

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

April 2016



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
Jim O'Gallagher, Treasurer
Stephanie Dowell, Jeff Kime,
Kristen Neria, Steve Midmore

Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 3:	Various Voices and the Search Committee Congregation In Search Of... or, Who Are We? Where Are We Going?
Sunday, April 10:	Reverend Scott Aaseng In Appreciation
Sunday, April 17:	Patricia Ireland, former director of the National Organization for Women Perspectives on Women's Issues Today
Sunday, April 24:	Reverend Scott Aaseng In Search of Boundaries

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



For much of my ministry at First Unitarian, I have been encouraging stronger connections among members, deeper conversations to get to know and understand each other better, and clarity about the purpose of the church. I believe a thriving congregation is built on solid relationships, meaningfulness in our interactions with each other, and a sense of mission in the world.

And for over a year, I have been suggesting exploring the *Beloved Conversations* curriculum from Meadville Lombard Theological School as a way of deepening relationships, promoting healthy dialog, and finding clarity around the topic of race—a topic that so often divides, confounds, and brings out the worst in us. This structured curriculum offers a safe and healthy space “to re-form/fuse the brokenness of racism into new patterns of thought and behavior, ushering in social and spiritual healing” [from the program description].

The Board has voted to move ahead with this curriculum, and all members of First Unitarian are invited to participate. The program will begin with a day and half retreat Friday evening May 27 and Saturday May 28, led by a trained facilitator from outside the congregation. Participants will then join small groups of 8 to 12 people for eight two-hour sessions roughly every other

week. You can read more about the program at <http://www.meadville.edu/beloved>.

It's a fairly intensive program, but I believe it is worth it. I believe this process can help not only bridge some of the divides among us, but bring people in this congregation closer together. I believe it can provide some of the spiritual sustenance and growth that many of you have been looking for. And I believe it can help ground and guide future conversations, decisions and actions around healing the brokenness of racism.

I realize there may be some weariness with this topic, and some trepidation about where it may lead. I'd like to suggest that First Unitarian is where a lot of UU congregations are, on the verge of a significant breakthrough both in our understanding of race and in the depth of our relatedness with each other. To have come to this point and not go forward would be to miss a significant opportunity for building community, growing spiritually, and putting our values into action—the very things this congregation has committed itself to. I also believe this process offers an opportunity for developing new ways of dealing with conflict, to

which this congregation is no more a stranger than any other UU church.

If you have some time and are interested in learning more about *Beloved Conversations*, there's a video conversation about it at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBhgV1cAUMQ&fb_action_ids=10207546837500433&fb_action_types=og.shares&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=\[9473093386970581\]&action_type_map=\[%22og.shares%22\]&action_ref_map=\[](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBhgV1cAUMQ&fb_action_ids=10207546837500433&fb_action_types=og.shares&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=[9473093386970581]&action_type_map=[%22og.shares%22]&action_ref_map=[)

Also, Jerry Ashmore has suggested listening to Krista Tippett's recent thoughtful interview with Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors, for those interested in learning more about that movement: <http://www.onbeing.org/program/patrisse-cullors-and-robert-ross-the-resilient-world-were-building-now/8425>.

Minister's Office Hours

Weds April 6: 2-6 pm

Thurs April 14: 2-6 pm

Weds April 20: 2-6 pm

I will be away at the UUA MidAmerica Regional Gathering in St. Paul April 29-May 2.

Walk-ins are welcome, though emailing for an appointment is helpful.
ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

March 21 was the official first day of spring but April (what a lovely coincidence that is my birth month!) from the Latin *aperire*, "to open" refers to the opening of flowers. After the cold, dark and dreary months of winter what a perfect analogy – to open. To relax the grip of snow and ice on the earth to welcome the rain, seeds break open and grow, buds bulge, ready to burst, flowers are sucking up nutrients from soil and water, preparing to explode with color.

How shall we, as a faith community, come out of hibernation and come together to celebrate new life, to "roll away the stone?"

Building Community

Start your spring cleaning and bring us your treasures for the spring Rummage Sale. Setting up and cleaning up are half the fun! Set up is April 5 and 6. Sale days are Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9. Come for an hour or come for the day.

Poetry, Prose and Potluck at the home of Carla Banks, Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. – food, literature and fun!

First Friday Games and Potluck April 1 or May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Second Sunday Birthday celebration is April 10. Yup, that's right, I'm one of those babies!

Growing Spiritually

If you are interested in joining First Unitarian then join us for new member UU Classes on April 10 and April 24th at the church from 1 – 3 p.m.

