

# The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

June 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, June 5:  | Imam Nazir Chahin, Illiana Islamic Association<br><i>a second interfaith service to address and prevent Islamophobia</i> |
| Sunday, June 12: | Reverend Scott Aaseng<br><i>How Are We Being?</i>  |
| Sunday, June 19: | Misha Sanders, UU ministerial student<br><i>Reflections on Fathers' Day</i>  |
| Sunday, June 26: | Church Members<br><i>Don't Let Others Be a Stumbling Block</i>   |

# Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



There was a wonderful intergenerational First Hour/Religious Education session in May. If you've never had a chance to experience one of these, I would encourage you to give it a try sometime. Sometimes people talk about Unitarian Universalism mostly at an intellectual level, and that is indeed one of our strong points. But intergenerational experiences can be a great way to learn about and express our faith at different levels, as well as to get to know each other a bit better across generational lines.

This particular session was on Caring. Some of us (like myself) started by talking about caring in a more abstract way, as being present, responding with love, treating someone with respect, and so forth. But as we went on, we started to talk about caring in more tangible ways: taking time for someone, listening to them, trying to make them laugh or feel good, shaking hands, offering food, paying attention and doing little things that make a difference to another person (like putting the cap on the toothpaste!). Some of the more

profound answers from our young people were about caring as having an honest conversation, or leaving someone alone when they want to be left alone. And then we started making cards to send to people—a real, tangible way of showing caring.

There are a lot of ways of showing caring, and I think people at this church show you care in a lot of ways. From making things like coffee hour and rummage sales happen, to giving time and energy to meetings and committees, to showing up for justice, to nuts and bolts things like nuts and bolts and gardens and sidewalks, to singing in the choir or doing all the other things that make worship work, to sending cards and calling and visiting people, to reaching out to talk with people you don't know—the list could go on and on. It's that tangible sense of showing caring, and not just talking about it, which I both appreciate about this church and which will keep

this church thriving as you move forward.

My last Sunday at First Unitarian will be July 3. It has been a good three years of experiencing your caring, exploring new ways of caring, and keeping that sense of caring going. Because ultimately dwelling together in peace, seeking truth in love, and helping one another are really ways of caring. And making caring real is finally what church is all about.

## Minister's Office Hours

Weds June 8: 2-6 pm

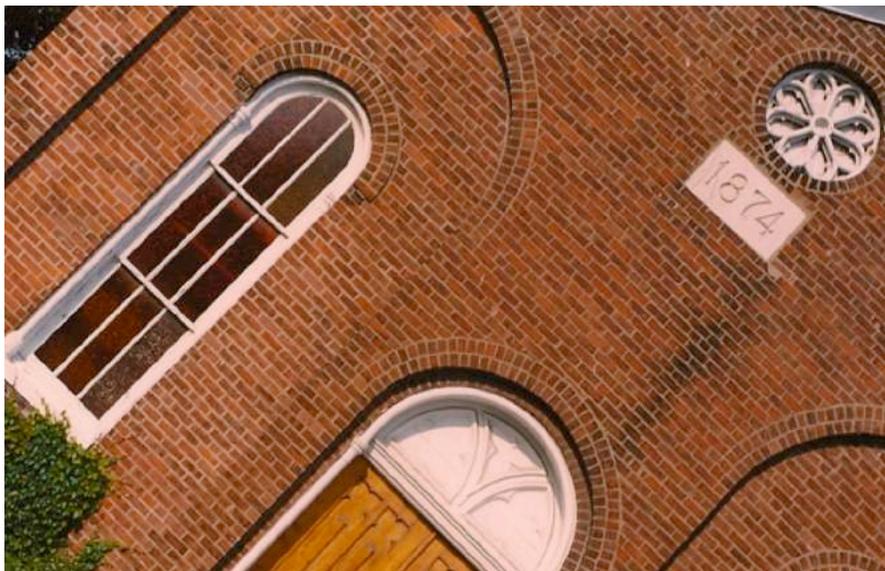
Tues June 14: 2-6 pm

Tues June 28: 2-6 pm

I will be away at the UUA General Assembly June 22-24.

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

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



# From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

Did you know there was a *Rummage Sale for Bakers* at First Unitarian? Did you know there are still great items available for sale on eBay? All generously donated by Valerie Lambert's mother, Joan Straszewski. Talk to Rummage Sale organizer, Rosalind Davila.

Did you attend the United Male Chorus Concert at First United Methodist Church on April 17? An all-black male singing group celebrating 65 years of music making inspired a grateful audience. It was sponsored by us, that's right, First Unitarian Church of Hobart. We had another New UU class in April. Have you noticed our newcomers? Why not make it a point to talk with someone you don't know. Let them know you are glad they are here!

