

The Vanguard

First Unitarian Church of Hobart

July 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

2016-2017 Board of Trustees

Maggie Reister Walters, President

Kristen Neria, Vice President

Stephanie Dowell, Secretary

Jim O'Gallagher, Treasurer

Tracy Ferrell, Janet French,

Jeff Kime, Gail Thomas

Worship Calendar

Services are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 3:

Reverend Scott Aaseng
Break Not The Circle

Sunday, July 10:

Jo Von Rue, guest speaker
Topic to be announced

Sunday, July 17:

David Bart, church member
"No gods, No Heroes, Only Humans"

Sunday, July 24:

Jenny Peek, Meadville Lombard graduate
Pannikar's Window: A metaphor to deepen awareness of perspectives. Raimon Panikkar was known as the apostle of interreligious dialogue. How might the window metaphor be relevant in our lives as Unitarian Universalists?"

Sunday, July 31:

TBA

Letter from Our Minister

By Scott Aaseng



Over the last three years, one of the things I have tried to do is give voice to what I hear in the congregation, and bring it into dialog with what I understand of the UU tradition. This is a central part of what I believe UU ministry is all about: it's not just about what each of us thinks or says, but about what we as a community—rooted in a larger community and tradition—are saying to and hearing from each other, and what we are doing as a result of that conversation.

I shared at last fall's Leadership Retreat some reflections from UUA MidAmerica Region staffperson Lisa Presley:

When asked about what they like most about their congregations, most people will answer "the community." But...if it's only community...then what happens when things aren't going right? What happens when there is disagreement?... Without a sense of purpose beyond being in community, the only factor in decision making becomes what will do the most good to relationship in its currently existing form, or, more likely, the least harm to relationship in its currently existing form. And by definition that forces a community into stagnation... If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there...

[But] in a congregation where they share a clear sense of mission, there is more than relationship holding them together. It's that mission — what the congregation stands for — that binds them together... And through uniting to support that mission, people have a chance to find their way back into relationship... Loving each other inside your congregation is a wonderful thing. But it's not enough. When the going gets tough, you have to know who it is you are, and what you stand for, and what you're moving toward.

I hope I have helped articulate at least some of this foundation through the mission pillars you've agreed on: Building Community, Growing Spiritually, Putting Our Values Into Action. These are commitments rooted in the congregation's long-standing covenant—"to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another"—which is itself rooted in the larger UU tradition of which we are a part. The conversation about what all of that means is far from over, but I hope it is at least a starting point for articulating who you are, what you stand for, and what you're moving toward.

I'd like to apologize for the

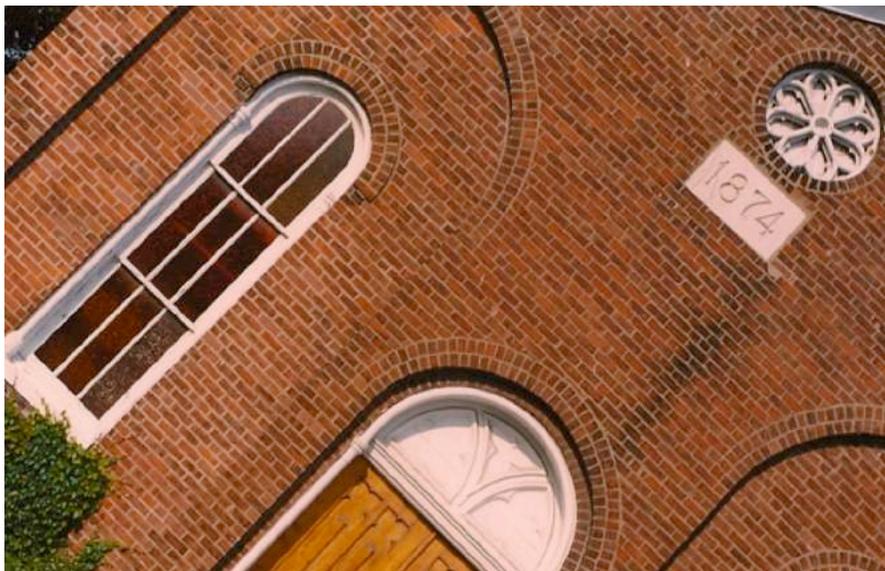
times when I've misrepresented either your voices or those of the tradition. I'd also like to acknowledge that I have not always been as present as I would have liked to be. Above all, I have appreciated your openness, your patience, and your willingness to engage with what you really care about. I've said it before and I'll say it again: You are people who care—about each other, about the world around you, and ultimately, I think, about the truth of love. That caring will carry you a long ways, as it will carry me.

