



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

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Volume 66

February 2019

Number 8

Calendar of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sun	3	10:30 am	Service: <i>Happily Ever After, For Now</i>, Rev. Chip & Prof. Terri Russ	
		11:45 am	All-Church Potluck	Foyer & Conf. Room
Mon	4	7:00 pm	Care Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Tues*	5	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 103
Fri	8	7:00 pm	Concert: Frances Luke Accord	Sanctuary
Sun	10	9:15 am	Forum: South Bend Heritage Foundation	Conference Room
		10:30 am	Service: <i>True BLUU</i>, Rev. Chip Roush <i>Share-the Plate</i> Offering: MLK Jr. Foundation Scholarship Fund	
		11:45 am	Grounds Committee Meeting	Room 103
		11:45 am	Peace & Justice Committee Meeting	Conference Room
		12:30 pm	Women's Spirituality Gathering	
		1:00 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session One	Conference Room
Tues	12	7:00 pm	Worship Arts Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Wed	13	11:00 am	Pie with the Parson @ Cambodian Thai	Offsite
		6:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Fri	15	6:00 pm	Women's Potluck	Offsite
Sun	17	10:30 am	Service: <i>Can You Hear the People Sing</i>, Rose Fournier	
		11:45 am	Memorial Garden Informational Meeting	Conference Room
		1:00 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session Two	Conference Room
Mon	18	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	Conference Room
			March Newsletter Submission Deadline	
Sat	23	3:00 pm	Social Justice Spotlight: Letter-Writing Party	Conference Room
Sun	24	10:30 am	Service: <i>Astrology for the 21st Century</i>, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	Grounds Committee Meeting	Conference Room
		1:00 pm	Great Decisions Course: Session Three	Conference Room
Wed	27	6:30 pm	Feasters @ La Salle Kitchen & Tavern	Offsite

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.

In February, every Sunday is "Undie Sunday." (For more information, see page 4.)

Minister's Notes



Our “Joys & Concerns” ritual can be deeply meaningful—to the individual(s) speaking, and to the whole congregation. Sarah Johnson (the ND doctoral student who studied us a few years ago) noted that it can foster a real sense of community and belonging. Johnson wrote that the “storytelling and symbols of the ‘Joys and Concerns’... produce solidarity in the absence of theological consensus. Emile Durkheim argues that intensely emotional social interactions produce ‘collective effervescence’ which in turn stimulates social solidarity.”

In an effort to make it even more useful, and even more widely inclusive, our Worship Arts Committee and I are recommending a test. Beginning in February, we will continue to observe the Joys & Concerns ritual as we have been...and we will add the potential for people to silently add a stone (or Easter egg, or lit candle, whatever we’re using that week) prior to the service.

Some people do not feel comfortable coming forward, into the focus of 70+ pairs of eyes. Some have mobility issues. Some feel a private bond with a person or issue, and don’t want to share their joy/concern with a wider group, but might welcome an opportunity to participate in the ritual in a more low-key way. We hope that encouraging people who wish to, to participate in our ritual before the service begins, will make it more likely that they’ll feel comfortable in doing so.

We welcome your feedback. If people like the approach, we will likely keep it. If nobody ever does it, then we will discontinue it (after a month or two).

We also welcome other ideas for the ritual. What might we use besides stones, Easter eggs, and origami pieces? Flower petals? Leaves? what else? Many congregations have a place to write down your joy or concern—would anybody here find that useful? Would people come and drop a stone (etc) into the Bowl on a day other than Sunday? What else would create collective effervescence in us?

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. This month he will be in the church on the following dates and times.

Week of February 4: Thurs 3-5 pm / Sat 1-3 pm

Week of February 11: Mon/Tues/Wed: 1-3 pm

Week of February 18: Mon/Tues/Wed: 1-3 pm

Week of February 25: Mon 1-3 pm / Tues 11 am – 1 pm / Wed 1-3 pm

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.

Minister Out of the Office: Rev. Chip will be away from Michiana twice in February. He will meet with the UUA Elections Task Force, Monday through Wednesday, February 4-6; and take a brief study leave from Thursday through Sunday, February 14-17.

Pie with the Parson: Rev. Chip will be at Cambodian Thai (235 S. Michigan, SB) on Wednesday, February 13, 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 our DRE position or a serious pastoral concern to board games or astrology.

