



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

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Volume 66

March 2019

Number 9

Calendar of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fri	1		-- Endowment Proposals Due --	
Sun	3	10:30 am	Service: Nurse Logs & Legacies, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	Stewardship Campaign Kickoff Brunch	Foyer
Mon	4	7:00 pm	Care Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Tues*	5	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 103
Sun (EDT Begins)	10	9:15 am	Social Justice Forum: Planned Parenthood	Conference Room
		10:30 am	Service: Life Begins When You Get Back Up, Rev. Kent McKusick <i>Share-the-Plate Offering: Planned Parenthood</i>	
		11:45 am	Peace and Social Justice Committee Meeting	Conference Room
		12:15 pm	Women's Spirituality Gathering	Offsite
		12:30 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session 4	Conference Room
Mon	11	11:00 am	Pie with the Parson @ Barnaby's (on Jefferson)	Offsite
		1:00 pm	Committee on Ministry Meeting	Conference Room
Tues	12	7:00 pm	Worship Arts Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Wed	13	6:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Fri	15	6:00 pm	Women's Potluck	Offsite
Sun	17	10:30 am	Service: Irish & Other Ancestors, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	Art Opening: Janet Johnson – Watercolors	Foyer
		11:45 am	Planning Meeting: Trivia Night	Room 102
		12 noon	New UU Course: Session 1	Room 103
		12:30 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session 5	Conference Room
Mon	18	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	Conference Room
			-- Newsletter Submission Deadline --	
Sun	24	10:30 am	Service: How Inexhaustible Was Her Mindfulness: Mary Oliver, Lay led	
		11:45 am	Grounds Committee Meeting	Conference Room
		12:30 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session 6	Conference Room
Wed	27	6:30 pm	Feasters @ Papa Vino's	Offsite
Sun	31	10:30 am	Service: Angry at God, Rev. Chip Roush	
		12 noon	New UU Course: Session 2	Room 103
		12:30 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session 7	Conference Room

For changes, watch our weekly CHIRP email, or check our website (www.firstunitarian.us) calendar.

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

Minister's Notes

How would you prefer your Atheism? I welcome your feedback on this and all other topics associated with worship in our congregation.

If I present a three-sermon series on the state of contemporary atheism, sometime in 2019-'20, would you prefer them to be three Sundays in a row, or one per month for consecutive months? Or one per quarter?



I am eager to collaborate on a spectacular service to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, in late June. Who's interested in co-creating that service?

I am also putting together a service on *Game of Thrones*. See the article elsewhere in this issue, for more information on this topic.

Finally, we should be using our new sanctuary screens more frequently in March—for secular presentations and during worship. What do you think of them so far? Are they useful? Too distracting? Is the information we're projecting there useful? What would you change about how we're using them? (Many thanks to David Mayfield, and everyone else, who helped engineer and install the new system).

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 March 3: Mon 1-3 | Tues 5-7 | Wed 1-3

Week of March 10: Mon 1-3 | Tues 1-3 | Wed 1-3

Week of March 17: Mon 1-3 | Tues 1-3 | Wed 1-3

Week of March 24: Tues 11 am – 1 pm | Wed 1-3 | Sat 1-3

Minister Out of the Office: Rev. Chip will be away from Michiana once in March. He will take a brief study leave from Friday through Monday, March 22-25.

Pie with the Parson: Rev. Chip will be at **Barnaby's Pizza** (on Jefferson) on **Monday, March 11**, 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 plans for our Memorial Garden or a serious pastoral concern to basketball tournaments or board game strategies.

Game of Thrones: Rev. Chip will preach on *Game of Thrones* on May 5. He welcomes your opinions, theories, concerns and hopes for this service. What do you like about the show? What do you hate? Does it make you think differently about our human condition? Does it make you more or less hopeful for our future?

Poetry Marathon Save-the-Date: Hear Rev. Chip at the poetry marathon on **Saturday, April 13**, at the Civil Rights Heritage Center. He reads at 5:20pm, but others will read from noon to midnight.

Services this Month

March 3: Nurse Logs & Legacies

Rev. Chip

So-called “nurse logs” provide habitat for many kinds of forest life, long after they fall. What legacy are we creating for our future? Stay for the **Stewardship Luncheon** (not the regular potluck; brunch is provided this month!)

