



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

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Calendar of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sun*	2	10:30 am	Service: <i>Last Days of Labor Day?</i>, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	Auction Planning Meeting	Conference Room
		12:30 pm	Peace and Justice Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Mon	3	7:00 pm	Labor Day – Office Closed	
Tues	4	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 103
Sun	9	10:30 am	Service: <i>Lessons Learned from the River</i>, Rev. Chip Roush <i>Share the Plate Offering: A Rosie Place</i>	
		11:45 am	All-Church Potluck	Foyer/Conf. Room
Mon	10	7:00 pm	Care Committee Meeting	Offsite
Tues	11	7:00 pm	Worship Arts Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Wed	12	6:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Fri	14	5:00 pm	Beloved Conversations Kickoff	Conference Room
Sat	15	8:00 am	Beloved Conversations Kickoff	Conference Room
Sun	16	10:30 am	Service: <i>Spiritual Journeys</i>, Rose Fournier et al.	
		11:45 am	Activity Fair	Foyer/Conf. Rm
Mon	17	11:00 am	Pie With the Parson @ Café Max (in Purple Porch) <i>October Newsletter Submission Deadline</i>	Offsite
Tues	18	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Sun	23	10:30 am	Service: <i>Centipede-Free Milk Baths</i>, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	Opening: <i>The Art of Joan Tweedell</i>	
		11:45 am	Grounds Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Mon	24	7:00 pm	Beloved Conversations Class	Conference Room
Wed	26	6:30 pm	Feasters @ Toyo Japanese Bistro	Offsite
Sun	30	10:30 am	Service: <i>When Kindness is Cruel</i>, Prof. Terri Russ	

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).

**Join the Care Committee for Tai Chi/Quigong every Sunday this month at 9:30 am.
Weather permitting we will meet in the courtyard.*

*Choir Note: The Choir is still determining its regular practice day & time.
Please watch the CHIRP (our weekly email) for an update.*

Minister's Notes

You are invited—to an experimental, multi-voiced wisdom exchange, tentatively named “Reflection Circles,” shortly after each of my sermons.

My idea—which will almost certainly evolve, as we try it and see what does or does not work—is to gather, about 30 minutes after the end of the service, and use a modified “circle process” to speak about how the service affected us. Each person will get to speak once; each of us will have a specific amount of time to speak. As always, a person may pass. When each person has had an opportunity to speak, I will try to recap some of what we’ve heard, and what questions seem particularly alive in folks. If the group really wants to, we may go around one more time. Whether or not we go around again, I will have my calendar with me, so we can schedule one-on-one appointments later in the week, if the topic has upset or fascinated somebody enough to want to follow up.

Speakers may express disagreement with the sermon, or agreement, or some combination of both. They may ask questions that extend the topic. Speakers are encouraged to share their feelings, or short personal stories. As in most conversation circles, a person may only speak when it is their turn, and all are encouraged to use “I statements”—to speak only from their own experience, and not about others.

As of this moment, I am inclined to invite visitors and/or people under 25 years old to speak first. I welcome your feedback about this point, and about all the rest of this idea.

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. He will be in the church from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (unless otherwise specified) on the following dates:

Week of September 3: Tues 5-7, Wed 1-3, Thurs 3-5

Week of September 10: Mon 1-3, Tues 1-3, Wed 1-3

Week of September 17: Mon 1-3, Tues 1-3, Wed 1-3

Week of September 24: Mon 1-3, Tues 1-3, Wed 1-3

Minister Out of the Office: Rev. Chip will be away from Michiana twice in September. He will take a brief Study Leave on Friday and Saturday, Sept 7-8; and he will deliver the sermon at the Ordination of Ms. Jenny Peek in Pocatello, Idaho, which will take him away from Friday, September 28 through Monday, October 1.

Pie with the Parson: Rev. Chip will be at the Café Max (in the Purple Porch) on Monday, September 17, from 11:00 am until almost 1:00 pm EDT. An opportunity to chat in a more casual setting, “Pie with the Parson” is like office hours, but with pie. Conversations might include everything from gun violence or a serious pastoral concern to board games or whether pumpkin spice flavored foods are a delight or a sign of the apocalypse.

Beloved Conversations: We will present the acclaimed UU-designed curriculum on race and identity, “Beloved Conversations,” this year. *See page 4 for additional information.*

Sunday Services

Sept. 2: *Last Days of Labor Day?*

Rev. Chip Roush

What will happen to Labor Day, if all the laborious jobs (and many others) are taken over by robots? Will it lead to a second renaissance of human creativity and leisure? Will humans lose purpose (and power) without steady jobs?