Services this Month

February 3: *Happily Ever After, For Now*, Rev. Chip & Prof. Terri Russ

In fairy tale land, bad things happen but they are momentary blips on the way to "happily ever after." In the real world, things are messy and complicated and force us to reflect on how we might adjust our understanding of "eternal happiness" to create "happiness for now." Come walk through the Looking Glass with us!

February 10: *Forging Beauty Anyway* Rev. Chip

Queer people of color face multiple prejudices. Some, like James Baldwin and Pauli Murray, create remarkable legacies that can still educate and inspire. A **Reflection Circle** will follow the service.

Share-the-Plate Offering:
MLK Jr. Foundation Scholarship Fund

February 17: *Can You Hear the People Sing*, Rose Fournier

We'll offer some thoughts on Les Miz and how it resembles some social and political themes today.

February 24: *Astrology for the 21st Century*, Rev. Chip

Somewhere between "hoax" and "infallible guide" astrology has at least some potential for creative meaning-making in our human lives. We'll also celebrate our congregation's 67th birthday. A **Reflection Circle** will follow the service.

Activities and Events This Month

All-Church Potluck

Sunday, February 3, 11:45 am

Join us for our first Sunday potluck. We are an eclectic group, with eclectic tastes, so almost anything is well received, including comfort foods in the midst of winter or chocolate to celebrate Valentine's Day. Whatever you bring to share from your own

kitchen or your favorite store, you are welcome at our tables.

In Concert -- Frances Luke Accord Friday, February 8



Frances Luke Accord is back on home ground here at our church! Having been here twice with sold out shows, we are pleased to welcome them back once again for their only local appearance. They will be performing music from their new CD, called "Silver & Gold."

When Nicholas Gunty and Brian Powers put their songs and their voices together, there is a delicate and powerful magic that commands the room to attention. The duo is known as Frances Luke Accord, and they are what NPR's Mountain Stage calls the definition of lean-in music. Their soulful, effortless branch of indie-folk is orchestrated with spare and sophisticated acoustic threads woven into a lush backdrop for their intimate melodies. Rich, up-close tenor harmonies lend their timeless songwriting an urgency that honors the Simon & Garfunkel comparisons but pushes well beyond.

Western Den visits us from Boston. In their songwriting, arrangements, and production choices, Deni Hlavinka and Chris West leave behind the folk label, which always felt like a safe descriptor yet never quite like home, pushing out into orchestral, ethereal, and chordally complex territory, while preserving their sweeping vocal harmonies, at once lush and modest, unmistakably the foundation of their partnership. We welcome them to our church!

Tickets are available from Jim Ward (\$15), online (\$18), or at the door (\$20).
Doors Open: 6:30 pm Music: 7 pm

**Social Justice Forum – South Bend
Heritage Fdn: Sun., Feb. 10, 9:15 am**
For more information, see page 7.

**Great Decisions Course: Session One
Sunday, February 10, 1:00 pm**
For more information, see page 7.

Women's Spirituality Gathering

Sunday, February 10, 12:30 pm

Chocolate strawberries & all things chocolate. Poems and short stories about love will be shared. Sweets - enjoy hot Mexican cocoa, bring a sweet item to share. Open to all women. A simple soup will be served as the first course. For additional details, contact Diana Mendelsohn (diana79mendelsohn@gmail.com).

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

This month the Women's Potluck will be at the home of Anna Speck. This is a nice way to relax and get to know others better. You can cook, or just grab something from the store on the way. Please RSVP to Kathy Platt by Wed., Feb. 13 to get directions, pkplatt@comcast.net or 234-1352.

Memorial Garden Informational Mtg.

Sunday, February 17, 11:45 am

We all have an interest in remembering lost loved ones and in being remembered. Several weeks ago we heard about one vision for a memorial garden on our church grounds. Please join us on February 17 after the service to hear about 2 additional plans, and view architectural sketches. Creating a quiet contemplative space on the south side of our building is at the heart of each. The materials used to do this, and the pros and cons of each, will require ample feedback in order to move forward to a decision. Please plan to join us for this important meeting.

Social Justice Focus – Letter-Writing Party: Saturday, Feb. 23, 3:00 pm

For more information, see page 7.

