



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

801 East Washington Street • South Bend, Indiana 46617

Phone: (574) 234-6588 • E-mail: office@FirstUnitarian.us

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

Volume 66

December 2018

Number 6

Calendar of Events & Meetings

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sun	2	10:00 am	Cookie Walk (Buy your favorite cookies!)	Foyer
		10:30 am	Service: Impact, Innocence, & Intent, Rev. Chip	
		11:45 am	All-Church Potluck	
Mon	3	7:00 pm	Care Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Tues*	4	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 103
Sat	8	6:00 pm	All-Church Holiday Potluck Party	Offsite
Sun	9	10:00 am	Holiday Bazaar	Conference Room
		10:30 am	Service: Bravery from the Margins, Rev. Chip <i>Share the Plate</i> Offering: Dining for Women	
		11:45 am	Grounds Committee Meeting	Room 102
		11:50 am	Reflection Circle	Sanctuary
		12 noon	Documentary: Nobel Peace Prize Winners	Room 103
Mon	10	7:00 pm	Beloved Conversations	Conference Room
Tues	11	7:00 pm	Worship Arts Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Wed	12	11:00 am	Pie with the Parson @ Taste of Mexico	Offsite
		6:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Fri	14	7:00 pm	Caroling for Cans (Peace & Justice Committee)	Sanctuary
Sun	16	10:00 am	Holiday Bazaar & Dessert Raffle	Conference Room
		10:30 am	Service: Yule: Finding the Light Within the Dark, Mara Scott	
Mon	17	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	Conference Room
<i>January Newsletter Submission Deadline</i>				
Wed	19	7:00 pm	Vespers	Sanctuary
Sun	23	10:30 am	Service: Blue Christmas, Rev. Chip	
		11:50 am	Reflection Circle	
Mon	24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
Wed	26	6:30 pm	Feasters @ Doc Pierce's	Offsite
Sun	30	10:30 am	Service: One from the Vaults ..., Florence Klecka	
Note: The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 24 – Friday, December 28.				

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

* The Choir rehearses Tuesdays, 7-8 pm, unless otherwise advertised.

Minister's Notes

Dear Friends,

I am grieving. My mother's cancer has returned, and she has entered Hospice. We hope she will live through the holidays, but we cannot be sure. However long she yet survives, she has already lost a lot of what she enjoyed in life. I feel that I have already lost much of what made her my mother. So, I am grieving. One thing we know about grief is that, among other things, it is distracting. While we are grieving, we may find it harder to concentrate, and/or harder to remember things. I know that I am not operating at peak efficiency. I have not been, and I will not be, for perhaps several months yet. I say this, not as an excuse, but as a request for your understanding.

I will be fine. I still hope and intend to be here for you, whenever you need me. I will just be a little more imperfect than I usually am.

I will probably end up traveling back and forth to Ohio several times, throughout the next few months. I intend to communicate very clearly when I am planning to be where—and I will communicate where I am when I have to travel even though I had not planned it.

It is my hope that by being as transparent as possible about my own grief process, that it will help us all to manage when we or our loved ones experience grief and its complications.

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 December 3: Mon 1-3, Tues 5-7, Wed 1-3

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

Week of December 17: Wed 1-3, Thurs 1-3, Sat 1-3

Minister Out of the Office: Rev. Chip will be away from Michiana twice in December. He will collaborate with other Beloved Conversation Retreat Leaders from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday, December 16-18. He will take vacation from Wednesday through Sunday, Dec. 26-30.

Pie with the Parson: Rev. Chip will be at **Taste of Mexico (*Sabor a Mexico*, 2637 W. Western Ave)** on **Wednesday, December 12, from 11:00 am until almost 1:00 pm EST**. 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 church program ideas or a serious pastoral concern to the Lady Irish or favorite non-material gift ideas.