March 10: Life Begins When You Get Back Up, Rev. Kent McKusick

Playwright Samuel Becket said: “Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.” Imagine a conversation between Humpty Dumpty, Pema Chodron, and Brene Brown. That is where this service on perseverance begins!

Pulpit Note: Rev. McKusick is Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames (UUFA), Iowa (home of Iowa State University). UUFA is a congregation of over 200 members, with more than 130 church school enrollees.

[Don't forget to *Spring Forward* to EDT.]

March 17: Irish & Other Ancestors

Rev. Chip

Drawing strength from our ancestors—some long dead (like St. Patrick) and some who are still inspiring us in the 21st century. A *Reflection Circle* will follow the service.

March 24: How Inexhaustible Was Her Mindfulness: A Walk with Mary Oliver, Lay led

Many have referred to writer Mary Oliver, who died January 17, as the “unofficial UU poet laureate.” We’re looking for readers to help interpret many of her poems and other writings, and learn a bit about her “wild and precious life.”

March 31: Angry at God, Rev. Chip

What are we to do, when we are angry at God (or at the universe)? Featuring an XTC classic sung by our choir, and a Stephen Schwartz piece sung by Deb Carew. Thanks to Elena Wake, for purchasing this sermon title at our auction.

Activities and Events This Month

Stewardship Campaign Kickoff

Brunch: Sunday, March 3, 11:45 am

Social Justice Forum - Planned

Parenthood: Sun., March 10, 9:15 am

Learn about the work of Planned Parenthood.

Women's Spirituality Gathering

Sunday, March 10, 12:15 pm

We will meet at Fiddler's Hearth, for live music, Fish & Chips, and friendship. Carpooling from the church will be offered, ride with Diana if you prefer. For additional details contact Diana Mendelsohn via email at diana79mendelsohn@gmail.com.

Women's Potluck: Fri., March 15, 6 pm

Susan Van Fleit will host this month. The potluck is a nice, casual way to get to know other women in the congregation. RSVP to Kathy Platt (pkplatt@comcast.net or 234-1352). Kathy will provide directions.

Art Opening:

Janet Johnson – Watercolors and Icons

Sunday, March 17, 11:45 am

Watch the CHIRP for more information.

New UU Course: Session One

Sunday, March 17, 12 noon

For more information, see page 5.

Planning Meeting for Trivia Night

Sunday, March 17, 11:45 am

If you like trivia, we'd like your help. Please join us to help plan our night of trivia fun. We'd love to see some new people get involved! (*As noted on p. 6, our Trivia Night Fundraiser is Friday, April 12 at 7 pm.*)

Feasters: Wed., March 27, 6:30 pm

Join Feasters (folks who like to eat well) for an evening at Papa Vino's (5110 Edison Lakes Parkway, Mish). To reserve a seat at the table, contact Cathy Duncan by Mon. 3/25 (272-2931 or kateduncan@aol.com).

New UU Course: Session Two

Sunday, March 31, 12 noon

Committee News

Care Committee

Look closely at the ground and tree branches. Buds are appearing. Appreciate the extra light each day, as the days get longer. March 20 is the first day of spring.

Thank you all for your generous donations for “*Undie Sunday*” throughout February for the ongoing community project with the Broadway Christian Parish.

Among Us

- Our deepest sympathy and loving support go out to **Emily Wetherall**, with the sudden loss of her brother Duane in Maine, and **Suzanne Waller**, with the sudden loss of her father-in-law, in Texas.
- **Heather and Kyle Hulse’s** beautiful twin boys are home, Julian, from hospital, and Theo, recovering from RSV, a virus which causes breathing issues. Both grandmothers, who were helping while Julian was in the hospital, are now very sick with the virus. RSV is a very hard on babies and the elderly. Take precautions!
- **Alan deSomer** is recovering from a foot fracture and keeping mobile with the knee scooter.
- **Gary Looney** is home from Healthwin after multiple surgery repairs for better hand and neck use.
- **Phil Badger** has completed his radiation treatments and is breathing better.
- **Bette Asplund** is in the early diagnostic /treatment stages for a mass on her brain.

Please reach out to these members of our community with additional loving support at this time.

