



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

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Volume 65

January 2018

Number 7

Calendar of Events

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Mon | 1 | | New Year's Day – Office Closed | |
| Tues | 2 | 7:00 pm | Finance Committee Meeting | Room 103 |
| Wed* | 3 | 7:00 pm | Marketing Committee Meeting | Room 108 |
| Sun | 7 | 10:30 am | Service: A Tax Eclipse Now?, Rev. Chip Roush | |
| | | 11:45 am | All-church Potluck | Foyer & Conference Rm |
| | | 11:45 am | Bazaar Wrap-up Meeting | Room 103 |
| | | 12:30 pm | Peace and Social Justice Committee | |
| Mon | 8 | 5:30 pm | SURJ | Sanctuary |
| Tues | 9 | 11:00 am | Pie with the Parson | Offsite |
| | | 7:00 pm | Worship Arts Committee Meeting | Conference Room |
| Wed | 10 | 6:30 pm | Board of Trustees | Conference Room |
| Sun | 14 | 10:30 am | Service: Abraham, Martin, John & Jen, Rev. Chip Roush | |
| | | 11:45 am | Art Opening: Aaron Sandock | |
| | | 11:45 am | January Birthday Celebrations | |
| Mon | 15 | | <i>Newsletter Submission Deadline</i> | |
| Tues | 16 | 7:00 pm | Stewardship Committee Meeting | Conference Room |
| Fri | 19 | 6:00 pm | Women's Sharing Circle (formerly <i>Dining for Women</i>) | |
| Sun | 21 | 10:30 am | Service: Malaprops, Melodrama and Medals, Rev. Chip Roush | |
| | | 12 noon | Brunch Bunch | Offsite |
| Fri | 26 | 7:00 pm | Poetry Slam | Conference Room |
| Sun | 28 | 10:30 am | Service: Nowhere to Lay His Head, Rev. Ian Forrest Gilmore | |
| Wed | 31 | 6:30 pm | Feasters | Offsite |

* The Choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7 pm (in the Sanctuary), unless otherwise announced.
This month there will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, January 3.

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitarianSB)).

Minister's Notes



I generally avoid New Year's Resolutions, because they often are based in comparing ourselves to some ideal of perfection. I find that problematic, on a number of levels.

When I do make resolutions, they are usually positive in nature, such as "I will dance to live music, at least once per month."

I also like resolutions which may foster growth. My Internship Supervisor, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, suggested these three: make/find time to give; make/find time to receive; and make/find time to nurture our soul.

Similarly, Dawna Markova and Angie McArthur ask these questions: What is unfinished for you to experience in the next year? What is unfinished for you to learn? What is unfinished for you to give?

What resolutions / commitments / questions / dances will you engage in 2018?

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 Jan 1st: Wednesday, 1-3 pm/Thursday, 1-3 pm

Week of Jan. 8th: Monday, 1-3 pm/Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 1-3 pm

Week of Jan. 15th: Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 1-3 pm/Saturday, 1-3pm

Week of Jan. 22nd: Monday, 1-3 pm/Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 2-4 pm

Week of Jan. 29th: Monday, 1-3 pm/Tuesday, 1-3 pm/Wednesday, 1-3 pm

Minister Out of the Office: Rev. Chip will be away from Michiana twice in January—both times in the first week of the month. He'll be on vacation through Tuesday, January 2; and away co-leading a "Beloved Conversations" retreat in Wisconsin on Friday and Saturday, January 5 & 6, 2018.

Pie with the Parson: Rev. Chip will be at Nom Nom Pho (213 North Main Street, SB) on Tuesday, January 9, 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 politics or a serious pastoral concern to tabletop gaming or poetry.

Sunday Services

January 7: A Tax Eclipse Now? Rev. Chip Roush

Nothing is certain except death and taxes, said Ben Franklin. But was he correct? We'll explore a variety of cases of tax protests—including 21st century taxation without representation.

January 14: Abraham, Martin, John & Jen, Rev. Chip Roush

Celebrating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda (a landmark in religious tolerance), we'll explore how race and religion play into identity.

January 21: Malaprops, Melodrama and Medals, Rev. Chip Roush

Mocked for her multiple marriages, rocked by numerous tragedies, Laura Mae hocked her belongings and socked away an heroic legacy. How might we grok her example in our time?

January 28: Nowhere to Lay His Head, Rev. Ian Forrest Gilmore

Homelessness remains one of the great tragedies of the American experiment, not just for the impact on people who live without a home, but also for the attack on their dignity. How do we take what is reviled and make it beautiful?