Sept. 9: *Lessons Learned from the River*, Rev. Chip Roush

We'll celebrate our annual water service, as the unofficial beginning of the program year. We can learn much from our river, and from each other. Bring some water to share, and a story about why that water is important to you.

Share the Plate Offering: A Rosie Place

Sept. 16: *Spiritual Journeys*

Rose Fournier, et al.

Members and friends of our congregation share their spiritual journeys.

Sept. 23: *Centipede-Free Milk Baths*

Rev. Chip Roush

Following the lead of our Jewish cousins, who just celebrated their High Holy Days, we'll explore guilt, shame, forgiveness, and the satisfaction of a "real" apology.

September 30: *When Kindness is Cruel*, Prof. Terri Russ

We will explore how enacting rote kindness can be counterproductive and actually an act of cruelty. Civil discourse demands that we confront conflict and find ways to navigate it with compassionate communication.

Prof. Russ is a Communications Studies faculty member at Saint Mary's College.

Activities and Events This Month

Auction Planning Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 2, 11:45 am

Our 40th annual Service Auction will be Sat. Nov. 3 at 6 pm. We have some exciting new ideas for this historic celebration! Come help us plan after the Service on Sunday, Sept. 2.

All-Church Potluck: Sunday, Sept. 9, 11:45 am

After a summer hiatus, our all-church potluck returns this month. Although it is normally a first-Sunday event, due to the Labor Day weekend, we hold it on the second Sunday in September. So join us, and along with your special water for our Water Communion ceremony, bring a dish to share. Note: We will return to our usual first Sunday schedule in October.

Activity Fair: Sun., Sept. 16, 11:45 am

After the Service plan to visit tables in the Great Hall and conference room with people from all the different committees and activities of the church. There will be door prizes for those who chat with each person!

Women's Spirituality Gathering

Monday, September 17, 6 pm

The Women's Spirituality Gathering welcomes you on for our visit to the contemplative St. Mary's labyrinth Legend of the Giveaway. Bring a personally meaningful gift as a giveaway. Wrap your giveaway in a brown paper or newspaper with your name inside. These items will be placed on the blanket to be shared at the end of our time at the labyrinth. We place a gift that has meaning to us on the blanket and then the spirit guide the person who needs that gift to it. The plan is to gather at Bob Evans then carpool over to the site just a short distance away, then back to Bob Evans for dinner. For additional information, please contact Diana M. at: diana79mendelsohn@gmail.com.

**Opening: The Art of Joan Tweedell
Sunday, September 23, 11:45 am**

Please join us for a very special art opening. First Unitarian Church is pleased to be able to bring you the art of Joan Tweedell. You may know her from her many years with the Watercolor Society and exhibits at Leeper Park Art Fair. We know you will want to see this exhibit and be able to talk with Joan at the opening after the service from 11:45-12:30.

In November, we will again display the wonderful fiber art of Fern Hamlin just in time for the holidays. Prepare to wrap yourselves up against the cold and find some wonderful gifts among Fern's quilts.

Feasters: Wed., Sept. 26, 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 Toyo Japanese Bistro (620 W Edison Rd, Mishawaka, IN 46545). To reserve a seat at the table contact Cathy Duncan by Monday the 27th (272-2931 or kateduncan@aol.com).

CROP Walk: Sunday, Sept. 30, 2 pm

The CROP Walk is coming! Save the date. The Crop Walk seeks to prevent hunger both in this community and abroad. *It is the only walk that our church actively supports.* We had a great turnout last year and raised over \$1,000. We want to do even better this year. See Dale Gibson at church, or call him (574-232-5141) if you can join in.

Register between 1:00 and 2:00 pm at the Zion UCC Church (corner of Wayne & St. Peter). You can also register and collect donations online. Simply go to: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/southbendin>

Save the Date

**40th Annual Service Auction
Saturday, November 3, 6 pm**

Watch for more info and donation submission information in a *CHIRP!* later this month.

Adult Programs

Beloved Conversations

We will present the acclaimed UU-designed curriculum on race and identity, "Beloved Conversations," this year. After an intense and amazing kickoff event on Friday evening and all day Saturday (September 14 & 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: www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/

Please note: You must be able to attend both days of the kickoff event, as well as the bi-weekly sessions to participate. There are still places available, so contact Rev. Chip soon if you are interested in participating.

