

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

May 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  
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Stephanie Dowell, Jeff Kime,  
Kristen Neria, Steve Midmore

## Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Sunday, May 1:  | Church Musicians and Members<br><i>Celebrate International Worker's Day with a sing-a-long kicking off our theme this month of "My life is more than my work; and my work is more than my job."</i> |
| Sunday, May 8:  | Reverend Scott Aaseng<br><i>We Are More Than Our Work: Rest</i>   |
| Sunday, May 15: | Rev. Bianca Davis --God Can Ministries and the United Church of Christ<br><i>Our road to becoming an anti-racist congregation with a focus on economic justice</i>                                  |
| Sunday, May 22: | Reverend Scott Aaseng<br><i>We Are More Than Our Work: Relationships</i>  |
| Sunday, May 29: | Rev. Alix Kingenberg<br><i>Putting One's House in Order: Creating a Life with Less Stuff and More Joy</i>   |

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



In my recent sermon on “[Our Multiple Identities](#),” I talked about four spiritual styles or paths that are present in this and most congregations (based on research by Corrine Ware). One is an *intellectually-oriented* path of seeking meaning through study and discussion to learn more about ideas and concepts of truth. Another is a more *emotionally-oriented* path of finding meaning in relationships and being together, as well as often in music and art. A third path is more *inward-oriented*, seeking meaning in silence and meditation and perhaps drawn to mystery and ritual. A fourth path is more *outward-focused*, finding meaning in living lives of action in alignment with our values. Several people found these distinctions helpful in understanding the spiritual diversity in the congregation.

I shared another way of understanding the diversity of what people may be looking for at First Unitarian at a recent Board meeting, and was asked to share it in this article. It has to do with (again) four congregational cultures or ways of being a congregation (based on research by Alice Mann). The first is an *activist* culture in which the congregation is seen as called to take a stand on issues and act collectively on its values. A second is a *civic* culture in which the

congregation provides a venue for discussing and debating different points of view. A third culture is an *evangelical* culture of sharing a message seen as having potential value to those beyond the congregation. A fourth congregational culture sees itself as a *sanctuary* providing a space of refuge and transcendence.

The point is not that any style or culture is better than any other, but rather that they are all valid ways of being a congregation. Each has its strengths and its drawbacks, and each has something to gain (and potentially lose) from the others. The important thing is to both recognize the diversity and seek to understand it. And of course there are different paths to understanding as well, including studying, talking about, reflecting on, and experiencing these different paths and cultures.

But in the absence of such understanding, the tendency is to operate from within our own path or culture, and either to assume that it is equally shared and valued by everyone else (it may not be) or to assume that our own preferred path or

culture is the only correct one (it is not).

If there's one thing that can be said about Unitarian Universalism (and even that may be debatable to some!) it's that we do not insist on any single path or any single notion of absolute truth. What we agree on are values of love, truth, and service, which we express in a wide variety of ways. The challenge, as ever, is to maintain unity around these core values as we explore and celebrate (and sometimes endure!) the diversity of these expressions.