Now that we have the Automatic External Defibrillator, AED, we are hoping that those who are interested in supporting our community with the Red Cross training will take the online course. After we have people who have completed the course and have the

certificate, Rich Mah will lead the hands-on class to complete the training. Please consider and begin ASAP.

For more information, and to obtain details about the online Red Cross course *Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED*, including computer requirements, simply click [here](#). If after reading this you plan to do the training, please let the office know. Thanks.

March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Kathy Wells-Lantz (2)
Emily Munn-Wood (5), Janet Bogar (9)
Heather Hulse (10), Gail deSomer (15)
Becky Lindstrom (17), Chris Hamlin (18)
Jim Ward (20) Sam Wistreich(30)

*A call or card of remembrance
is always welcome.*

Thank you all for all that you do ...“to help one another. This is our covenant.”

Grounds Committee

Snow Blower for Sale: The church is selling its bigger snow blower (Craftsman model # 88970 is a 26", two-stage, heavy-duty snow blower with a 208cc engine and electric start). It recently had a new OEM carburetor installed and a fuel system clean out. Low hours and runs great. Asking price \$375. For a picture of this model [click here](#).

Peace and Justice Committee

April's Social Justice Spotlight will be the impacts of pollution and climate change. As part of this focus, we will be hosting a table/activity at an **Earth Day Event** at Roseland Park (**Saturday, April 20**, 10 am – 2 pm). If you know of any middle or high school students who can help us plan and staff a booth for Earth Day, please contact amvollrath@gmail.com. Also, please consider donating a flat of flowers to be given out, one to each family! This old URC church tradition goes back twenty years. Flats cost: \$10 each. Can you donate one? If you can help out or donate, contact Diana M. at diana79mendelsohn@gmail.com or call 277-7456.

Social Justice Spotlight: **Planned Parenthood**

- ✦ **Learn:** Join us **March 10th at 9:15 am** for a **Social Justice Forum** in the conference room to learn more about reproductive health issues and the work of Planned Parenthood.
- ✦ **Do:** Write a letter to your representatives supporting access to healthcare. We'll have information in the lobby throughout the month of March.
- ✦ **Give:** On March 10th, we are sharing the plate with our local Planned Parenthood.

Stewardship – Food for Thought

The 2019 First Unitarian Church Stewardship Drive

On Sunday, **March 3**, we will hold our **Kickoff Brunch** for the Stewardship Pledge Drive. Before the Brunch, you should receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee Chairperson talking about the importance of supporting First Unitarian Church, South Bend. If you turn in your pledge by Brunch time, you will be eligible for prizes offered by the Stewardship Committee such as a dinner at Ron and Joe's home, a tea served by Ron and Joe and a pair of tickets to *Resale to the Rescue's Pet Refuge Ball*. It definitely can pay to get your pledge in by March 3!

Just fill out your pledge card and drop it at the Stewardship Table on March 3. Or, if you can't attend the Brunch, mail the pledge form to Stewardship Committee, First Unitarian Church, 801 East Washington, South Bend, IN 46617. See you on March 3rd.

Thank you, Ron Robinson, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees & Stewardship Chairperson

Stewardship To Do's

Read Your Pledge Materials • Determine your Financial Contribution
Attend the Stewardship Kick-Off Brunch • Return your Pledge Form
Pledge Forms received by the Brunch are eligible for the Pledge Prize Raffle.

For Newcomers

New UU Course: Sundays March 17 & 31, 12 noon

If you are new to the church and want to learn more about us, or are considering becoming a member of the church, we hope that you will consider attending our *New UU Class*. This two-session course will be held on Sundays, March 17 and March 31, at 12 noon. During the sessions, we will take some time to get to know each other, discuss what it means to become a member and explain how our church runs. Rev. Chip Roush will share with us some of our Unitarian Universalist history. *We will provide a light lunch and, if requested, child care.* – For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Gail deSomer (gaildesomer@yahoo.com or call or text her at 574-850-8156). So arrangements can be made in advance, please let Gail know if you would like child care and if you have special dietary requests.

