



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

801 East Washington Street • South Bend, Indiana 46617

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Website: <http://FirstUnitarian.us> On Facebook: FirstUnitarianSB

Volume 65

February 2018

Number 8

Calendar of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sun	4	10:30 am	Service: Need A Hero, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	All-church Potluck	Foyer & Conf Rm
		12:30 pm	Peace and Social Justice Committee	
Tues	6	7:00 pm	Finance Committee	Room 103
Wed*	7	7:00 pm	Marketing Committee	Room 108
Sun	11	10:30 am	Service: Life Finds A Way, Rev. Chip Roush	
Mon	12	11:00 am	Pie with the Parson	Yellow Cat Café
		1:00 pm	Committee on Ministry	Conference Room
		5:30 pm	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)	Sanctuary
		6:00 pm	Women's Spirituality Circle	Room 103
Tues	13	7:00 pm	Worship Arts	Conference Room
Wed	14	6:30 pm	Board of Trustees	Conference Room
Fri	16	5:30 pm	Women's Sharing Circle	Conference Room
		7:00 pm	Babylon Sneakers Concert	Sanctuary
Sun	18	10:30 am	Service: The Coffee Connection, Florence Klecka	
		11:45 am	First Unitarian 66th Anniversary Celebration	
		12 noon	Brunch Bunch	Offsite
Mon	19		<i>Newsletter Submission Deadline</i>	
President's Day (Note: The church office will be open.)				
Tues	20	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Sun	25	10:30 am	Service: Enigma of Reason, Rev. Chip Roush	
		12:00 noon	New UU Class: Session #1	Conference Room
Wed	28	6:30 pm	Feasters	Offsite

* The Choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7 pm (in the Sanctuary), unless otherwise announced.

For additions, updates, or location changes, read the weekly CHIRP email, or check the online calendar at our website (www.firstunitarian.us). Also, we are on Facebook (FirstUnitarianSB).

February is Undie Sunday month. Share new or gently used under clothes with those who receive assistance from Broadway Christian Parish. See page 6 for more information.

Minister's Notes

A chance to sleep in on Sunday morning? And still connect with our friends from the congregation, including a meal, some music, and an opportunity to put our faith into practice, out in the wider world? How is this possible?



On Sunday, March 18, 2018, we will not have [much of] a morning worship service*. Instead, we will gather that afternoon, do a little justicemaking with a partner organization, and meet back at the church for a meal and some conversation about what we learned. This will be an explicitly multigenerational event—there will be many opportunities for our children and youth to be involved, as well as opportunities for every generation up to The Greatest.

Some congregations do this sort of thing regularly (recall my sermon from July 10, 2016, “Sabbath Kept for Realz!”), and find it invigorating. One congregation used this idea to reverse its decreasing membership, and is now growing again. We may try it a few more times, if we find it fulfilling this initial time.

*Of course, the church WILL still be open that morning. We almost always have a few visitors. If somebody needs a church that morning, we want to be there for them. With a few well-trained listeners, and some coffee and tea, any visitors should get their needs met (and may decide to join us for the justice work that afternoon!).

If you have an idea for a service project for that afternoon, or if you want to be part of the group that makes this event successful—or if you just have questions or concerns—please contact me.

With Spirit,
Chip

Minister's Office Hours: In addition to his availability for scheduled appointments, Rev. Chip commits to holding Office Hours regularly, to make it easy to just drop in without prior arrangements. These are also shown on the calendar on the church website, on the back of each Sunday's bulletin, and on Rev. Chip's door.

Week of Feb. 5th: Monday, 1-3pm/Tuesday, 5-7 pm/Wednesday, 1-3 pm

Week of Feb. 12th: Monday, 1-3 pm/Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 1-3 pm

Week of Feb. 19th: Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 1-3 pm

Week of Feb. 26th: Monday, 1-3 pm/Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 2-4 pm

Minister Out of the Office: Rev. Chip will be away from Michiana twice in February. He will take study leave from Friday through Monday, February 16-19; and be away with the Ministerial Fellowship Network on Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday on February 21-22.

Pie with the Parson: Rev. Chip will be at the Yellow Cat Café on Monday, February 12, from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm EST. An opportunity to chat in a more casual setting, “Pie with the Parson” is like office hours with pie. Conversations might include everything from climate change or a serious pastoral concern to ND Women's basketball or our favorite musicians.

