special meditation on the turning points and milestones of each of our own individual spiritual paths, with time to share as desired.

11:00 Worship: Our Personal Journeys Toward Community  
Scott Aaseng

Noon: Neighbor Circle Campaign Kick-off POTLUCK

We'll sit in Neighbor Circles to share food, fellowship, and hopes and dreams for the church, all as part of this year's Campaign Kick-off. A contribution to the potluck lunch is appreciated.

March 13

10:00 First Hour: What's the story? First Unitarian Church of Hobart

Join in the creation of our congregational timeline, stretching from

before the construction of our 142 year old historic building, all the way through today. Come place yourself in the story.

11:00 Worship: Here We Have Gathered  
Various Voices

Within these walls, First Unitarian Church of Hobart has gathered for worship since 1874. A few long time members will share brief thoughts, remembrances and perspectives as we deepen our appreciation for all that has come before.

Noon: Second Sunday March Birthday Coffee Hour

March birthday folk will contribute to today's coffee hour as we celebrate their births. We're glad you were born! March birthdays:

Rosalind Davila, March 10;

Pete O'Day, March 13;

James Johnson, March 15;

Connie Karras, March 28.

March 20

10:00 First Hour: U, U, and UU: Mapping Our Religious Heritage  
Scott Aaseng/Janet French

Expanding our congregational timeline by centuries, aspects of our rich religious heritage will be added and explored. Are there particular historical persons, places or events you find most interesting or inspiring? Come listen and share.

11:00 Worship: Our Multiple Identities  
Scott Aaseng

March 27

10:00 First Hour: Unitarian Universalists and Easter

Historical Unitarianism rejects the divinity of Jesus; Universalism professes ALL of humanity receive salvation. Come share thoughts and perspectives around Unitarian Universalism and the Christian celebration of Easter.

11:00 Worship: Rolling Away Stones on Easter  
Janet French

As our Christian brothers and sisters gather to celebrate, theologically diverse Unitarian Universalists continue to explore our unorthodox and complex history with relation to Easter Sunday.

# First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, March 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.

# Common Reader Book Group

12 noon Wednesday, March 9 at Church. All members and friends are invited to join us. Please bring your lunch. We are reading **The Last Policeman** which is a [2012 American soft science fiction mystery novel](#) by [Ben H. Winters](#). It follows a [police detective](#) in [New Hampshire](#) as he investigates a suicide he believes was really a murder. His efforts are complicated by the social, political and economic effects of preparations for, and anticipation of, an [asteroid impact](#) six months in the future. Winters describes the work as an "[existential detective novel](#)", turning on the question of why people do things in spite of their long-term unimportance. The book won the 2012 [Edgar Award](#) in the category Best Paperback Original. Sandy Ashmore will, usually, have books available at church on or about the first of each month. Reading the book is not a requirement! ~ Wendy Masters

APRIL 13th: [I feel Bad about My Neck](#);  
Nora Ephron

May 11th: [Devil in White City](#); Erick Larson and/or [The White City](#); Alec Michod (These books will not be provided.)

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

## Shawl Ministry

### Following Book Group at about 1:30, Wednesday, March 9

those interested in knitting, crocheting, sewing, knotting comfort shawls/lap blankets, hats, scarves for members and friends of our congregation are invited to join us.

For January and February, we made hats, scarves, gloves, mittens along with purchased donated items for Café Agape which were greatly appreciated.

## Second Sunday Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration

**March 13:** Help celebrate our March 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:**

**Rosalind Davila**, March 10;  
**Pete O'Day**, March 13;  
**James Johnson**, March 15;  
**Connie Karras**, March 28.

## Wheel of the Year

### 6 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate the Spring Equinox (Yay! Winter is over!) 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.

## Pagan Apologetics

### 6 – 9 p.m. Monday, March 28,

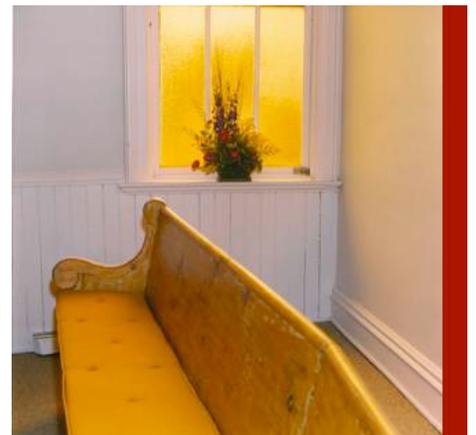
Pagan Apologetics study sessions, "Helping Pagans develop the tools to defend their own individual faith." Using Pagan "scriptures," poems, books, and other sources from within the Pagan community. Sessions continue on the fourth Monday of the month through 2016. Each session will be independent of other sessions, and there will be review from previous sessions.

Contact Patricia Riley-Churilla for more information.

## Rummage Sale

### Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April

**9.** As usual, we will need all the help we can get to set up, and especially Saturday to tear down. We can accept donations now, but preferably not furniture or large items. For more information, see Rosalind Davila.



# March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Small Group	2 2-6p.m. Rev.Scott 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens 7 p.m. NA 7 p.m. Small Group	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 10am First Hour   RE 11am Service 12pm Campaign Kick-Off POTLUCK	7	8 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	9 12 p.m. Common Reader 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 10am First Hour   RE 11am Service 12pm March Birthdays Coffee Hour	14 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	15 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	16 2-6p.m. Rev.Scott 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  6 p.m. Wheel of the Year
20 10am First Hour   RE 11am Service 12:30 pm Connectors	21	22 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	23 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	24 2-6p.m. Rev.Scott 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	25	26 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
27 10am First Hour   RE 11am Service	28 6 p.m. Pagan Apologetics	29 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	30 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:30 p.m. Leadership 7 p.m. NA	31 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA		

## 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 (usually the fourth Saturday). Our volunteer date this month is **Saturday, March 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 Carl Wolf. 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