Feasters: Wed., February 27, 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 La Salle Kitchen & Tavern (115 1/2 W. Colfax Ave., SB). To reserve a seat at the table, contact Cathy Duncan by Monday, Feb. 25 (272-2931 or kateduncan@aol.com).

Committee News

Care Committee

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

Birthdays this Month

Happy Birthday!

This month's celebrations go to:

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

Join us for birthday cake celebration after the service, February 10.

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, “partner’s with the less fortunate in our community”. Monday through Thursday mornings they have breakfast, showers, laundry, and mail room services for approximately 100 people daily, men, women and children. We are grateful for your loving generosity of socks, underwear and towels.

Among Us

- Remember our grieving friends with the loss of a parent, **Chip Roush** (mother, Jan Sandridge), **Alfred Guillaume** (mother, Anna Trena Guillaume), **Florence Klecka** (father, John Klecka).
- Gary Looney is in Healthwin # 234 slowly improving after neck and hand surgeries, hoping to get Medicaid extended.
- **Phil Badger** has begun his treatments for lung cancer.
- **Susan Siemers** has finished her treatments and is cancer free!

Remember these folks lovingly with calls or cards.

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.

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

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee is excited about all of the activity that was made possible by last year's grants. Here is a summary of this activity

1) **Grounds Committee** – Bike rack installed; planning a memorial garden and patio and fencing improvements to north green space.

2) **Mobile Ecology Center** – It has presented a number of ecology demonstrations and craft activities at church, the Farmers Market and neighborhood fairs; it was featured in an article in the South Bend Tribune.

3) **Technology for the Sanctuary** – The project to enhance the audiovisual capabilities is nearly complete. Soon, we will be able to simply incorporate high quality videos and electronic images to sermons and other presentations in the Sanctuary.

4) **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** - This device has been purchased. Installation and training is coming soon.

5) **Principal Paydown of the Mortgage** –An endowment grant was used to pay down \$5000 in principal on our mortgage.

The Endowment Committee is now accepting proposals for grants for next year. This year we are authorized to fund up to \$14,662 in grants. If you or your committee is interested, please complete the endowment disbursement proposal form which can be found on the church website. **The deadline for proposals is March 1.**

The members of the Endowment Committee are happy to assist with your proposal. Please contact any of us (Joseph Gress, Suzanne Thoren Waller or Alan deSomer) to arrange a meeting. This assistance does not imply that a proposal will be funded but instead is designed to

ensure that the proposal forms are filled out completely and accurately.

Grounds Committee

Snow Blower for Sale: The church is selling one of its snow blowers. 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 more model information go to: <https://www.snowblowersdirect.com/Craftsman-88970-Snow-Thrower/p11732.html>

If interested, please contact Susan Van Fleit or Barb Carmichael, Grounds Committee

Membership Committee

Last month we told you that **Larry Dzaugis became a church member in December.** If you don't already know Larry, the brief biography below will help you get to know him.

Larry has been attending services here for the past 18 months. And, he has already become a "regular" and very much appreciated Social Hour & Potluck Host. (Thank you Larry!)

Larry grew up in Massachusetts as a Catholic, but has been "non-practicing" for decades. Other family members have attended UU churches in Massachusetts, and he decided to give it a try.

Larry has worked all over the Eastern US as an engineer. When not working here in SB, Larry lives in his 8th house with his wife and daughter outside St Louis. He has a granddaughter in Boston.

More from Rev. Chip

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?

Stonewall Uprising 50th: Let us celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising with a *fabulous* service on June 30, 2019. Anybody who would like to help plan and/or present the service, please contact Rev. Chip. We also hope for excellent activities for our children and youth to help celebrate it.

Around the UUA

Regional Assembly: St. Louis, April 5-7

Our MidAmerica Regional Assembly will be in St. Louis this year, on the weekend of April 5-7. Our UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, will be the keynote speaker. 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.