Sunday Services

February 4: Need A Hero, Rev. Chip

Firefighters are often heroic. Football players may be (on or off the field). Parents and grandparents are often named as personal heroes. Sometimes, just getting out of the house takes an heroic effort. We'll look for the heroic parts in all of us.

February 11: Life Finds A Way Rev. Chip

We'll celebrate Evolution Weekend by recapping how far we've evolved, and forecasting where we might yet be heading.

February 18: The Coffee Connection Florence Klecka

This week marks the 66th anniversary of this congregation. Happy Birthday to us! What has held us together for so long, in good times and bad? Florence Klecka explores several answers, real and metaphorical, to that question.

February 25: Enigma of Reason Rev. Chip

If we humans are so smart, then why do we believe such ridiculous things? With a fairly high brain-size-to-body-mass ratio, why are we still confounded by confirmation bias, etc.? In their book *The Enigma of Reason*, scientists Mercier and Sperber suggest an answer. We'll explore the implications for human flourishing.

Activities and Events This Month

All-Church Potluck: Sun., Feb. 4, 11:45

All are invited to join us at our *First Sunday Potluck* tables. This is our last "winter" potluck, so you might want to bring a warm and comforting favorite, or something chocolate in honor of Valentine's Day. Whatever you bring, from home, or the store, it will be welcomed to our serving table. (Note: As mentioned elsewhere, in March we will have a Stewardship Luncheon instead of a potluck on the first Sunday.)

Women's Spirituality Circle - Red Tent Gathering: Monday, Feb. 12, 6:00 pm

Join us at the church. The evening will start with a potluck. Bring an appetizer or salad, Valentine's Day chocolate fondue with fresh strawberries will be the dessert along with refreshments. The focus will be honoring this intentional women's community where we will listen to each other and to ourselves. The focus topic will be the Belize Clean Water project, there is another project planned in a remote village of Belize once again. For more information, contact Diana Mendelsohn at 574.277-7456.

Women's Sharing Circle

Friday, February 16, 5:30 pm

Like a bite to eat before the Babylon Sneakers concert on Feb. 16? Then join us at 5:30 pm in the conference room for a simple potluck of appetizers, wine and dessert and a pre-concert chat. If you're not familiar with Dining for Women, here's your chance to find out about this global giving circle that funds grassroots projects. Contact Barb Carmichael @ barb.carm@comcast.net for more info.

Babylon Sneakers Concert

Friday, February 16, 7:00 pm

Don't miss our first concert of 2018! Doors open at 7 pm for *Babylon Sneakers*, with special guest Kevin Scott Joiner and the Hidden Chambers. Tickets are available at the office, from Jim Ward or Rev. Chip, or from our facebook page.

This is a family friendly event, with child care available. *Babylon Sneakers* is a wonderful band; playing music from the legendary group Steely Dan. The sound is jazzy and fresh, and features sax, trombone, keyboards, guitars and drums. Opener Kevin Joiner is a friend of the church, having performed here many times. He is also a local music legend, and this project features 70's style folk. Playing with him is Leo Cardozo, a mandolin player with an infectious Latin flavored rhythmic style. Food and drink available, too!

66th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, February 18, 11:45 am

Join us for an Anniversary/Homecoming celebration following the Service. Please invite those we haven't seen for a while to join us that day as we celebrate our accomplishments as a congregation. We have come a long way since our founding February 23, 1952, to where we are today - our beautiful, welcoming building full of programs, activity, and joy!

New UU Class: Session 1

Sunday, February 25, 12 noon

If you are new to the church and would like to learn more about us, please attend the two-session New UU Class on Sundays February 25 and March 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m. *Lunch and childcare will be provided during both.* Rev. Chip will share with us some of our Unitarian-Universalist history. We will also take some time to get to know each other, discuss what it means to become a member and tell you how our church runs.

If you would like more information, or are planning to attend, please contact Membership Committee Chair Gail deSomer via email (gaildesomer@yahoo.com) or call or text her at 574-850-8156.

Feasters

Wednesday, February 28, 6:30 pm

All are invited to join the Feasters group (folks who like to eat well) for an evening of food and conversation at Cinco Five (112 W Colfax Ave, South Bend, IN 46601). To reserve a seat at the table, contact Cathy Duncan (272-2931 or kateduncan@aol.com) by Monday, February 26.

Volunteer Opportunities

Like Coffee?