Children & Youth RE Program

In order to follow up with the recommendations from the Strategic Plan relating to Children's Religious Education, the Church Board of Trustees set up a task force to look at the RE program and to determine how to move it forward for the benefit of the congregation, the children attending, and the Church as a whole. Chuck Leone, Chip Roush, Anne Mannix, Dan Holm and Susan Van Fleit participated in the initial meeting on August 22. Anyone else who would like to participate on the task force should contact Chuck Leone or Rev. Chip.

Dan Holm is leaving his position as RE director because of increased responsibilities at work. The task force has recommended that we hire an interim RE director for the remainder of the fiscal year to conduct the program as well as to participate with the task force on the assessment and redesign of the program. Anyone interested in the position should contact Rev. Chip.

The task force will start its assessment process by looking at the current status of the

program, at trends over the past few years, and by listening to the comments and concerns of parents, teachers, and the congregation as a whole. We will also be looking for resources from the UUA and elsewhere to assist us in our process.

Chuck Leone, Board President

Committee News

Care Committee

Back to school for many, and possibly the end of the hottest temperatures for this year, as well.

Let's each remember that grief can be lonely and debilitating. Our loving support and encouragement is always a blessing to one another.

Among Us

- We would like to continue our active condolence to David Williams, who lost his beloved, Richard Hunsberger, August 3. Thank you to Rev Chip for leading the special remembrance service for friends and family.

Welcome Back:

- Michelle Minisan after foot surgery
- Susan Siemers, after stomach surgery

Let us continue to give support and encouragement as they continue to heal.

September is Fall Prevention Awareness Month! Give your body some assistance in learning how to handle gravity and stay upright. Join us for Tai Chi/Qigong before the service (9:30 am) every Sunday this month. Check out this site for hints.

<https://www.ncoa.org/healthy-aging/falls-prevention/falls-prevention-awareness-day/>

Saturday, September 22 is the Autumn Equinox. Enjoy the beginning of the seasonal change. Look and appreciate the changes in your garden and with the flora, as you drive!

Thank you for the continued care that you give to one another.

If you'd like to be included on our Birthday list, contact the Care Committee, or just add your name to our monthly birthday calendar on the bulletin board in the south hallway.

September Birthdays!

Help to celebrate these birthdays with GF cake on Sunday, September 16, during the Activity Fair being held after the service.

Lynn McDonald (5), Susan Van Fliet (8)
Charlotte Munn-Wood (21)
MaryAlice Lundergan (27)
Ann Cope (28), Joseph Gress (30)

Grounds Committee

Thanks to all volunteers who have been mowing this summer. We are pleased with our new environmentally sound lawn mower. Thanks also to those who came to our grounds clean-up day - we always have weeds to pull! We are now in the process of selecting a bike rack and are investigating ideas for a future Memorial Garden. Anyone interested in items pertaining to our grounds is welcome to attend our September committee meeting after church on Sunday, the 23rd.

Board News

August Board Meeting Highlights

The Board welcomed back Rev. Chip from his sabbatical. He is recommending the Beloved Conversations curriculum, a thought-provoking course on race and identity, beginning at the church on 9/14. If anyone is interested, please talk to Rev. Chip.

The Board Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd at 5 pm. Our two main agenda items will be 1) to work on how to implement the Strategic Plan and 2) to set common expectations and goals for the Minister and the Board for the coming year.

There will be a meeting in August to determine a plan for the Religious Education Program in the light of the resignation of DRE Dan Holm. [Note: For an update see the *Youth RE Program* section below.]

We are still looking for two Committee Chairs — RE and Marketing.

The Board voted to set up a task force to evaluate the status of our office hardware and software. Chuck Leone will chair this group.

President's Update: See C&Y RE Program.

Other Church News

Choir Re-Start

After a summer break, it is time for the choir to start up for the “new” church year. Alan Hamlet, our Choir Coordinator, is still working with choir members from last year to determine a regular practice day & time. If you’d like to join or just want more information please contact Alan at hamlet.1@nd.edu.

Staff Changes

Meadow Smith, our Office Manager, and Dan Holm, our RE Director, both resigned their positions as of the end of August. We are grateful for the ways that Meadow and Dan worked to keep our congregation thriving. We wish them all the best as they remain part of our congregational community, in different roles. Thanks to you both!

As we prepare to search for a permanent replacement for Meadow, Kathy Vetter will again step in as Interim Office Coordinator. – See the RE Program section for plans to replace Dan Holm.

Share the Plate Offering

Last Month: Thanks to your generosity, we contributed \$329.25 to the Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystem, a partnership that pilots community-engaged, sustainable projects to address real world challenges in the Southeast neighborhood of SB, where Bowman Creek is located.

