



The Unitarian

First Unitarian Church

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Volume 67

November 2019

Number 5

Calendar of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity, Event or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fri	1	6:00 pm	Halloween Party	Foyer/Conf. Room
Sat	2	9:00 am	Approaching Climate Change with an Empowered Spirit	Conference Room
Sun	3	10:30 am	Service: <i>Royalty of the Road</i>, Rev. Chip Roush	
		11:45 am	Church Potluck	Foyer/Conf. Room
		11:45 am	Holiday Bazaar Planning Meeting	Room 101
		Noon	“Building Your Own Theology” Class	Room 103
Mon	4	1:00 pm	Committee on Ministry Meeting	Conference Room
		7:00 pm	Care Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Tues	5	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 103
Sun	10	10:30 am	Service: <i>Kurt Vonnegut: Curmudgeon and Prophet</i> <i>Chuck Leone and Tom Platt</i>	
			<i>Share-the-Plate: Group Violence Intervention Project-Goodwill Industries</i>	
		11:45 am	Birthday Celebrations	Foyer
		11:45 am	Peace and Social Justice Committee Meeting	Room 101
		Noon	“Building Your Own Theology” Class	Conference Room
		Noon	RE Meeting	Room 103
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
		7:00 pm	Family Movie Night	Conference Room
Sun	17	10:30 am	Service: <i>Atheism in the 21st Century, Part 2</i>, Rev. Chip Roush	
		Noon	New UU Class	Room 103
Mon	18	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Newsletter Submission Deadline				
Sun	24	10:30 am	Service: <i>The Gift of Time</i>, Rev. Chip Roush	
		10:30 am	C.A.S.I.E Stocking Stuffers	Room 101
		Noon	New UU Class	Room 103
		11:45 am	Grounds Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Wed	27	6:30 pm	Feasters	Off Site

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).

Choir Rehearsal: The Choir rehearses Thursdays, 7-8:15 pm, unless otherwise announced.

Minister's Notes

Rev. Chip Roush, 21 October 2019



Christmas 1988 was difficult for me—I was about to graduate from college, with a degree in Philosophy and no job prospects. I returned home, to live (temporarily! we all hoped) with my mother. I had very little money to contribute, and virtually none to spend on presents.

I chose to write letters to each family member, sharing a memory of the two of us, and how that memory and that person enriched my life. Perhaps they were just being kind, but they all mentioned how meaningful the letters were.

Once I got a job, and steady income, I went back to the usual practice of buying gifts. Now that I think of it, I think I'll write some letters this year.

What gifts have been meaningful to you—to give or receive? With your permission, I may share some examples in my annual anti-consumerism rant on 11/24.

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

Week of November 11: Mon 11/11 (11a-1p); Tue 11/12; Wed 11/13

Week of November 18: Mon 11/18; Tue 11/19; Wed 11/20

Week of November 25: Mon 11/25; Tue 11/26 (11a-1p); Wed 11/27

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 four times in November: he'll take three study leaves, to the Ohio River Study Group (where he'll present on Zora Neale Hurston's effects on the Harlem Renaissance, Mon-Thur, November 4-7), to lead a Beloved Conversations retreat in Kentucky (Friday and Saturday, Nov 8-9), and after Thanksgiving (Nov 30); and a one-day vacation to attend the memorial service of an old friend (Saturday, Nov 16).

More from our Pastor...

Welcoming?

Our congregation earned its status as a “Welcoming Congregation” a long time ago. And, the challenges faced by our LGBTQ+ siblings and cousins have changed a bit, since we engaged the original “Welcoming” curriculum. Our UUA has created a follow-up curriculum, “The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal,” to help us become better informed, and more deeply welcoming. Beginning in 2020, all congregations will need to engage with this new program, to maintain their “Welcoming” status. Please contact Rev. Chip if you would like to help lead this effort. Find more information at this URL:

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/five-practices-welcome-renewal>

MidAmerica Region News

Our MidAmerica Regional Assembly will be a one-day event, on Saturday, April 18, in Rockford, Illinois. This is an experiment, moving away from 2-3 day assemblies of the past. Contact Rev. Chip for more details, or register online.

Worship Whisperer Podcast

Rev. Chip’s appearance on the Whisperer podcast was postponed, but may still be available by the time this newsletter is published.