We are in need of people to make Coffee for the Social Time after the Service each Sunday. Sign-up is in the kitchen and will soon be available online. (Watch for a link in February CHIRPs). For new volunteers there is always someone to help, and it is greatly appreciated!

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars now for these important March events.

Canvass Luncheon

Sunday, March 4, 12 noon

Soup & Game Night

Friday, March 9, 6:00 pm

Justicemaking Sunday Afternoon

Sunday, March 18

(For more information, see Rev. Chip's Notes on page 2.)

Youth RE Program

The RE students have been busy creating art. This art will serve two purposes. The first purpose will be to turn the art into stationery/notecards. The second purpose is to be used for the RE art exhibit to be displayed this summer. The students are very excited to be creating art that the congregation will be able to use for letter writing and that also will be displayed on the walls for an art opening. On February 11 the RE students will be creating Valentine cards for local children in the hospital. This outreach is one way the RE students are able to share with others.

More from Rev. Chip

Beloved Conversations in 2018-'19

We will finally present the acclaimed UU-designed curriculum on race and identity, "Beloved Conversations," in September, 2018. It is likely that we'll work with our sibling congregation, the UU Fellowship of Elkhart, on that curriculum. After an intense and amazing kickoff event on a Friday evening and all day Saturday (probably 9/14 and 9/15), there will be eight two-hour sessions, held every other week. Depending upon the schedules of the participants, and the ways we work around various holidays, the course should end sometime in January, 2019. You can learn more about the curriculum, and the 140+ UU, Jewish &

Quaker congregations who've used it, at: <http://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/>

Gathering of Faiths

The Gathering is an interfaith initiative using the principles of restorative justice to understand and create action plans to overcome real-life challenges. Partnering with believers of many faiths (and no faith), a region-wide gathering will be held in South Bend in July 2018. Rev. Chip is involved in some of the planning for this Gathering. Please contact him if you have ideas!

New Members

On December 3rd we welcomed four new members, whose brief biographies are included below. In addition, over the summer José Arevalo also joined the church. If you haven't gotten to know them yet, please welcome our newest members during Social Hour or other church events.

DeShea Blunier: DeShea started attending First Unitarian near the end of January and knew almost immediately she had found exactly what she was looking for in a church. Shea is a social justice advocate and full-time birth and postpartum doula. She loves to write on her blog about parent and birth related topics. She has always been interested in exploring spirituality and religion. DeShea lives in Niles with her husband Tom, 4-year-old daughter Adaleigh, and their three fur babies; Zues (dog), Rambi (cat), and Balthazar (rabbit).

Richard Wayne Hunsberger: I grew up at the small town, village, whatever, of Southwest, Indiana. You can't find it on Map Quest but it is there on Google Earth. I live on the north side of South Bend with My husband David Williams. I was raised as Mennonite but left the church because of the duplicity and unfairness and the fact that I couldn't accept the contradictions of the bible. I am a retired auto glass installer. I enjoy assembling models, reading, cooking, whatever comes along that interests me. I have an estranged son, a daughter, and a total of six grandchildren, four of which I do not

see due to my son. My husband David and I have been together for eight years and have been married for three and a half years. -- I appreciate the closeness and openness here at First Unitarian and the feeling of acceptance.

Ambroise Niyongabo My name is Ambroise NIYONGABO. I am from Burundi, located in the African continent, where I was born and raised in a Roman Catholic faith. Married and a father of four children, I found my own spiritual path when I was a student at the University of Burundi. In fact, one day, in a classroom, a professor of Introduction to Philosophy said : "what if it's a man who created God" You've never been told or read or heard that before, what would you do if you've only been told by your congregation that it's God who created a man? This insight stirred up a hook in my mind to reflect on my parent's faith (which was mine) and found my own spiritual path knowing that faith is a dynamic notion like knowledge as well. That's why, in 2008, I embraced a new faith in the Assembly of Christian Unitarian of Burundi thanks to a friend who has been the founder of that church in Burundi. As far as membership is concerned here and today, it would be a privilege and a pleasure to join this church seeking for "intellectual curiosity, moral values and emotional satisfaction".