Activities and Events This Month

All-Church Potluck: Sun., Jan. 7, 11:45

Please join us for the first potluck of the New Year. You might like to try something new and healthy for the New Year, or share those sweets that you want out of the house.

Women's Sharing Circle

Friday, January 19, 6:00 pm



Our first potluck and meeting of the year will be held on Friday, Jan. 19 beginning at 6:00 pm with a potluck of simple appetizers, desserts and wine. Fulfill your New Year's resolution to relax, connect and invest

in yourself and your global sisters. Learn more about the *The Social Capital Credits* project that aims to reduce poverty and generate income and food security for 450 distressed women in 10 selected villages in India by establishing small scale poultry farming. For more information contact Barb Carmichael at barb.carm@comcast.net.

Art Opening: Sunday, Jan. 14, 11:45

Join us for the opening of the art exhibition of work by Aaron Sandock.

Resource Review Session:

Sunday, January 14, 11:45 am

The First Unitarian Church has come a long way in the past several years with our new home and a greater sense of ourselves and our capabilities. But along with these changes have come additional responsibilities to provide the financial and administrative infrastructure to empower our mission going into the future.

The Stewardship Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, Finance Committee and Endowment Committee, will be meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2017, after the church service, to look at our recent financial history, our accomplishments, what remains to be done, and how we get there from a financial perspective. All church members and friends are invited to attend and join in the discussion.

We expect to have a booklet available a week before the meeting with some financial history and detail about the church budget, our mortgage obligations, the Endowment Fund, along with several suggestions for how to successfully navigate our financial path into a successful future. Please join us if you are so inclined.

Feasters: Wed., January 31, 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 Crooked Ewe (1047 Lincoln Way E, South Bend, IN, 46601). To reserve a seat at the table, contact Cathy Duncan (272-2931 or kateduncan@aol.com) by Monday the 29th.

Youth RE Program

December has been a busy month for the RE children. On December 3, under the organization of Mary Beth Dickey, the RE students filled over 120 stockings for the children at the CASIE Center. This stocking stuffing activity was a great opportunity for the RE students to live the UU value of helping others. It was gratifying to see the older students helping the younger students “learn the ropes” of this activity. Thanks also to Mary Ann McDowell, Susan Van Fleit, Karen Chambers, and Jean DeWinter for all of their efforts in making this such a successful project.

On December 17, the RE students performed “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” The play was an adaptation of the Dr. Seuss story. The children really enjoyed performing for the congregation. Special thanks go to Willow and Autumn Crisovan and Forrest Wallace for their work in making props, developing the script, and directing the RE performers. Also, thanks to Wendy Lohman and Heather Hulse for their help with the scenery. This performance was truly a team effort.

Looking ahead to January, the students will be working on visual art. Their artwork will be turned into stationery. Their artwork will also be used for a student art opening in the summer.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Holm, DRE

More from Rev. Chip

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!

Preaching Class

Interested in preaching? Have a great story or topic, but you’d like a little coaching? Rev.

Chip will lead a class on preaching on Saturday morning, January 27. Using a curriculum created by a seminarian friend of his, he will help you gain the confidence to preach to this lovely, accepting congregation.

Poetry Slam

Read your own slam poem, recite somebody else's, or just listen to some truly remarkable works from the internet. Strong language advisory: frank and/or disturbing words and images. Emotions will be evoked. Childcare and refreshments provided. Must be 14+ years old. There are still some spots available for this event, donated to our auction by Rev. Chip. Friday evening, January 26, beginning around 7:00pm, at the church.

Drag Show

The LGBTQ Center will host an All-Ages Drag Show on Sunday afternoon, January 14. Rumor has it that Rev. Chip might perform at this fun fundraiser.

More from Our Committees

Care Committee

May we each find more peace, purpose, and joy throughout this New Year, 2018.

Just a reminder about our Loan Closet. We have durable medical goods (walkers, wheelchair, etc.) and baby furniture to borrow. When you borrow, please write on the white board, in the loan closet area in the SW corner of the basement (near the elevator), the date, item, and contact name and phone number, and projected return date. Any Care Committee member can help you with getting it into and out of your car.

We seem to be missing a “pak’n’play” (portable crib/playpen). If anyone can donate this item, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for this service.

This season of very cold, dark weather can be difficult for many. Let us know if you need help.

Also, this is a reminder to fill out the emergency contact form that is securely stored for just that reason, emergencies. The forms are in the workroom file cabinet under

“Care Committee”. You can return the completed form to the co-chairs, or Rev Chip.