Thank you, and blessed be.

Minister's Office Hours

My last Sunday will be July 3. I will be on study leave but available for pastoral emergencies through July 13. From July 14 through the end of the month I will be on vacation.

ministerhobartuu@gmail.com



From our Board President

Maggie Reister Walters

"No one can take a vacation from the struggle for justice." Frederick Douglas

Reflection on and Highlights of General Assembly

June 22, 2016-drive to Columbus, Ohio-make phone call and dictate notes on my 5 hour drive. It is raining off and on. Arrive at Convention Center 6:15 pm ET. Attend the Mid America session. Find Don Parker. Go to opening session with John Halstead and family-3500 are registered for GA! "We are better together" is the theme tonight and throughout the conference. Interfaith relationships are stressed. Get outside the comfort zone, listen deeply, take risks, allow for something amazing to happen. We sing "Alleluia." We celebrate during the Banner Parade...hundreds of Unitarians from across the country proudly carry their banners around the hall. We cheer as William Halstead brings the First Unitarian Church of Hobart Banner down the aisle. That night I drive to my friends house out in the country. We catch up and I sleep with the windows open. I wake to loud torrents of rain and crashing thunder. I am happy to hear and smell the outdoors. The next day I drive in through the beautiful Ohio countryside. I meet with Ian Evison from Mid America. I will meet with Ian regularly as we at First Unitarian transition to our next minister.

I attend a workshop with Rev William J Barber II of Moral Mondays in North Carolina. We receive a crash course in the history of Reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan, the terror of lynching, separate but equal, civil rights, Fusion politics, Moral Mondays and voting rights. Racism is a moral issue. His message is riveting. Rev Barber is coming to Indianapolis-stay tuned!

The Cincinnati Collaborative is the perfect example of We Are Better Together. A 47 year old Multi-Faith group (Catholic, Baptist, Jewish, UU etc) has changed the philosophy of Policing by increasing safety and fairness and reducing arrests.

Allies for Racial Equity led a timeline exercise to discover White UU History.

The Action for Immediate Witness is moved inside due to weather forecast and many complain. Rev Barber and others lead this moving call to action. We have a "heart problem" when there is high poverty and re-segregated schools, when politicians have free insurance and 8 million have no healthcare, when we protect corporations and not people. We can build and inhabit the world we dream about-we must trust our faith!

A resolution for Divestiture is thoughtfully discussed and hotly debated. Companies that profit from the suffering of the Palestinian people have been removed from the UU investment portfolio. Many believe more action is needed.

Rev Scott joins a panel on Justice Strategies. He reminds us that one on one conversation ignites the divine spark in each of us, brings us alive and together we are powerful in the world. We need power to be effective and relationships build power. Deep Conversation is a Spiritual Practice as we inspire each other into Action. Another workshop helped us explore White Discomfort.

An important practice of our UUA Democratic Process happens at the General Assembly. Yet our delegates tend to be old, white and privileged. Last year a scholarship fund raised \$28,000 to start to change this. This fund made possible people of color, low income and other underrepresented groups to attend GA. However, most individual churches do not underwrite attendees. Congrats to First Unitarian for supporting this gathering and practice of our faith!

The Future of Women panel (2 women ministers and 1 female seminarian) reflected on the politicization of women's bodies, reproductive justice-especially the recent ruling in Texas which closed all but 6 Family Planning Clinics in the state, Anti Racism, LGBTQQ and sexual assault.

The Ware Lecture with Kristen Tippett of NPR was captivating. "Words matter," she says. "We are starved for fresh language to approach each other...words that shimmer." I have pages of notes-Kristen lifted the conversation to a higher plane.

I hope you were able to watch the Sunday morning worship streaming at First U. The music and Sermon were off the chain-we were on our feet again and again. The music transported us and Rev Nancy's message was transformative and in your face.

If you haven't been to GA, put it on your bucket list. Let us help you get there. If you have, you know what I am talking about. See you next year in New Orleans!

"Life is raw material for Wisdom."

So may we be,
Maggie

First Hour Forum

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

July 3: General Assembly Report
Host: Don Parker

July 10: Open Forum

July 17: Long Strange Trip: modern Unitarian Universalism

July 24: Long Strange Trip: modern Unitarian Universalism

July 31: Long Strange Trip: modern Unitarian Universalism

FYI...