David Roger Williams: I was born and grew up in Central Maine. Lewiston is the second largest city. I was an only-child born to parents who had been married late in life, and I came along 10 years later. My father was born in 1894 and my mother was born in 1905. They died of old age before my 40th birthday. I had been brought up a Roman Catholic by my mother and I later became a 'born-again' Christian. Sometime in my early 30s my Karma ran over my Dogma. I lean more toward Buddhist concepts and find nature to be spiritually enlightening. I have had a variety of careers, mostly in the social work/helping professions. I also worked for eight years with the Department of Defense, decided to go to college at age 42, and I retired as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker mental health therapist in December of 2016. I moved to

Indiana 20 years ago with my then partner who had been offered a hospital management position in Goshen. I met my husband Richard in 2009 and we were married in 2014 (although the following day we found that the Governor of Indiana decreed that we were no longer married). A short time later our Country reported that the marriage was legal and finally open to all adults. I have somewhat of a short history with the Unitarian Universalist church In Brunswick, Maine, and Elkhart, Indiana. I have always found a variety of like-minded as well as open-minded people within the UU family.

From Our Committees

Care Committee

This is the “love” month, “the spirit of our church”. Enjoy freely expressing and receiving love.

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday! This month we celebrate the birthdays of:

Peg Carmen (2), Fern Hamlin (4),
Greg Lantz (8), Ron Robinson (18),
Lois Stiffler (19), Tamara Ciszczon (21),
Lois Holm (27), Cathy Duncan (28),
Phil Badger (?)

If you have a birthday this month write it on the birthday calendar posted on the wall in the south hall. Party on!

As a reminder, our “giving freezer” is in need of single servings of a meal or soup for those who are in need of some extra nourishment. These frigid days take a lot of our body energy to keep warm. So when you cook, put a container aside to share. This food sharing is greatly appreciated by our members and friends.

This month will be “Undie Sundays”. We will have a bin near the button wall to drop off new and gently used clean underwear for Broadway Christian Parish which “partner’s with the less fortunate in our community.” Monday

through Thursday mornings they have breakfast, showers, laundry, and mail room service for approximately 100 people (men, women and children). **We are grateful for your loving generosity of socks, underwear and towels.**

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Barbara Williams and her son Eric Williams** for the loss of Bruce Williams, Barbara's husband of 50 years and Eric's father. A Memorial Service will be held for Bruce (in our Sanctuary) on Saturday, February 10 at 11:00 am.

Susan Siemers is homebound recovering from ankle surgery. She cannot put any weight on that leg. Being a flamingo can be very frustrating and difficult.

Becky Lindstrom is healing repeated ankle injuries, but in a walking boot with physical therapy to follow. **Mary Hagen** will be recovering from her knee replacement surgery on Feb 1st. Please remember all of these members and friends lovingly with cards or calls.

Be safe. Stay cozy and enjoy the beauty of these cold days of winter.

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee invites proposals for grants from the annual endowment disbursement. If you or your committee see an area of interest, growth, expansion for our Church, **please submit your request with a short rationale for your proposal by March 1.** Please include what, where and when and how much you are requesting. The Endowment Committee will then make recommendations to the Board for disbursement. The total amount available for disbursement this year will be \$14,081. The decision about disbursements will be approved at the annual congregation meeting in May. For questions or clarification, please see or contact Joseph Gress, Dan French or Suzanne Waller.

Stewardship Committee

We will kick off our annual **Stewardship Campaign** with a **Luncheon** on March 4 after the service, instead of our usual potluck. We will still have delicious food, and great

people with whom to talk—you just don't need to bring any food, as it will be provided for all to enjoy. Please plan to join us!

Around the UUA

Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat July 12-15, 2018 in Sturgis, Michigan

Hiking the trails, singing by the campfire, playing games ... all childhood camp fun. But this UU camp and retreat is not just for kids — it's for people of all ages. Make connections, build friendships and experience nature together as a family — with other families, youth and adults — in an environment where diverse religious, spiritual and theological perspectives are welcomed and celebrated. With programs for children drawing upon the natural environment, workshops for adults and youth on spiritual practices, multigenerational worship, and fun group activities such as canoeing, archery, s'mores around a campfire and popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire -- all with a variety of accommodations from dormitory-style lodging to hotel-like rooms in the Retreat Center. Tent and RV camping is also available at nearby Amigo Park. Registration is now open at www.chalicesparx.org

International Partnerships

Many UU congregations have ongoing relationships with "Partner Churches" in other countries. Partner congregations exchange gifts and crafts, provide religious education materials, and occasionally even send their members to visit each other. Most international Partner Churches come from Hungary, India, the Philippines, or Transylvania. If you are interested in leading an effort to form a partnership with a congregation in one of these countries, please contact Rev. Chip.