Correction to: Save the Date

Trivia Night Change of Date

Now: Friday, April 12, 7:00 pm

If you already marked your calendar, please make a change, our Trivia Night Fundraiser will be Friday, April 12 (and not Saturday, 4/13, as published in the January newsletter). As in years past, you can form your own team in advance, or just come that night and be put on a team. Even if you don't think you are good at trivia, you may be surprised! And it's fun because someone on your team usually knows the answer! Cost: \$100 per team (8), or \$12.50 per person. For questions, or to RSVP, contact Kathy Platt (pkplatt@comcast.net or 234-1352).

Board News

Board Meeting Highlights – February

- Committees are reminded to send budget requests for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to the Finance Committee by March 5th.
- The RE Task Force has rewritten the [Job Description](#) for Coordinator of RE (CRE). The description has a broader focus than previously and emphasizes faith formation and family activities. The Board approved these changes and also approved an increase in hours (12-15) and an increase in pay rate (\$20/hour). There is enough money to fund the position at the higher rate for the rest of this year because the position has been vacant. But it would represent an increase of \$2600 in next year's budget. The Board felt that reinvigorating RE is a high priority. An [advertisement](#), requesting applications by March 15th, will be disseminated regionally.
- The Office Manager position will also be [advertised](#) with a March 1 deadline.
- To plan for adverse events, the Board is working to form a Crisis Response Team.
- Vice President Ron Robinson has agreed to organize an Ad Hoc Outside Lighting Task Force to make sure that people and the building are safe.

- The Board ratified with the UUA the membership of our congregation at 106 members.
- The Board ratified the sale of our snowblower for \$375 or the highest offer.
- The Board approved submitting two requests for Endowment Funds: \$5,000 for the principal on the mortgage and \$5,000 toward the replacement of the north roof.
- The Board also authorized an application to the UUA Disaster Fund Grant Program. It may be possible to get help in covering our deductible for damage to the sanctuary after the pipes burst.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ✓ Host a **Social Hour** (make coffee, etc.): Sign up on the schedule in the kitchen.
- ✓ **Train to use** our new **AED**: See page 3.
- ✓ Assist with **Concerts**: Contact Jim Ward
- ✓ Help **create** a *fabulous* June 30 **service** celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Contact Rev. Chip.

Around the UUA

Regional Assembly: St. Louis, April 5-7

The keynote speaker for our MidAmerica Regional Assembly will be our UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. The theme of the assembly is "Intersectionalities." As our Congregational Life Consultants write, "Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality, and tools and skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general 'nuts and bolts' of congregational life, such as leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education." Of course, there will be a gorgeous banner parade, exhibitors, and many chance conversations that could enrich and gladden our lives. Go to MidAmericaUUA.org for more details, or go to [EventBrite](#) to register.

General Assembly (GA), Spokane, WA, June 19-23: The theme is *The Power of We*. For more info [click here](#). Registration opens 3/1.

Registration for Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat Now Open

Join us July 11-14 in Sturgis, Michigan for an amazing all-ages experience at lovely Amigo Centre. Chalice Sparx Family Camp and Retreat is truly a multi-generational community. There are no camp counselors here to whisk away the children separate from their families. Here we learn together, worship together and explore together in a community of all ages – including elders who complete our multigenerational village. We have fun together with swimming, hiking the trails and the labyrinth, canoeing, archery, and of course popcorn popping, S'mores and singing camp songs around a fire.

Check out the Chalice Sparx organization website run by Unitarian Universalist religious educators, ministers and lay persons from all over the Midwest: www.chalicesparx.org. Like us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/chalicesparx) and join us July 11-14.

Community Activities and Organizations' News

Michiana Monologues 2019: per Sisters Friday, March 1, 7:30 pm

SB Civic Theater (403 N. Main St., SB)
"Monologues" showcases stories from local women to inspire, support and empower our community to hear women's voices. Proceeds from this performance, which includes a silent auction, go to local organizations that advocate for women. Buy tickets online from the [SB Civic Theatre website](http://www.sbcivictheater.org) (\$10 plus \$3.50 venue fee). For other performance days/times, venues, and pricing visit the [Michiana Monologues website](http://www.michianamonologues.org).

Athena Unbound: Activism through the Arts

A two-day (March 8-9) celebration of International Women's Day at the South Bend Civic Theatre.

Includes -- Make Noise | Make Change: Music & Stories - Friday, March 8, 7:30 pm
Our own *soUUnds* (Jim Ward), is helping with the 3 musical sets (KO, Micki Miller & Brittany Lee Moffitt). [Click here](#) for more information.