Christmas Eve Offering: As we have been doing for many years, our Christmas Eve Service Offering will go to the **Ministerial Discretionary Fund**. This fund is used by Rev. Chip for emergency help for members and non-members. In the past, it has helped to buy food, pay rent or utilities, or assist someone to move out of an unhealthy situation. Thank you for your generous support! **Please Note:** *If you cannot attend the Christmas Eve service, you can still contribute. Simply put a check, with "MDF" on the memo line, or cash in an envelope marked "MDF," into the Sunday Offering basket. (You can also mail a check to the church office.)*

Services this Month

Dec. 2: Impact, Innocence, & Intent Rev. Chip

Our intent matters, as we consider our words and deeds--and their impact matters at least as much as our intent. Advanced ethics for the 21st century. **We'll welcome new members**, and enjoy our monthly potluck.

Dec. 9: Bravery from the Margins Rev. Chip

Marginalized people have led progress for centuries. How might those closer to the center assist in widening the circle?

Share the Plate Offering: Dining for Women
A Reflection Circle will follow the service.

Dec. 16: Yule: Finding the Light within the Dark, Mara Scott

The ancient holiday of Yule is the celebration of the longest night of the year. Many people associate winter with darkness only. But Yule is a turning point, when the sun begins its return. This is truly something to celebrate!

Wed, Dec. 19, 7 pm: Vespers Service

Join Rev. Chip for our annual Vespers service (a pause from the holiday hustle-bustle, with singing and silence).

Dec. 23: Blue Christmas, Rev. Chip

Sorrows and struggles seem worse near the holidays. A blue whale may help us cope and thrive. *Reflection Circle to follow the service.*

Monday, Dec. 24, 7 pm: Christmas Eve Service, Rev. Chip

We'll celebrate the birth of Jesus with music, poetry, stories and a candlelight ritual. All are invited to stay after, to share snacks & cider. *(Please bring something to share.)*

Offering Recipient:

Ministerial Discretionary Fund

(For description, see page 2.)

Dec. 30: One from the Vaults ..., F. Klecka
On this Sunday after Christmas, we take a holiday to resurrect a sermon by Rev. John Hanly Morgan, who served as our second minister from 1956 to 1960. *Readers are eagerly sought to read portions of "Keeping Santa Claus in Christmas."* See service leader, Florence Klecka, to volunteer your voice in this timeless little gem.

Activities and Events This Month

All-Church Potluck

Sunday, December 2, 11:45 am

This is your chance to try something new before the Holidays – from the store or your kitchen. We love it all – and all are welcome to our tables. – Join Us!

Cookie Walk: Sunday, Dec. 2, 10 am

Let us do your holiday baking! Tins of cookies make welcome gifts to give/use now or freeze. Buy some *Dessert Raffle tickets* too!

All-Church Holiday Potluck Party

Saturday, December 8, 6 pm

All are welcome to the home of Anne Mannix. We'll raise a glass to bring in the holidays. There will be activities for the kids. *Please RSVP, if possible, to Kathy Platt (pkplatt@comcast.net or 234-1352).*

Holiday Bazaar: Sunday, Dec. 9, 10 am

Visit our Bazaar for lots of useful holiday items and great Gift Baskets. Your purchases, of these “gently used” items, are good for the environment, your budget and our budget! *(All proceeds go to the church.)*

Holiday Bazaar & Dessert Raffle

Sunday, December 16, 10 am

This is your last chance to purchase Bazaar items and buy *Dessert Raffle tickets!*

Feasters - Wed., Dec. 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 Doc Pierce's. To reserve a seat at the table, contact Cathy Duncan by Monday the 24th (272-2931 or kateduncan@aol.com).

Children and Youth Religious Education News

CASIE Center Stocking Project

Our annual R.E. stocking stuffer project for the C.A.S.I.E. Center was a Christmas miracle! Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, the children filled over one hundred stockings!

Special shout-outs to Tama Crisovan, Mary Ann McDowell, Kathy Vetter and Kathy Platt for helping with setting up and donations. *Also sending grateful hugs to Santa's assistants: Mabel, Forest, Owen, Anna, and Carter.*

Thank you to Rev. Chip for encouraging us to do the project this year, and to all of you who gave gifts and/or donated dollars (for others to do the shopping) to this worthwhile and meaningful cause. We want our children to feel empowered to help other children who are in need right here in our community. - "Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law."