## Minister's Office Hours

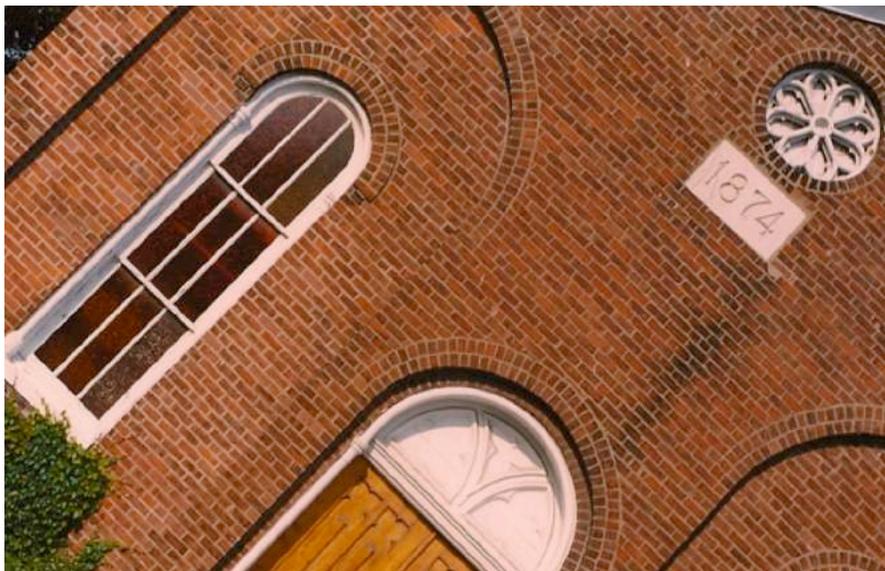
Weds May 4: 2-6 pm

Tues May 17: 3-6 pm

Fri May 27: 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

**S**ome days my job seems like constant interruption. It's not just my assistant's job description. It's mine. If I am not directly responding to a text or email or phone call or in an appointment - when I am not dictating notes to the file, preparing for the next appointment or meeting with my staff, I second guess myself. Did I answer that email? Did I copy everyone? Did I finish writing my thought? Did I follow up on that text? Did I make that trade? Did I schedule a follow up? Did I communicate clearly? Was I kind? Did I do what I said I would do?

I try. I try to close my door for an uninterrupted 30 minutes of phone calls or 40 minutes of email. Or even 5 minutes of quiet. It's hard.

Constant bombardment of information and communication has lessened my capacity for concentration and contemplation. I pay less attention to the subtle, the understated. Few of us were taught "good" listening skills. The kind that helps us really hear and process and leads to improved decision making. Breakdowns in communication occur often, have you noticed? According to Stephen Covey,

*"People don't listen to understand. They listen to reply. The collective monologue is everyone talking and no one listening."*

I find that judgement a bit harsh but, to be fair, we have all done it. Waited for our "turn" to reply, only half-hearing what the other person is saying. Our culture teaches thin listening skills. Most of us learn that "paying attention" means to ask pointed questions or to give wise advice. But, my well-meaning advice may not fit you, even my gently spoken question may feel like criticism. We worked hard here at First Unitarian to create a Fourth Principle (First Hour Forum) Covenant based on respect, good intent, fairness, equal opportunity "air-time" deep listening and understanding. So, what can I do better? How can I improve my "listening"?

Paul Tillich wrote, "The first duty of love is to listen." Deep listening means listening from the heart rather than the mind or ego. It

grows out of silence. Deep listening happens when people listen without responding, so they don't have to worry about what to say, what the other person needs to hear, or how to heal the person or solve the problem. Listening from the Heart requires love, patience, and tolerance. It is compassionate. President Abraham Lincoln professed himself to be a "man of three ears." His was a capacity of emotional and spiritual depth. I believe we all have this capacity and the opportunity to practice with each other here in our beloved community. ***Every spiritual path has listening and contemplation at its heart.***

*A reporter once asked Mother Teresa what she said during her prayers. She replied, "I listen". The reporter then asked, "Well then, what does God say?" Mother Teresa answered with a smile, "God listens".*

Blessed be,

Maggie

## First Hour Forum

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

**May 1: International Workers' Movement**

Hosts: David Bart and Don Parker

**May 8: Current Issues in UU**  
Host: Don Parker

**May 15: Becoming an Anti-Racist Congregation.**

**May 22: Creating our interconnected web of care.**  
Hosts: Caring Committee & Religious Education

**May 29: TBA**

## First Friday Games & Potluck

**6:30 p.m. Friday, May 6.** 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

**May 8:** Help celebrate our May 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!

**May Birthdays:**

May 10, **Sylvie Martin-Eberhardt;**

May 11, **Kele Ivey;**

May 16, **Cheryl Powell;**

May 17, **Jeff Kime;**

May 17, **Peter Martin;**  
May 19, **Ruth and John Halstead;**

May 26, **Jerry Ashmore;**

May 27, **Stephanie Dowell;**

May 28, **Matthew O'Gallagher**  
and May 30, **Marjory Crawford**

## Common Reader Book Group

**7 p.m. Wednesday, May 11** at Church. The group begins the second Wednesday of the month summer evening schedule. For those wanting to eat together, meet at the Bright Spot, downtown Hobart, at 5:30 p.m. May's Books are The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson and The White City by Alec Michod. Both are books about the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Join us.