So much is going on behind the scenes. The Visitor and New Member Committee is merging with the Caring Committee on a trial basis. There are, we discovered, some similar objectives for these committees. Connecting new members with real needs in our community is one way to encourage relationships and build community. The Caring Committee is creating Caring Support Teams to address specific needs such as transportation, meals or even a member with multiple needs. This team approach to addressing the needs of our community is new and promising. Talk to Janet French or Marti Pizzini if you would like to get involved.

On May 10 Rev. Scott Aaseng moderated a panel on Racial Justice at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hobart. Fifty people attended this first time event "Tearing Down the Walls/Building Community." Panelists were Mayor Brian Snedecor, Police Chief Rick Zormier, Urban League Director Dr. Vanessa Allen, Activist Samuel Love and NWI Interfaith Alliance President Rev Cheryl Rivera offered their perspectives on Racial Justice, obstacles that remain and work that remains to be done in our communities.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has approved a complete architectural assessment for our historical building. Watch for more opportunities to improve our building via grant writing, clean up days and participating in Indiana Landmarks 12 month program. We hope to be accepted in this game changing offering especially for historic congregations.

Over 30 members have enrolled in Beloved Conversations, "an experiential curriculum that provides a space to re-form/fuse the brokenness of racism into new patterns of thought and behavior ushering

in social and spiritual healing. New ways of being are learned through the actions of conversation and probing dialogue." Many UU congregations across the country are taking on the challenge of becoming an anti-racist congregation. One of the most important aspects of this work is spiritual. A look into our own hearts will guide us. The launch of the program is Memorial Day Weekend.

In May we bid a sad farewell to our dear friend and long time member, Gretchen Lewis, who is moving to Arizona. You will be missed!

Coming up are the Annual Meeting where we will elect new Trustees to fill expiring terms. Don't miss the big day: Sunday, June 12. Let your voice be heard. The 2016-2017 Annual Report will be sent out by email and some print copies will be available at the church. Please read before June 12. Remember that monthly Board Meetings are open to all members. Each month the Board invites you to join an open conversation at 6:30, 30 minutes prior to the Business meeting. The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 14, 2016. 6:30 pm Open discussion, 7:00 pm Business Meeting.

And, the church picnic is just around the corner: July 3 at Deep River County Park (shelter on the County Line Road side of park). A chance to celebrate a successful year!

See you in church.

Maggie

## Official Call

Let it be known that the Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Hobart will be held following the morning worship on **Sunday, June 12, at 12:30 p.m.** This meeting is held for the election of members of the Board of Trustees and for the transaction of such business as may properly come before the church. (See below.) Only members who have signed the membership book at least 30 days before the congregational meeting are entitled to vote. Every voting member should make the effort to take part in this very important meeting.

We will:

- Approve a budget for the next fiscal year
- Receive reports from church leadership

## First Hour Forum

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

**June 5:** Imam Nazir Chahin: The Current State of Anti-Muslim Bias  
Host: FIA

**June 12: Minister Search Update** "What Can Ministry Look Like For The Coming Year?"  
A Conversation about our Needs, Opportunities and Possibilities  
Host: Search Committee

**June 19:** TBA/Open Forum

**June 26:** TBA/Open Forum

## First Friday Games & Potluck

**6:30 p.m. Friday, June 3.** 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.

## Connectors and Caring

**12:30 p.m. Sunday, June 5, meeting in the basement library.** Lots on the agenda as we review and close out the church year and begin to plan for what's next: Circle member needs/updates, the merging of Caring and Membership committees, Caring Support Teams, and more. Please bring a snack to share if you're able, and, as always, looking forward

to connecting!

## Second Sunday Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration

**June 12:** Help celebrate our June 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!

**June birthdays:**

**Karen Livengood**, June 6;

**Zeta Allen**, June 10;

**Jerry Ronneau**, June 14;

**June Wefler**, June 27;

**Steve Midmore**, June 28.

The listing of birthdays will be updated soon. If you have a June birthday and your name isn't listed above, please contact the Caring/Membership Committee.

The deadline for submissions for the July Vanguard is **Monday, June 20.**

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

## Common Reader Book Group

**7 pm Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>** at Church. Pre-discussion dinner at 5:30 at Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E Old Ridge Road, Hobart; 942-6300. 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. Captivated by their stories, Juliet sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever. Come with Juliet and meet **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island for five long years — a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all; (authors: Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows)— Good Reads review

## Shawl Ministry

Needing a few more volunteers to knit, crochet, or sew shawls. Shawls may be any size, shape or color. These along with lap blankets are on ongoing need. Looking ahead to Café Agape's February dinner, a request for winter hats, gloves, scarves; either hand- made or purchased is appreciated. Yarn is available at Church for these projects. See Karen Smith or Wendy Masters.

## Coffee Connections

**10 am Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup>** at 2&7 Coffee Bar, located just west of Lake of Four Seasons at 9261 109<sup>th</sup> Winfield; 219-323-3229; <http://2&7coffeebar.com/s> Open to all; an opportunity to connect outside of the Church setting. We try different dates and locations to help make it convenient for you.