With appreciation and gratitude, Mary Beth Dickey, Former RE Director

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Mary Beth, who began the CASIE Stocking project back in 2006, for all her work organizing the event again this year. She has helped every year since she started it, during which we have expanded our efforts from 20 to 120 stockings! We really appreciate her efforts, on short notice, to once again make this happen!! Thanks!

RE Consultation

Many thanks to all who participated in our Religious Education Consultation, November 15 & 16. We had dozens of people offer their ideas, and several people (Kathy Platt, Anne Mannix, Kathy Vetter, and others) went above and beyond to help make it the successful event it was. We should get a report back from the consultant soon; it will be shared with the congregation. Other opportunities to converse about our Religious Education Program, and how we might best help our families to raise spiritually grounded and religiously aware children, will be forthcoming.

- Rev. Chip

December Social Justice Spotlight: **Peace**

We're wrapping up the year by highlighting ways to promote **Peace**, at home and around the world. – We hope you will participate in one way or another.

✚ **Learn: Nobel Peace Prize Documentary - Sunday, December 9, 12 noon**

Watch a short documentary on three recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize and learn how they helped change their communities for the better.

✚ **Do: Caroling for Cans - Friday, December 14, 7 pm**

We will hold a singing event for all ages. In lieu of an entrance fee, please bring a donation for **the Northeast Neighborhood Food Pantry**.

✚ **Give: Share the Plate Offering – Sunday, December 9**

Our recipient this month will be **Dining For Women**. This is an organization that funds projects to benefit women in developing nations around the world, and that women in this congregation have supported for the past several years. – For more information about this organization and who it supports visit <https://diningforwomen.org/>.

Committee News

Care Committee

We wish you all a safe and happy month of holiday celebrations with your friends and family.

December Birthdays

The December birthdays that we know to remember are:

Eric Williams (4), Glenda Bixby (9)
Bob Shuman (11), Marcia Shuman (12)
Calean Carmichael (12), Bob Triebold (17)
Dan Groteke (17), Jerry Brooks (17)
Cindy Benedict (24) & Diana Mendelsohn

Join us Sunday, December 9 after the service to celebrate December birthdays with a gluten-free traditional birthday cake.

Among Us

- We are grateful for the recovering strength of Darlene Catello and **Michelle Minisan** from orthopedic surgeries.
- Remember that **Rev. Chip** and his family are dealing with the heart breaking decisions for their **mother, Jean**, as she approaches the end of life.
- Heartbreak comes in many ways. The home of **Lynn Grate and Phoenix Sones** was damaged by falling branches on their sun room.

REMEMBER: If you are having young or old company and have need for helpful items, like walker, wheelchair, port-a-crib, highchair, stroller, etc., there is a lending closet in the church basement that might be helpful. Just sign, on the clipboard, the item out and back in when you return it.

There will be a holiday card for all to sign before or after church in the gallery for **Autumn Crisovan**. Autumn will remain in Taiwan through the holidays until the end of the school year.

Enjoy the snow and sunshine and the end of 2018!

Grounds Committee

All are welcome to join us for our monthly meeting on Dec. 9 after the service. With fall cleanup and snow plowing arrangements behind us, we can focus on future projects. Based on discussion at our last meeting, our initial plans for a memorial garden will expand beyond the construction of a 3-foot wall to include other options for enclosing the space on the south side of our building. Quotes for using natural materials such as boulders and plants will be reviewed at the meeting. All options will be presented for review in early 2019 to a broader segment of the congregation as identified by other committee chairs. In addition, possibilities for an indoor memorial tree and north side deck/patio will be discussed.

Stewardship Committee

Who's on Your Christmas List? As we enter the gift giving season, don't forget to add the First Unitarian Church to your list.

The Stewardship Committee has several ways you can contribute to support our church at this giving time of year. Why not donate a monetary gift to cover the cost of a ream of paper for the printer, or Sunday child care for a month among many suggestions. A list will be provided outlining the cost of several items it takes to run a church. Why not give a gift that benefits us all?