This Month: A Rosie Place (arosiplace.org)
A Rosie Place (Quince Road, SB) provides a haven for children who are medically fragile while providing family members periods of relief from the demands of providing twenty-four hour care.

Volunteer Opportunities

Social Hour & Potluck Hosts

The Social Committee is always looking for volunteers to host Social Hour and help with Potlucks. These are both easy, one-time opportunities to give a bit of your time to the church. Please consider helping out.

Social Hour Hosts get things ready before the service (including brewing the coffee), act as “host” during Social Hour and clean up afterwards. We pair new volunteers with a veteran Host. Sign up on the sheet in the kitchen or watch our weekly *CHIRP!* email for a link to a digital sign up.

Potluck Hosts can help set up before the service, assist during the potluck and/or clean up afterwards. The Potluck Coordinator is always there too. Sign up on the sheet in the kitchen or watch our weekly *CHIRP!* email for a link to a digital sign up.

Annual Service Auction Helpers

There are many different ways to help with our Annual Service Auction on Saturday, November 3. If you cannot attend our planning meeting on Sunday, Sept. 2, please contact Kathy Platt (pkplatt@comcast.net) to learn how you could share your skills with us before, during or after the Auction.

Community Activities and Organizations' News

Humanist Forum Events - September

* *Dinner & Comedy in Goshen* *

Thursday, September 6, 6-10 pm

Dinner: Dinner before the show from 6-7:30 pm at *Constant Spring* (219 S. Main St., Goshen). *Constant Spring* is known for its micro-brew selection and an excellent menu.

<https://www.facebook.com/constantspring/>

wellRED Comedy: *From Dixie With Love*

Comedy: 8pm, Goshen Theatre (216 S. Main Street, Goshen) <https://wellredcomedy.com/>

Trae Crowder (The Liberal Redneck), Drew Morgan and Corey Ryan Forrester are stand-up comedy and writing partners. The trio has been touring nationally to sold-out clubs and theaters in support of their best-selling book, *Liberal Redneck Manifesto: Draggin Dixie Outta the Dark*. Get you tickets here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/343259>

* *Genes and Mental Illness* *

Thursday September 20th at 6:30 PM

Dr. Mark Reimers, Neuroscience Professor at Michigan State University and our favorite Skype speaker, will speak on the subject of Genes and Mental Illness.

River Park Branch Library, 2022 Mishawaka Ave., SB

For information about the Humanist Forum go to: <https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Forum/>

Pilgrimage Healing Anniversary Celebration!!

Pilgrimage Healing is approaching its one year anniversary of service at First Unitarian. Our first session was held on October 3, 2017, and it has been fulfilling and a pleasure for us to serve you. To celebrate, we are offering a drawing for a complimentary session. Two sessions will be awarded. Entry forms will be included in your September bulletins. Please complete your entry and deposit it in the Pilgrimage Healing Anniversary Box in the fellowship area. In addition, we invite you to join us in a celebration of this anniversary along with October birthdays after service on October 14.

For more information about Pilgrimage Healing, contact Linda Jacobs at 574-360-7699 or by email lsj621@sbcglobal.net. Healing partners 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: *Vacant*

Interim Office Coordinator: Kathy Vetter

Bookkeeper: Finda Kamanda
treasurer@firstunitarian.us
Please send finance questions to this email.

Our Sunday Team

Youth RE Teachers

Please contact Rev. Chip or Board President, Chuck Leone if you are interested in helping with our youth RE program.

Nursery Care Provider: Diana Mendelsohn

Pianist: Ian Bunker

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

2018-2019 Board of Trustees

Officers:

Chuck Leone, *President*
Ron Robinson, *Vice President*
Elena Wake, *Treasurer*
Melanie Smith-Guillaume, *Secretary*

Trustees:

Janet Bogar
Anne Mannix

Wendy Lohman
Rich Wallace

Committee Chairs

Adult RE	Gail deSomer
Aesthetics	Melanie Smith-Guillaume
Building	Roger Birdsell
Care	Mary Hagen & Lois Holm
Children & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Religious Ed	<i>Vacant</i>
Com. on Ministry	<i>Vacant</i>
Building Use	Gary Metzler
Endowment	Joseph Gress
Events	Kathy Platt
Finance	Elena Wake
Grounds	Barb Carmichael & Susan VanFleit
Marketing	<i>Vacant</i>
Membership	<i>Vacant</i>
Peace & Justice	Kay Azar & Anne Mannix
Social	Kathy Platt
Stewardship	Ron Robinson
Worship Arts	Florence Klečka