Religious Education News

It’s Christmas in November again this year and we are planning our annual Christmas project in R.E - filling stockings for the children at the **C.A.S.I.E. Center**. (Child Abuse Services, Investigation, and Education.)

During the church service on Sunday, November 24th, we will be filling the stockings with YOUR donations and they will be handed out to the children whose families come to the center for help during the month of December.

You all “know the drill,” as we have been doing this project annually for over a dozen years! This congregation is extremely generous, and each year we fill more stockings than the year before. Last year we filled over 200! Sadly, each year there are increasing numbers of families who come to the center for help.

Look for large donation bags in the church foyer beginning Sunday, Nov.3rd. (See list of suggested donations below.)

Small toys and games; infant and toddler toys; small cans of play-doh, Barbie type dolls; matchbox cars; soft sport balls; small journals and markers; coloring books and crayons; small stuffed animals; hair accessories and lip gloss for girls; socks, hats, mittens, gloves, and socks for all ages-infant to teen. (No candy, please)

Thank you for your loving contributions to this very worthy cause. Love is the spirit of this church.



Join us in costume for an “all ages” Halloween Party on November 1 from 6-9 pm at the church. Chili and LOTS of treats will be served. Activities will include an escape room!!

Come watch “The Muppet Christmas Carol” with us on November 15. We’ll be in the conference room serving popcorn and drinks from 7 pm - 9 pm. All ages are welcome! But please note that under age five needs to have someone stay with them. Parents, if you can use a breather, you can drop off your child(ren) and we’ll keep them safe and entertained. We’ll have a place for you to leave your contact information in case we need to contact you before the end of the movie.





November 3: *Royalty of the Road*

Rev. Chip Roush

“Train Hopping” is exceedingly dangerous—and is still used, in the 21st century, by some on society’s margins. What does this tell us about the nature of freedom?

November 10: *Kurt Vonnegut: Curmudgeon and Prophet*

Chuck Leone and Tom Platt

Kurt Vonnegut was one of the most influential writers of the 20th century, and we claim him as one of our own. While considered a science fiction writer by many critics, Vonnegut explored complex political and economic issues that ran counter to conventional wisdom. Chuck will discuss Vonnegut’s role as an iconoclast, and Tom will use his first novel, *Player Piano*, to explore the question – What are people for?

November 17: *Atheism in the 21st Century, Part 2*

Rev. Chip Roush

The second of a series of three sermons about contemporary atheism, its opportunities and its challenges (the last will be on 1/12/20).

November 24: *The Gift of Time*

Rev. Chip Roush

Can time bring more happiness than money? How does gratitude create health? Rev. Chip’s annual anti-Consumerism rant.

Worship News

Joys & Concerns in absentia

If you are unable to attend a service on Sunday, but still want to share a joy or concern, please send your message to Mary Hagen or Lois Holm and they’ll read it for you.

Activities and Events This Month



Lynn McDonald will host our monthly Women's Potluck on Friday Nov. 15, at 6:00. This is a relaxing way to get to know others better. You can cook, or just pick up something at the market. For directions and to tell what you're bringing, please contact Kathy Platt by Nov. 13, pkplatt@comcast.net or 234-1352.

Feasters

“Feasters” (our group that likes to eat well) will meet at 6:30 pm on November 27, at Mandarin House. Please contact Mary Alice Lundergan by Oct. 28 if you wish to join in the eating fun! 574-387-7342 or maryalichelundergan@gmail.com.

All-Church Potluck

Sunday, Nov. 3, 11:45 am

This is the Sunday when we *fall back* to standard time. That means you will have an extra hour to prepare or pick up something for our *Harvest* Potluck. Perhaps you will want to try out something new in preparation for Thanksgiving. Whether your offering is from your favorite grocery, or your own kitchen, all are welcome to join us at our *Harvest* Potluck tables.



BOARD OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Board is planning to lead the congregation in a process to come up with a vision/mission statement for the church. In a pre-meeting discussion, Board members began to look at how to organize this process.
- The new mortgage will finally kick in with the bank on October 19th.
- The Marketing Committee is looking into getting a banner with our name and logo to use at public events.
- The Board decided to continue publishing and posting draft minutes and approving the final minutes after a month at the next Board meeting. In order to reduce confusion, the word draft will be put on a watermark on the pages, and will be removed when the minutes are approved.
- Roofing is projected to start between November 11th and 22nd.
- The Board will hold a winter retreat on January 28th.
- Elena Wake will research what it will take to renew our Welcoming Congregation designation. Ron Robinson and Howard Berberick will research Amazon programs which might benefit the church.