Registration is open now; you can save \$25 if you register by Feb. 28. Go to MidAmericaUUA.org for more details, or EventBrite to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/midamerica-regional-assembly-registration-48256893668>

General Assembly: Spokane, June 19-23

Our annual UUA General Assembly (GA) will occur in Spokane, Washington, June 19-23. From the website: "This year's theme is about collective power, 'The Power of We,' as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the power of 'we.'" **GA Registration opens March 1.**

Community Activities and News

February Humanist Forum Events

For more information contact Rita Prangle: rita.prangle@gmail.com, 574-855-4928. For any of the events listed below, RSVP to: <https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Forum/>

*** *Hungry Humanists Meet for Lunch* Saturday, February 2, 12 Noon**

(Granma's House of Pancakes (3709 S. Main, Elk). We need comfort food at this time of year and you'll find great selections at Granma's! If you order eggs, be aware that the number of eggs you order will be doubled: if you want 2 eggs order one. Portions are large and prices are low. When you arrive, ask for Rita's table.

*** *Hungry Humanists Meet for Dinner* Thursday, February 7, 6:30 pm**

Bob's 19th Hole (26582 U S Highway 20, SB) Bob's 19th Hole is a casual Restaurant and Bar on the far Northwest Side. There are a few choices for vegetarians and a lot of choices for omnivores. The food is tasty, prices are very reasonable, and there is an extensive beer selection. When you arrive, ask for Rita's table.

*** *Celebrating Charles Darwin with "Your Inner Fish"*, Thurs., February 21, 6:30 pm**

(River Park Library, 2022 Mishawaka Ave., SB) We'll watch episode 1 of the PBS series on evolution, "Your Inner Fish", followed by a discussion, and a door prize drawing of an Evolve Fish button, to celebrate the 210th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. *The public is welcome and there is no admission charge.*

St. Margaret's House's Winter Walk Sunday, February 17, 2:30 pm

Join others for a one mile walk in solidarity with the women and children of St. Margaret's House whose everyday means of transportation is their feet. Proceeds from **Winter Walk** will enable St. Margaret's House to continue to provide services to women & children in need. For more information go to www.stmargarethouse.org.

Classes Springing at *Forever Learning*

Whether you want to brush up on a language or or would like to discover the origins of Islamic civilization, Forever Learning Institute is the place for you. You can view the 100-plus course catalog in the church office or online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org. For more information call 574-282-1901, or send an email to eve@foreverlearninginstitute.org.

Social Justice Spotlight: Racism

+ **Learn - Social Justice Forum: Sunday, February 10, 9:15 am**

Join us to learn more about the work of the **South Bend Heritage Foundation**.

+ **Do - Letter-Writing Party: Saturday, February 23, 3-5 pm**

Join us to do our small part to tackle: voter suppression, equal education, and criminal justice reform.

+ **Give - Share-the-Plate Offering: Sunday, February 10**

Recipient: Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation Scholarship Fund

Every year the Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation Scholarship Fund assists several students.

Stewardship – Food for Thought The 2019 First Unitarian Church Stewardship Drive

Did you know - generosity is a universal spiritual value and practice taught by all the world's religions. Generosity includes sharing our time, talent and treasure to help the less fortunate and to make our communities and our world a better place.

To kick off the Stewardship Campaign, during the month of February various members will share their stories of how being a member of First Unitarian Church, South Bend enriches their lives. This is the time of year when we ask you to make a generous pledge to keep our church presence within our communities vibrant and strong.

The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a **Kick-off Brunch** on **Sunday, March 3** right after the church service. There will be two door prizes for turning in your pledges by that day: a dinner for you and your family at the home of Ron Robinson the Stewardship Chairperson, and a second prize of an English Tea for another drawing winner at Ron and Joe's home as well. Get your pledges in to be eligible to win these fun prizes.

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

Watch for a mailing later this month, and mark your calendar now for March 3!

Adult Education: *Great Decisions* Course

This eight-session course, re-written every year by the Foreign Policy Association (fpa.org), allows participants to learn about and discuss major issues currently facing the United States.

Sundays, Feb. 10 – April 14 (except 3/3 & 4/7), 1-3 pm

Course Topics (in chronological order): Refugees and Global Migration; The Middle East: Regional Disorder; Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?; The Rise of Populism in Europe; Decoding U.S.-China Trade; Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics; The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested; and State of the State Department and Diplomacy.

Text: ***Great Decisions 2019 Briefing Book*** Cost: \$30 (*Financial Assistance Available*)

To register, please contact the Church Office (574-234-6588 or office@firstunitarian.us).

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 (Feb. 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
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	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

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: Dylan Bajo

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.