If you have questions or needs please speak with any member of the Care Committee. Our members are – co-chairs, Mary Hagen and Lois Holm, Barbara Boyd, Jim Curlee, Gail deSomer, Dale Gibson, Wendy Lohman, and Rev Chip.

Thank you for your continued loving care of one another.

January Birthdays

Let’s continue our new year celebrating with our January birthdays:

Willow Crisovan Wallace (2), Zae Munn (3), Roger Birdsell (15), Dan French (15), Bill Stevens (26), Dale Gibson (29)

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

Announcements

Bazaar Wrap-up

Those interested in talking about the Bazaar, and ideas for next year, please meet in room 103 during the Jan. 7th Potluck. **Thanks to all for making it a success- over \$1500 was raised!** We are especially grateful to Kathie Carr for lending her expertise and giving so much of her time, as well as the many other volunteers who made it a success.

Maximize Your Ministry

Beginning January 7th, the Committee on Ministry will be setting up a listening center during church social hours to give members and friends an opportunity to “max their ministry.” This center, in the great hall, will be staffed by a member of the committee and include a number of resources: a “listening log” where members and friends can write comments (ideas, needs, suggestions, hopes, etc.) for the church and our ministries, as well as notecards, a church directory, and stamps so that we can thank one another for meaningful contributions to the life of our

church. The Committee on Ministry’s current members are Jessica Collett, Jim Curlee, and Rich Wallace.

In the Community

Humanist Forum Events

Thursday, January 4, 6:30 pm:

Hungry Humanists meet for dinner at Tony Sacco’s Coal Oven Pizza, 201 Florence Ave, Granger. <http://tonysaccos.com/menu/> - this highly-rated restaurant features an extensive menu with salads, sandwiches, pizza and burgers, supplemented with some tantalizing appetizers and desserts. Pizza’s are half price all day on Thursdays.

Thursday, January 21, 6:30 pm:

Favorite Books Show and Tell (at River Park Library, SB) – Bring one or two books you’ve especially enjoyed. Be prepared to follow Da Roolz: 2-book MAXIMUM, you get 5 minutes to talk about each book, AND answer questions. If we have time left over, we can re-visit and discuss some of the books, but the first time around, please do keep Da Roolz in mind in order to give everyone a chance to present their book choices.

Saturday, January 27, 11 am & noon:

Dracula Lunch – do good, then eat well. We’ll start out at 11:00 am at the South Bend Medical Foundation’s Blood Donation facility at 118 West Edison Road, Mishawaka, where we who are so inclined will give blood. Afterwards, we’ll go over to the Evil Czech, just around the corner at 3703 N. Main Street, Mishawaka. The Evil Czech features a small plate lunch buffet where they offer a small version of every item on their menu.

If you haven’t donated blood at the Medical Foundation in the past, you can call Mary at 574-204-4132 to get pre-registered ahead of time. That will cut down the processing time once you arrive. If you’re not donating blood you can meet us at the Evil Czech, approximately at noon. If you get there before the rest of us, please ask for Rita’s table and you can get started on the buffet, or just try one (or 2) of their hand-crafted beer selections.

In the event of bad weather, please make every effort to be there, because blood banks typically run short exactly when it's not convenient to get there.

Pilgrimage Healing, *Bountiful Good*

We live in a bountiful universe. Blessings are everywhere – in the world of nature, in our relationships at home and work, and in our private lives. When we pay attention, when we stop, and when we really look, we can see blessings appear as perfect solutions, unexpected good, feelings of health and wholeness, and perhaps an awareness of Divine Presence that just fills us. When we recognize these gifts and hold them in a spirit of gratitude, we open the way for more. How wonderful is that?

Pilgrimage Healing is a time to open to the endless flow of good. It is a time to be truly immersed in the goodness of universal love. Come share such an experience, or give it as a gift to someone you love. For more information, contact Linda Jacobs at 574-360-7699 or lsj621@sbcglobal.net. Gift certificates are available for a \$20 donation. Healing partners include Maureen Briones, Linda Carter and Linda Jacobs.

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 on-line. There is always someone to help, and it is greatly appreciated!

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

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: 9 am – noon daily

Nursery Care Provider: Diana Mendelsohn

Pianist: Siwon Kim

2017-2018 Board of Trustees

Officers: Susan Siemers, *President*

Chuck Leone, *Vice President*

Elena Wake, *Treasurer*

Melanie Smith-Guillaume, *Secretary*

Trustees:

Janet Bogar

Wendy Lohman

Florence Klecka

Eli Williams

Committee Chairs

Adult RE

Gail deSomer

Aesthetics

Melanie Smith-Guillaume

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 Religious

Dan Holm

Education