We will have a tree to decorate with Ginger Bears made by Lois Holm given to you as a Thank you when you make a monetary gift towards the operating costs of the Church. The Ginger Bears will have a tag on them identifying your gift to the Church and will be hung on the tree. You will be able to take your Ginger Bear home to enjoy after Sunday's service on December 23. We will also be selling additional Ginger Bears for \$5.00 each for you to add to the tree or take home immediately to enjoy.

Watch for this **Gift Giving Event** on Sundays, December 9, 16, & 23. This is an easy and fun way to get into the giving spirit and give a monetary gift that benefits all of our church family.

Ho Ho Ho! Let the Gift Giving Begin.

Board News

Board Meeting Highlights

Special Meeting 10/25/18: The Board reviewed the Evaluation of the Minister done by the Committee on Ministry.

Regular Meeting 11/14/18

The Board has asked committees to study the Strategic Plan and bring a report to the Board outlining how their committee's work supports the issues brought out in the Plan. Committees will be scheduled throughout the year.

Suzanne Waller gave clear and well-thought-out examples of how the Endowment Committee is contributing to the following Strategic Plan goals: 1) contributing to the financial health of the church, 2) growing membership and development, 3) targeting a 10% membership growth, 4) welcoming the greater community into the church, and 5) improving communication.

A portion of the meeting was dedicated to working on personnel issues.

President Chuck Leone suggested that we ask the Finance Committee to look at the new method of assessing our yearly payment to the UUA. We need to know what the fiscal impact of this new system will be. The Board concurred and treasurer, Elena Wake will take this to the Finance Committee.

There are still vacancies in staff and committees. We are looking for a replacement for our Office manager. Kathy Vetter is filling in as interim. We are also looking for an RE Director.

We need a Marketing Committee Chair, an RE Chair, and RE Committee members.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please talk to Rev. Chip, Chuck Leone or any Board member.

The Board is asking Dale Gibson to draft a letter to the Jewish Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

The Board thanked David Mayfield for his work proposing an audio/visual system for the sanctuary. It would consist of two large televisions which would be installed in the front sides of the sanctuary ceiling and

which could be raised and lowered automatically from spaces in the attic. There would also be a camera installed to record services. The cost would be covered by the Endowment Fund grant given to the committee at the Annual Meeting and funds not to exceed \$1,000 from leftover funds in the Website upgrade Account.

There was planning for details of the visit by the UUA consultant about the RE Program.

Volunteer Opportunities

Bakers Needed: If you like to bake, here are some opportunities to share your talents.

- **We welcome your baked goods and other holiday treats** to sell at the **Bazaar**. Please bring them to church ready to sell on the 9th or 16th.
- We still need some **tantalizing desserts (cakes, pies, tartes, etc.) or fancy breads** for our **Dessert Raffle**. If you would like to donate one, please contact Kathy Platt (234-1352 or pkplatt@comcast.net).

Christmas Eve Reception Help Needed

It is our tradition to ask everyone to bring a snack (cookies, fruit, nuts, etc.) to share after the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. Janet Bogar has again volunteered to coordinate this reception, but she would welcome a helper or two.

Social Hour & Potluck Hosts

Please consider signing up to host Social Hour after the Service. Easy directions to make the coffee are posted in the kitchen. If this is your first time, someone will help with setup and cleanup. Bringing snacks is not required. A sign-up sheet is on the refrigerator and it is GREATLY appreciated!

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!!**

Other Church News

Fern Hamlin's Quilts: Fern's quilts will be on display until mid-January. **If you buy one as a Holiday gift, Fern will happily take your purchase down when needed** (and then put up a replacement). Please Note: **Fern donates 20% of her proceeds to the church!**

Office Closure: The office will be closed for a Holiday Break from Monday, Dec. 24 to Friday, Dec. 28. – The office will be open on Monday, December 31, but closed on New Year's Day and re-open on Wed., Jan 2.