Michiana Women Making History: To celebrate Women's history month this March, Barbara Williams and April Lidinsky have asked WVPE to air a series of brief interviews with several Michiana women who are making history in our own community. Please listen in to WVPE (FM 88.1) in March to hear these interviews celebrating our women history makers!

Mobile Ecology Center @ SB Farmer's Mkt Saturday, March 23, 9:00 am -noon

Sustainable activities include bean art, seed planting, and fun with face painting!

(Note: The Mobile Ecology Center, received two First Unitarian Church Endowment grants.)

Humanist Forum Events - March, 2019

For information about any of the events, contact Rita Prangle at rita.prangle@gmail.com or sign up via Humanist Forum's [Meetup.com Page](https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Forum/)

* **Hungry Humanists meet for Dinner at JW Chen's: Thursday, March 7, 6:30 pm**

JW Chen's (1835 South Bend Ave., SB) offers an excellent selection of food in a casual setting.

* **Hungry Humanists meet for Pie on Pi Day: Thursday, March 14, 6:00 pm**

We'll join Northern Indiana Atheists and Michiana Skeptics to celebrate Pi day at Das Dutchman Essenhaus with a piece of pie. The Essenhaus has a large pie selection to choose from, and good dinners as well.

* **Video: Arithmetic, Population & Energy: Sustainability 101: March 21, 6:30 pm**

The Humanist Forum will present several programs to explore the issue of climate change during this year. We'll start with gaining a basic understanding of the causes of global climate change, with a **video** of **Professor Al Bartlett**. Professor Bartlett (1923-2013) gave his celebrated one-hour lecture, "Arithmetic, Population and Energy: Sustainability 101" over 1,800 times to audiences in the United States and world-wide, from 1969 to shortly before his death in 2013. *Join us at River Park Library.*

Michiana Lunafest 2019 (at St. Mary's) Saturday, April 13, 1-4 pm (Reg: 12:30 pm)

Lunafest is in its 2nd year in Michiana. It is a short film fest that is for, by and about women. The program includes screening of the short films, as well as discussion groups following the screening. *Films are recommended for persons ages 16 and above.* The program is a fund raiser that provides money for Chicken & Egg Pictures (a national group of women filmmakers that promote social change through film), and 2 local charities that support women and children: St Margaret's House and Girls on the Run. Tickets are \$20 General/\$10 Student and may be ordered from St Mary's Box Office at 284-4626 or online at saintmarys.edu/tickets/lunafest-michiana. Tickets at the door are \$25 General/\$15 Student.

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 April: Monday, March 18)

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
C&Y Religious Ed	<i>Vacant</i>
Com. on Ministry	Jim Curlee
Endowment	Joseph Gress
Events	Kathy Platt
Finance	Elena Wake
Grounds	Barb Carmichael & Susan VanFleit
Marketing	<i>Vacant</i>
Membership	Gail deSomer & Anne Mannix
Peace & Justice	Andrea Vollrath & Kay Azar
Social	Kathy Platt
Stewardship	Ron Robinson
Worship Arts	Florence Klečka

Our Church Staff

Minister: Rev. Chip Roush
minister@firstunitarian.us
Cell: 231-709-0032

Coordinator of Religious Education:

We are now accepting [applications](#) for this position.

Interim Office Coordinator: Kathy Vetter

Bookkeeper: Finda Kamanda
treasurer@firstunitarian.us

Please send finance questions to this email.

Our Sunday Team

Youth RE Teachers

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

Nursery Care Provider: Diana Mendelsohn

Pianist: Dylan Engquist Bajo

Choir Coordinator: Alan Hamlet

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

Care Committee Resources

In addition to helping us celebrate the joys (birthdays, etc.) and concerns (illness, losses) of the Congregation, the Care Committee offers the resources listed below for the convenience of First Unitarian members and friends.

Loan Closet: Durable medical equipment and baby-care items are available for short-term loan. You can check them out in the basement.

Emergency Contact Forms: These confidential forms provide useful information for the Committee during medical emergencies.

Memorial Planning Books: Available in the church office.

Tai-Chi Classes: During much of the year classes are offered before church. Watch the CHIRP or Newsletter for a spring re-start date.