Attend our worship service on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and First Hour or Spirit Circle at 10 a.m. Of note: April 3,

voices of the Search Committee and April 17th, Patricia Ireland, former Director of the National Organization for Women shares her perspective on women's issues today.

Pagan Celebration of Beltane on Saturday, April 30th, 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Putting Our Faith into Action

Tuesday, April 19th 6:30 p.m. at First Unitarian is our Community Forum to highlight Racial Justice work in Northwest Indiana. Panel includes community leaders Urban League Director, Dr. Vanessa Allen, Hobart Mayor Brian Snedecor and Police Chief Rick Zormier. Moderated by Rev Scott Aaseng. Volunteers are needed to help with publicity, parking and hospitality. See Gail Thomas or Maggie Reister.

First Hour Forum

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

April 3: UU National & Regional Meetings and Social Justice work.

Leader: Don Parker

April 10: (continued)

Leader: Don Parker

April 17: Patricia Ireland, former director of the National Organization for Women, shares her perspectives on women's issues today.

April 24: Update on our racial justice work.

Leaders: FIA and our Black Lives Matter working group

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, April 1. 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.

The deadline for submissions for the May Vanguard is **Monday, April 18.**

Please email them to both noelevans@frontier.com and firstunitarian@frontier.com

Rummage Sale

9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday, April 8, and 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9. Our semi-annual Rummage Sale is nearly here!

We can take your donations from now until Monday, April 4.

As usual, we are looking for volunteers for set-up and tear-down. We always have a lot of fun working this event, so come join us! If you need help to get your items here, or to volunteer, see Rosalind Davila.

PPP

6:30p.m. Tuesday, April 5.

Poetry, Prose, and Potluck will meet at the home of Carla Banks. All are welcome to share food and fellowship.

New UU Sessions

1 - 3 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and April 24. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the church is invited to attend classes at the church. Please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact Scott Aaseng. Also, we will be having a pizza party on May 22 for all who became members this past year. This party is always a lot of fun! We hope to see you there.

Second Sunday Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration

April 10: Help celebrate our April 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:

Greg Ivey, April 1;
Maggie Reister, April 4;
Bill Masters, April 5;
Nolan Ferrell, April 7;
Benjamin Fouch, April 8;
Cindy Hesemann, April 14; and
Carla Banks, April 29.

Common Reader Book Group

12 noon Wednesday, April 13 at Church. All members and friends are invited to join us. Please bring your lunch. We will be discussing Nora Ephron's "I Feel Bad About My Neck" (2006), volume of short essays about what it's like to be a modern woman, particularly a woman "of a certain age"...the very real frustrations of being a modern woman. Always witty, urbane but not alienating, inviting and funny, Ephron charms her readers with her agonies and ecstasies of being a woman. Reading I FEEL BAD ABOUT MY NECK is the literary equivalent of having lunch with a close girlfriend. [Good Reads]

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

Shawl Ministry

Following Book Group at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13

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.

We are in particular need of rectangle shawls. Your donations are much appreciated. Yarn is available for projects.

Coffee Connections

10 am. Thursday, April 21 at 2&7 Coffee Bar. 9261 E 109th Ave., Crown Point (WINFIELD) 219- 323- 3229; just west of Lake of Four Seasons Gate.

Pagan Apologetics

6 – 9 p.m. Monday, April 25,

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.

Wheel of the Year

6 p.m. Saturday, April 30. Our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate Beltane 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.



April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	2 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
3 10am First Hour RE 11am Service Rummage Sale Setup	4 Rummage Sale Setup	5 Rummage Sale Setup 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Small Group	6 Rummage Sale Setup 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	7 Rummage Sale Setup 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	8 9 a.m. Rummage Sale	9 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 9 a.m. Rummage Sale 5 p.m. Wedding
10 10am First Hour RE 11am Service 12pm April Birthdays Coffee Hour 1pm New UU Sessions	11 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	12 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	13 Noon Common Reader 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	14 2-6p.m. Rev.Scott 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	15	16 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
17 10am First Hour RE 11am Service	18 7 p.m. Standing Up for Racial Justice	19 6:30 p.m. Forum: Racial Justice in NWI 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	20 2-6p.m. Rev.Scott 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens 7 p.m. Board meeting 7 p.m. NA	21 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	22	23 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
24 10am First Hour RE 11am Service 1pm New UU Sessions	25 6 p.m. Pagan Apologetics	26 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	27 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	28 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	29 9 a.m. Kitchen Equipment Sale	30 9 a.m. Kitchen Equipment Sale 6 p.m. Wheel of the Year

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 Café 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, April 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 Gail Thomas. Thanks!

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

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[Recipient]

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