Grounds Committee



Fall Cleanup, Nov. 9!

It's lovely to spend time outdoors at this time of year. Why not spend some of it beautifying our grounds and readying it for winter? Even an hour or two of your time between 9-noon will be very helpful. Refreshments and camaraderie will be provided. Contact Barb Carmichael at barb.carm@comcast.net to sign up.

Care Committee

November is our country's month for gratitude. No matter what the political climate is, we each can find much to be grateful for. It is a good exercise to celebrate with gratitude as we end our day, or begin our day. Try it!

Birthdays this Month

Let's celebrate with a word or card to our November birthday people:

Joy Pletcher(1), Chip Roush(2), Elly Wynia(3), Barbara Williams(10), John Bentley(13), Kay Azar(17), Kyle Hulse(20), Eric Morgan(20), Elena Wake(21), Bob Asplund(25), Chuck Leone(29), and Jessica Collett(30).

There will be GF cake to enjoy after the service on November 10 for these birthday celebrations, thanks to Lois Holm.

Among Us

Cathy Duncan is in the hospital with pneumonia. Her daughter is with her.

Dan French has returned home from rehab after his hip fracture and surgery. Dan and Karen are grateful for the food sent by many of you and delivered by Jim Gibson. Thank you all for your loving care of one another.

Our sympathy goes to Kathie Carr for the loss of her dear, closest friend in Texas, Bob Hunter. A memorial service will be announced.

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 the item out and back in when you return it. We are grateful for these donations.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving celebration!

Membership Committee

If you are new to the church and would like to learn more about us, please attend our New UU class. This two-session course will be held on the Sundays of November 17 and 24 at noon. Lunch will be provided.

During the sessions, we will get to know each other, learn about our Seven Principles, discuss what it means to become a member, and tell you about how our church is governed. Rev. Chip Roush will share our Unitarian-Universalist history and how we fit into our larger denomination. To enroll, please contact Gail deSomer at gaildesomer@yahoo.com or call or text her at 574-850-8156. Childcare will be provided.

Peace and Social Justice Committee

The speaker on November 10 will be Isaac Hunt. Isaac Hunt plays a major role in local efforts to stop gun violence. He is part of the Group Violence Intervention Project that holds meetings for gang members on probation. The meetings feature presentations by judges, prosecutors, the public defender, and parents with children that have died from gun violence. The message is that the community will help them if they want help. If someone commits gun violence, they will be prosecuted to the maximum extent of the law.

Isaac coordinates the "help" efforts in his position at Goodwill Industries. All contributions will go to the **Group Violence Intervention Project at Goodwill Industries.**

Other Church News



Holiday Bazaar Planning Meeting

An important meeting to finalize plans for our Eco-Bazaar, open to the public Dec. 7, will be

during the Potluck on Sunday, Nov. 3. It will take lots of helping hands to pull this off. Please let Kathie Carr or Kathy Platt know you'll be there.

'We Are the World' Auction



A big "thank you" goes out to everyone who helped and came to our 41st annual Auction on Oct. 19. To all donors and buyers: We had our most successful night ever - over \$14,000! Selling two African Safari trips certainly helped! Rookie Auctioneer Jim Ward and joke seller Suzanne Waller made for lots of fun. The international food, music, desserts, decorations, and costumes were great! Alfred Guillaume won \$265 in the 'playing cards' 50/50 raffle!

From the Office

Please remember to check the "Lost & Found" box on top of the coat rack in the foyer. Among other things, there is a "Rough and Tumble" CD there.

Directory information: Except for 2 or 3 entry requests that we are still trying to work out in the database system, the directory will soon be in the hands of the membership folks for additional input. Its current form IS on the WEB (and hard copies can be obtained upon request). Please be patient as we try to get everything correct!

Volunteers request: Peg sometimes needs a weekday morning "off" and is looking for folks who would be willing to fill in by answering the phone and letting people in the building. Thank you!

Please Note that the church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 28 & 29.



Community Activities

Singer songwriter **Peter Mayer (lyricist of 'Blue Boat Home'** and composer of many songs beloved by UUs and others) is having a concert at People's Church of Kalamazoo at 7:00 pm on Saturday November 23. Ticketing details are still in process. Call People's Church for more info: (269) 375-3262.