## Caring Support Team Orientation & Training

**12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 15,** Learn about a new "team" model approach to caring, one of the ways we can express our care for one another. Connectors, along with all interested congregants, are invited and encouraged to attend.

## Coffee Connections

**10 a.m. Thursday, May 19** at *Spill the Beans*, 7992 Broadway, Merrillville. All welcome.

## Visitors and New Members Support Team

We held our "Getting to Know UU" sessions in April and we look forward to welcoming new members during our Rite of Membership on May 22, the same day as our pizza party.

The deadline for submissions for the June Vanguard is **Monday, May 16.** Please email them to both [noelevans@frontier.com](mailto:noelevans@frontier.com) and [firstunitarian@frontier.com](mailto:firstunitarian@frontier.com)

# Pagan Apologetics

**6 – 9 p.m. Monday, May 23,**

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.

## Beloved Conversations

### What is it?

Beloved Conversations is a teaching and learning curriculum that assumes that every conversation with another human being is a cross-cultural conversation, even if your conversation partner is from the same cultural group. Nested inside communities of faith, Beloved Conversations creates the first step for how to live healthily in a multi-racial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse community.

### Why do it?

The leadership of the congregation sees this program as a valuable way--born from Unitarian Universalist principles of justice, equity, and compassion--to engage the congregation in social justice work with tools that will help promote these values outside the walls of the church as well as within. This curriculum has been used in

UU congregations across the country, both in ones that are predominantly white as well as those with greater racial diversity. It was developed to help congregations unlearn behavior that can be derailing or divisive while learning new ways to build the beloved community we are all longing for. This work is critical to First Unitarian Church of Hobart becoming an anti-racist congregation, but it is also beneficial for anyone seeking to create positive change in the world through relationships--in other words, all of us, as members of a community as well as as individuals.

### What are you committing to?

You are committing to attending the opening 1.5-day learning laboratory here at the church (beginning **Friday evening, May 27** with a light supper **and continuing from approximately 8:30 to 4:00 on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**), and facilitated by staff from the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Additionally, you are committing to attending eight (8) two-hour sessions (see listing of topics, below), that will be facilitated by congregation members who have been trained by the Collaborative.

The follow-up sessions help participants locate their individual and group assumptions about race and ethnicity in their lives. The curriculum is **experiential** using music, visual arts, digital media, theater, film, and the best practices of small group ministry to make its point.

### Topics

1. The Invisible Footprint of Racial/Ethnic History
2. Exploring the Dynamic of Racism and Privilege
3. Racism Today: Micro-Aggressions
4. Interrupting Racism

5. Community Audit: The Experience of Race & Ethnicity in your Community
6. The Legacy of Racism
7. Toward a New Identity: How Can We Be-in-the-World?
8. Collecting our Wisdom: A Celebration of Learning and Commitment

To commit to participation and attendance contact Carl Wolf, Tina Porter, Brian Porter, John Halstead, Connie Barnes or Brian Barnes.



# May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am First Hour and RE 11am Service	2	3 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Small Group	4 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	5 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	6 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games	7 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
8 10am First Hour and RE 11am Service 12pm May Birthdays Coffee Hour	9 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action meeting	10 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	11 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Common Reader 7 p.m. NA	12 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	13	14 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
15 10am First Hour and RE 11am Service 12:30 p.m. Caring Committee	16 7 p.m. Standing Up for Racial Justice	17 3-6p.m. Rev.Scott 7 p.m. Board meeting 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	18 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Concerned Citizens 7 p.m. NA	19 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	20	21 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
22 10am First Hour and RE 11am Service 1 p.m. New Member Pizza Party	23 6 p.m. Pagan Apologetics	24 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	25 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	26 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	27 2-6p.m. Rev.Scott 5 p.m. Beloved Conversations Retreat	28 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 8 a.m. Beloved Conversations Retreat
29 10am First Hour and RE 11am Service	30	31 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group				

## 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, May 28**. 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  
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Address Line 4