UU World Magazine

If you are a member of the church, you should be receiving the *UU World*, the UUA's quarterly magazine. The next issue will be published in March. If you do not receive it, please contact the church office.

In the Community

Humanist Forum Events:

Hungry Humanists Visit Bowl of Pho

Thursday, February 1, 6:30 pm

Bowl of Pho, 5626 Grape Road, Mishawaka. Lots of good colorful choices here that include the latest health craze: bone broth. The restaurant is north of Douglas on the east side of the street, a few doors down from JoAnn fabrics. RSVP's to: <http://www.MeetUp.com/Humanist-Forum>.

Darwin Nature Walk

Sunday, February 11, 2-7 pm

Defries Gardens 17477 Co. Rd. 46, New Paris
Either meet us at the Calendar Garden entrance at 2 pm or, for carpooling, at the Concord Mall Main Entrance at 1:30 pm. We'll honor Charles Darwin with a walk in the garden where we'll see many delightful views of plants and birds. Dress warmly & we'll choose a restaurant in Goshen afterwards for some nice warm food & drink. RSVP's to <http://www.MeetUp.com/Humanist-Forum>

Journey of Life from the Nonbelievers Point of View

Thursday, February 15, 6:30 pm

River Park Branch Library, 2022 Mishawaka Avenue, SB. We'll watch a short video produced by the Boulder Atheists then we'll discuss our individual point of view on the journey of life. RSVP's to: <http://www.MeetUp.com/Humanist-Forum>.

Pilgrimage Healing – *The Month of Love*

February is the month of love. We send cards and gifts to family and friends to say "I love you." We can take it to a deeper level as we remember the flow of Love that is ours every day of our lives. We can act as beacons of that Love as we open to its presence in our lives and send it on to every person and circumstance we encounter. What a wonderful valentine gift all year long!

Pilgrimage Healing is a perfect time to truly open to the ever present flow of Love. Give yourself or someone you love a valentine gift of Pilgrimage Healing. Gift certificates are available for a \$20.00 donation. For more information contact Linda Jacobs at 574-360-7699 or lsj621@sbcglobal.net. Pilgrimage Healing practitioners include Maureen Briones, Linda Carter and Linda Jacobs.

Church Communication

Mailing Lists

If you are interested in being added to our weekly CHIRP (news via email) or our monthly newsletter (*The Unitarian*, sent via email or U.S. mail) list, please contact the church office (office@firstunitarian.us).

Deadlines

Please send information to be included in the following, using the deadlines below.

- **CHIRP:** Tuesdays at 9:30 am
- **Order of Service:** Thursdays at 9:30 am
- **Newsletter:** Third Monday

Our Church Staff

Minister: Rev. Chip Roush

minister@firstunitarian.us

Cell: 231-709-0032

Director of Youth RE: Dan Holm

dholm@iusb.edu | Cell: 574 8558105

Bookkeeper: Finda Kamanda

treasurer@firstunitarian.us

Office Manager: Meadow Smith

office@firstunitarian.us | 574-234-6588

Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am – 12 noon

Our Sunday Team

Youth RE Teachers

K to 2nd Grades: Heather Hulse &
Wendy Lohman

3rd to 5th Grades: John Bentley

6th to 10th Grades: Susan VanFleit &
Byrd Tetzlaff

Nursery Care Provider: Diana Mendelsohn

Pianist: Siwon Kim

Choir Coordinator: Alan Hamlet

If you would like choir information, please contact Alan at: hamlet.1@nd.edu

2017-2018 Board of Trustees

Officers:

Susan Siemers, *President*

Chuck Leone, *Vice President*

Elena Wake, *Treasurer*

Melanie Smith-Guillaume, *Secretary*

Trustees:

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Wendy Lohman

Florence Klecka

Eli Williams

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Adult RE

Gail deSomer

Aesthetics

Melanie Smith-Guillaume

Building

Roger Birdsell &
Jean DeWinter

Care

Mary Hagen & Lois Holm

Com. on Ministry

Jessica Collett

Building Use

Gary Metzler

Endowment

Joseph Gress

Events

Kathy Platt

Finance

Chuck Leone

Marketing

Becky Lindstrom

Membership

Gail deSomer

Peace & Justice

Kay Azar & Annie Mannix

Social

Kathy Platt

Stewardship

Chuck Leone

Worship Arts

Florence Klečka

Youth RE

Dan Holm