Pilgrimage Healing

A Bountiful Universe

The next two months offer an array of good in all manner and form. If we look for it and expect it, we will find it. From all the wonderful activities prompted by the season, to perhaps a greater openness to give and receive love, the universe seems to be saying – enjoy! We can take steps to increase our awareness of good in our lives simply by purposefully paying attention, by expecting good, and by sending out love and gratitude to the world.

Pilgrimage Healing is a time to put in motion our personal powers of awareness so that we can be more in tune with the flow of good in and through us. Two healing partners will lovingly hold you and your intentions in prayer. Give yourself or someone you love this opportunity. Gift certificates are available for a \$20 donation. To make an appointment or to secure a gift certificate, call or email Linda Jacobs at 574-360-7699 or lsj621@sbcglobal.net. Healing partners include Maureen Briones, Linda Carter, and Linda Jacobs.



Mark your calendar for the Ten Thousand Villages bag sale on November 9 from 10-6 pm. Shop early for Christmas and save 25%! The store is at Centennial Place on Cleveland Rd., just east of the intersection with Grape Rd.

Humanist Forum November Events

*Hungry Humanists Meet for Dinner @ Chubby Trout Brew Barn and Eatery Thursday, November 7 @ 6:30pm; 3421 Plaza Ct. Elkhart, 46514. Ask for Rita's table.

One of our favorites! Chubby Trout offers a lot of good choices at reasonable prices including their signature crab pepper bisque soup, freshly flown in seafood like European Zander, Lake Huron Steelhead Trout or Canadian North Atlantic Salmon, sushi, smokehouse items like prime rib, steaks, ketogenic entrees and four signature brews. If you've not been to their new abode, built from three salvaged barns, then now is the time! Please RSVP by the day before if possible and check out their menu items here: <http://chubbytrout.com/menu.html>

* Movie Screening - "American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel" on Thursday, November 21 @ 6:30pm; River Park Branch Library, 2022 E. Mishawaka Avenue South Bend, 46615.

"American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel" offers a poignant glimpse into the deeply-entwined, polarizing and often misunderstood history of religion, race and politics as seen through the eyes of a courageous group of Oklahoman's working to bridge the divide within their communities. Leading historical, religious and constitutional experts also bring compelling perspective on how the conservative Christian agenda emerged over the last 30 years to become a powerful and divisive force in today's political landscape.

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

Board of
Trustees
2019-2020

Officers:

Ron Robinson, *President*
Suzanne Waller, *Vice President*
Elena Wake, *Treasurer*
Melanie Smith-Guillaume, *Secretary*

Trustees:

Janet Bogar
Anne Mannix
Howard Berberick
Bert Dodds

Committee Chairs

Adult RE	Gail deSomer
Aesthetics	Melanie Smith-Guillaume
Art	Kay Azar
Building	
Board of Trustees	Ron Robinson
Building Use	Gary Metzler
Care	Mary Hagen
Children & Youth RE	Lois Holm
Com. on Ministry	Katie Robbins
Endowment	Kathie Carr
Events	Joseph Gress
Finance	Kathy Platt
Grounds	Elena Wake
Marketing	Barb Carmichael & Susan VanFleit
Membership	Larry Dzaugis
Nominating	Gail deSomer
Peace & Justice	Anne Mannix
Social	Chuck Leone
Stewardship	Andrea Vollrath
Worship Arts	Kay Azar
	Kathy Platt
	Suzanne Waller
	Florence Klečka

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

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Rev. Chip Roush
minister@firstunitarian.us
Cell: 231-709-0032
Office Hours (see Minister's Notes)

Coordinator of Religious Education: Rich Wallace
cre@firstunitarian.us
574-406-3333
Office Hours: Wed. 10:00 am-5:00pm
& by appointment

Office Manager: Peg Faulmann
office@firstunitarian.us
Office: 574.234.6588
Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am – noon

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

Our Sunday Team

Youth RE Teachers

Please contact Rich Wallace if you are interested in helping with our youth.

Nursery Care: Diana Mendelsohn

Pianist: Dylan Bajo

Choir Coordinator: Carys Kresny



Mailing Lists: If you are interested in being added to our weekly

CHIRP email or our monthly newsletter, *The Unitarian*, 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 December 2019: November 18)