Great Decisions Class: Look for details regarding this eight-session (2/10-4/14) series in the January newsletter. If you would like to help organize, contact Barbara Williams (barbaralwilliams@gmail.com).

Have you had your Flu Shot?

Not only does a flu shot protect you, it helps keep our community healthy! Among us, we have infant twins who cannot be vaccinated, and elderly for whom the flu is much more dangerous. Unfortunately, there is no shot for a cold, but we do have soap and water in the bathrooms or, if you prefer, hand sanitizer on the table below the name tags. Please help keep us all healthy this winter!

Community Activities and Organizations' News

Humanist Forum Events

For more information or to RSVP for the events below, contact Rita Prangle (Rita.Prangle@gmail.com or 574-855-4928). RSVP online at <https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Forum/>.

* *Hungry Humanists Meet for Dinner @ Ho Ping House:* Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm (303 South Dixie Way, SB, 46637).

Ho Ping House gets good reviews on Yelp, and the decor is fun. Good Chinese food at reasonable prices: <http://www.hoping-house.com/>. Note: They're also open Christmas Day, so a good place to consider if you're looking to go out that day! Ask for Rita's table.

**Hungry Humanists Meet for Brunch @ Tippecanoe Place:* Sunday, December 16, 1 pm (620 West Washington Street, SB, 46601)

Built in 1889, Tippecanoe Place was the residence of Clement Studebaker, a co-founder of the Studebaker vehicle manufacturing firm. Today, the house is the location of the Tippecanoe Place Restaurant, where we'll meet for a delicious brunch and Festivus celebration. The brunch is priced at \$24 for adults, so bring your appetites! Reservations are REQUIRED, as places fill up quickly at this time of year. RSVP on Meet Up, or with Rita, by 12/9.

**Assemble Holiday Treat Bags and eat Pizza at Rita's House*

Thursday, December 20, 6:30 pm (2032 Poppy Court, Mishawaka, 46544).

Last year, we started a new tradition: we assembled treat bags containing fruit, nuts, wrapped cookies and candy, which we later distributed on Christmas Day at various stores and gas stations, anywhere that stays open that day. This is easy and fast, and the recipients were all thrilled to receive these unexpected gifts! If you're traveling out of town that day, take some bags to hand out along the way. If you're staying home, all you need to do is go out sometime during the day, and stop to drop off a couple bags wherever you see an open place. Come and help assemble the bags, and bring a treat to include if possible, and eat pizza!

Pilgrimage Healing: *Holiday Gift Idea!*

Give the gift of Pilgrimage Healing.

Relax...Experience a deep sense of peace

Receive...Support for your intentions

Heal...Feel the flow of Divine energy

Give yourself or someone you love this experience. Gift Certificates are now available for a \$20 donation. Contact Linda Jacobs at 574-360-7699 or lsj621@sbcglobal.net. Healing partners include Maureen Briones, Linda Carter and Linda Jacobs.

Silvertones' Christmas Concert Sunday, December 9, 7:00 pm

(Covenant Com Church, 3025 E Edison Road, SB) *Silvertones*, Forever Learning Institute's Senior Glee Club, announces its annual Christmas concert. Music ranges from the ridiculous (a 70's version of the Twelve Days of Christmas) to the sublime (a beautiful and tender lullaby to the Christ child), along with some carol favorites to which you can sing along. The program is free.

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
(For January 2019: Monday, Dec. 17)

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
Building Use	Gary Metzler
Care	Mary Hagen & Lois Holm
Children & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Religious Ed	
Com. on Ministry	Jim Curlee
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

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: Henry DeBeck
Activity Table: Diana Mendelsohn

Pianist: Ian Bunker

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

Weather Closings

Watch our church Facebook page, and/or our website, and/or your television with all the cancellations at the bottom of the screen, to see if the church has cancelled a service due to weather, etc. *Whether the church is open or not, we depend on you to make the best choices for you and your family—if it looks too risky, we're happy to see you the next weekend.*

During the week, the office is only closed if the South Bend Community Schools' Administration Building is closed. – For evening meetings, please check with the organizers.