The state has closed the intersection of Indiana 130 and County Line Road in Hobart until the end of September for road and traffic signal work.

First Friday Games & Potluck

6:30 p.m. Friday, July 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.

Annual Picnic

Our annual picnic is coming up this Sunday July 3, at Deep River Park, immediately following Sunday service. Burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be provided; the rest will be potluck, so bring a dish to share.

Some beverages will be provided, but if you have something you especially like, bring it! Also, please bring your own place settings, to avoid excessive use of plastic. Sunday will be Rev. Scott Aaseng's last sermon, so plan on saying goodbye to him. Deep River Park is located on County Line Road, just a few miles south of 10th St. We can give you directions at church if you need them.

Fundraising

Fundraising is sponsoring the Kona Ice Truck during the Hobart 4th of July Parade. Look for us at the north end of Main Street, just before it turns onto Old Ridge Rd. And please let all of your friends and relatives know about this!

Our monthly meetings are suspended for a few months during the summer; everyone is so busy that is hard to find a time to connect. We intend to meet again before summers' end and start planning for our Fall fundraisers, including Rummage Sale and the Gift Basket Raffles at Thanksgiving. Any other good ideas, contact Beth Porch or Rosalind Davila,

or any other member of Fundraising. (Any Bunco Queens out there?)

Second Sunday Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration

July 10: Help celebrate our July 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!

July birthdays:

July 6, **Cora Ivey**;
July 10, **Trish Neary**;
July 12, **Wendy Masters**;
July 19, **Gina Miller**;
July 20, **Marsha Woodby**;
July 24, **Tom DuBois**;
July 25, **Karen Smith**.

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

The deadline for submissions for the August Vanguard is **Monday, July 18.**

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

Common Reader Book Group

7 pm Wednesday July 13th at Church. Pre-discussion dinner at 5:30 at Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E Old Ridge Road, Hobart; 942-6300. The book is Liane Moriarty's *Little Lies Big Lies*. Sometimes it's the little lies that turn out to be the most lethal; a murder, a tragic accident, or just parents behaving badly? What's indisputable is that someone is dead. But who did what?

Big Little Lies follows three women, each at a crossroads. Amazon says it "is a brilliant take on ex-husbands and second wives, mothers and daughters, schoolyard scandal, and the dangerous little lies we tell ourselves just to survive."

Visitors and New Members Support Team

12:30 p.m. Sunday, July 17. A brief check-in for greeters. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Connections

Friday July 22nd at 10 a.m. at Panera's (in front of Meijer Store). 6050 US Highway 6, Portage, IN 46368, (219) 706-6007
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.

Pagan Apologetics

6 – 9 p.m. Monday, July 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.

Leadership Retreat

Saturday, July 30, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Location to be determined)
Pre-Retreat Potluck and Social
Friday, July 29, 6- 8 p.m.
(Location to be determined)

Board members, committee chairs and members, and all who are interested and able, please plan to attend our Annual Leadership Retreat on July 30, and the Potluck Social scheduled for the Friday evening before. All are welcome!

We're requesting that a district consultant join us to help facilitate on Saturday, and expect a lively, generative, productive day. Contact Maggie Reister with questions; more details to come.

FIA

One item was mistakenly left out of the list of activities sponsored by Faith In Action in the last Vanguard: FIA co-sponsored a free public screening of the documentary film *Trapped* at Purdue Calumet on May 23.



July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck and Games 7 p.m. Beloved Conversations	2 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
3 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service	4	5 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. Beloved Conversations	6 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. NA	7 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	8	9 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
10 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service 12 noon Second Sunday Birthdays 1 p.m. VNMST	11 7 p.m. Faith-in-Action	12 7 p.m. Peace Vigil 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	13 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Common Reader Book Group 7 p.m. Beloved Conversations 7 p.m. NA	14 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	15 7 p.m. Beloved Conversations	16 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
17 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service	18 7 p.m. Beloved Conversations	19 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	20 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 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 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service	25 6pm - Pagan Apologetics	26 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	27 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:30 pm Last Wednesday 7 p.m. NA	28 5 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	29 7 p.m. Beloved Conversations	30 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
31 10 a.m. First Hour and RE 11 a.m. Service						

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, July 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 Connie Karras and Kristen Neria. 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