## Wheel of the Year

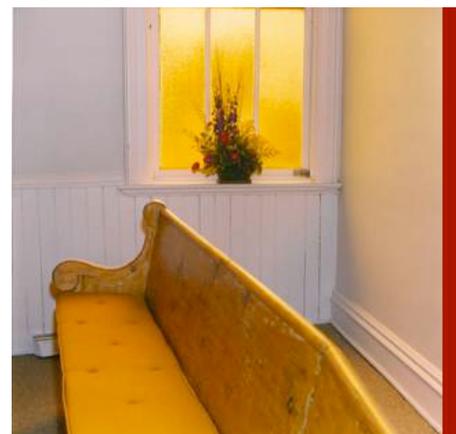
**6 p.m. Saturday, June 18.** Our local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate Summer Solstice in the fellowship hall. The ritual will be followed by a potluck, so bring a dish to share. This event is open to the public. All ages are welcome, but no child care 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, June 27,** 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.



## FIA

Your Faith-in-Action (FIA) Committee has been busy these past several months, beginning new projects and continuing steadfastly on others. As many of you already know, on February 19, 2016, First Unitarian's Board of Trustees adopted a [commitment toward becoming an anti-racist congregation](#) and since then, as a continuation of the forums the FIA Committee began in January, and as part of this anti-racist commitment, we have hosted several panel forums that took January's forums a step further by inviting BLM members to speak so we could learn who they are and what they are doing for our communities. We even hosted a weekday evening forum at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hobart organized Maggie Reister and Gail Thomas and moderated by Rev. Scott entitled, "Tearing Down Walls/Building Community" to begin a discussion about racial inequality and explore remedies to it that will be a long-term exploration with each other and the community.. These forum efforts, in conjunction with [Meadville Lombard Theological School's "Beloved Conversations"](#) that begins with a retreat over Memorial Day Weekend, will afford us the wonderful opportunity to engage with each other in deep, meaningful ways to foster connections with each other and with the communities we serve.

But, an anti-racist commitment is only a fraction of action your FIA Committee has been engaging in; other ongoing

projects include: co-sponsored a rally at BP Refinery in Whiting, IN demanding climate justice, [Break Free Midwest 2016](#), which calls for a just transition from fossil fuels to a sustainable future - a transition that does not harm communities already devastated by fossil fuel addiction; the Jay Steele Giving Garden is growing by leaps and bounds and its second year yield will help even more families at Cafe Agape and in the community (all are welcome to tend the garden); forums addressing Islamophobia will be presented; we advocated on behalf of workers being treated poorly at a Crown Point, IN business; and, in keeping with our status as a Welcoming Congregation, committee members are actively working alongside Matthew Zaradich of Hobart:Open For All, to ensure that a Hobart Human Rights Ordinance (HRO) is passed in our town. Matthew drafted the Hobart HRO proposal and will be speaking at First Unitarian in July.

All of this wonderful work is open to all congregants and if you want to get involved, please let a member of the FIA Committee know. Our meetings are the second Monday of every month @ 7pm in the parish hall and all are welcome to attend and get involved in current projects and/or share their ideas about new ones. Is there something important to you we should be doing? Is there something we're doing you think we should be doing differently? Please let us know. First U is our congregation and when a "y" is added, that makes it YOUR congregation, too.

As a Welcoming Congregation, we are pleased to announce the first-ever LGBTQ Community Conversation on June 3rd from 8:30am - 4:30pm @ Purdue University Calumet. This event will provide information on how to reduce the stigma associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,

Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) suicide as well as build mental health awareness and provide resources. This one-day event will include speakers, data, and other facts about promotion of suicide prevention and cover early identification, crisis response, and treatment and recovery services. We will have speakers from the Trans Lifeline, Center on Halstead, Out & Equal, Howard Brown and many more. Registration deadline is May 30th. The event costs \$15 which for registrants includes light breakfast, lunch and 6 CEU's. Registration scholarships are also available. Contact Mariaelena Trejo at [219-757-1849](tel:219-757-1849) for more information.

On a final note, Tracy Ferrell will be stepping down as FIA Co-Chair at the end of June and John Halsted will be FIA's new co-chair with Connie Karras. Tracy devoted an enormous amount of time, energy and heart & soul to FIA and the community and we are most appreciative for how FIA has grown by leaps and bounds during his time as chair. On behalf of FIA and our congregation, thank you, Tracy. :-)



# June 2016

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

Events  
elsewhere

Common  
Reader

**5:30 p.m. Wed, June 8**  
Pre-discussion dinner at  
Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E  
Old Ridge Road, Hobart

Café Agape

**9am-2pm Sat. June 25** at  
Presbyterian Church of  
Hobart

## 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, June 25**. 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

P.O. Box 291  
Hobart, IN 46342

### [Recipient]

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