
First Unitarian CHIRP! Week of December 17th, 2024

1 message

First Unitarian Church, South Bend, IN <office@firstunitarian.us>
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Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 11:52 AM

First Unitarian Church, South Bend, IN

[View this email in your browser](#)**CHIRP!**
Our Weekly Newsletter

For the week of December 17th, 2024

[Worship This Sunday, Dec 22nd, 10:30am](#)**[Christmas Carols by Ron Robinson](#)**

Enjoy singing your favorite Christmas carols and maybe hear some new ones! This is an intergenerational service.

[Join this service on Zoom!](#)

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5742346588>

Passcode: 02221952

Meeting ID: 574 234 6588

Phone Number to call: 312 626 6799

Upcoming Services

- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service (at 7pm!)
- 12/29 **Pancake Breakfast (see below for signup!)**
- 1/5 The Power of Potential
- 1/12 Forgiveness is Optional

Links to recent sermons:

[Forgiving God](#)

[Embracing the Neurodivergent Mind](#)

[Values: The Tie that Binds](#)

[Practicing Gratitude](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



🕒 Dessert Auction ENDS TONIGHT

Until midnight Tuesday Dec 17, please go to www.peoplecomingtogether.net and bid on one of the delicious Desserts to be enjoyed over the holidays or sometime next year. We really need some more folks to win these delicious desserts!



Holiday Luncheon

At Tippecanoe Place

WITH A SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE!

RSVP to Kathy Platt
by Wed. Dec 18

🎁 Holiday Luncheon Dec. 21 at 1:00

A newer holiday tradition is a Saturday lunch at the beautiful Tippecanoe Place Restaurant. Dec 21 at 1:00.

🎁 🎁 🎁 This includes an optional Secret Santa gift exchange! 🎁 🎁 🎁

If you'd like to participate bring a wrapped gift and you will be able to choose a wrapped gift from the pile!

RSVP to Kathy Platt by Wed Dec 18 at [REDACTED]

SPIRAL Yule Celebration



The SPIRAL group will be **celebrating Yule on Friday, December 20 at Susan's house, 2 [REDACTED]** in Mishawaka. Show up **any time after 6 pm**. We will have a grand potluck that will include Lucy's flan and Carol's Yule Log. We will burn a Yule log outside or in depending on the weather, and it will include ashes from a previous SPIRAL Yule log. It is a time for joy, the wheel turning to longer and longer days as the Sun God returns.

Prepare for an “eating and talking” evening and join us if you are able. [REDACTED], by phone or message, for more information.















Sunday December 22nd at 5pm in the Great Hall we have our board game social! This is the perfect event to bring any friends, out of town visitors, or locals you'd like to get to know better. You can bring your own games or play some of ours.













Events are listed below. Please note we have two different Zoom channels. "Sunday Service Zoom" refers to our main channel and "Adult Forum Zoom" or "Small Meeting Zoom" refers to our secondary channel. Find the details to both [here](#).

This Week

17	DEC, TUE	 All day	Last day of the Dessert Auction!
18	DEC, WED	 6 – 8pm	Feasters Offsite at the chosen restaurant - see the latest Chirp!
19	DEC, THU	 1 – 2pm  6 – 9pm	UU Chat Group Sunday Service Zoom Channel Gen XMZ D&D Conference Room & Room 103
20	DEC, FRI	 6 – 8pm	SPIRAL Yule Celebration Offsite - Susan Siemers' house
21	DEC, SAT	 1 – 2pm	Tippecanoe Holiday Lunch Offsite - Tippecanoe Place
22	DEC, SUN	 9 – 10:15am  10:30 – 11:30am  5 – 8pm	Adult Forum Sunday Service Sanctuary & Sunday Service Zoom Board Game Social Conference Room & Great Hall
23	DEC, MON	 7 – 8pm	Grounds Committee Meeting Small Meeting Zoom Channel
24	DEC, TUE	 All day  7 – 9pm	Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Candlelight Service At the church

Next Week

25	DEC, WED	 All day  All day	Office Closed Christmas Day
26	DEC, THU	 1 – 2pm  6 – 9pm	UU Chat Group Sunday Service Zoom Channel Gen XMZ D&D Conference Room & Room 103
29	DEC, SUN	 10:30 – 11:30am  11:30am – 12:30pm	Sunday Service Great Hall and Conference Room Listening Session Sunday Service Committee Conference Room
31	DEC, TUE	 All day	New Year's Eve
1	JAN, WED	 All day  All day  7 – 8pm	Office Closed New Year's Day Sunday Service Committee Meeting Sunday Service Zoom and the Conference Room

Using a screen reader? Want more information? See the full calendar on our website here <https://firstunitarian.us/news-events/calendar/> or check out the calendar directly [HERE](#).



IN THE OFFICE

Draft minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting on December 11th are now available in the Members Only portion of the website. New members received login information to this part of the website in their New Member folders. If you have any trouble accessing it please contact the office 574-234-6588 Mon-Fri 9am-Noon or email office@firstunitarian.us

Please note **the office will be closed on Christmas Day - December 25th**



COMMITTEE NOTES

[Sunday Service Committee](#)

Our annual Pancake Breakfast is coming up 12/29! We need folks to sign up to bring

- pancake batter
- griddles and waffle irons
- butter
- syrup
- fruit
- juice and more!

And we also need some volunteers to help with set up and tear down! You can **sign up using the button below**.

If you have any trouble or don't want to deal with the digital document, you can email office@firstunitarian.us or call Mon - Fri 9am-noon 574-234-6588 There will also be a printed sign up sheet on Sunday Dec 22nd at our Christmas Carol service.

Pancake Bfast Sign-up

[Adult Education Committee](#)

The next Adult Forum is December 22nd 9am-10:15am in the Conference Room and the Small Meeting Zoom Channel

Come help us decide our adult forum schedule for the first quarter of the new year! Bring any topics you would like to discuss and any ideas you'd like the group to dive into. You may want to bring your personal calendar to make sure you'll be in town for all the best topics!

You can see the list of upcoming Adult Forum Topics here: <https://firstunitarian.us/learning/adult-forum/>

Events Committee

🎄 Christmas Eve Reception

It's our tradition to have a short reception following our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. **If you can, please bring a plate of cookies, nuts, fruit or a snack to share.**

Peace & Social Justice Committee

Broadway Christian Parish

Thank you all for a great year of generously sharing with our community through your BCP parish donations!

Our next donation drive will be January 11! Our donations support the work with the marginalized in our community through the services of Broadway Christian Parish. You can drop off donations at our church when it is open, usually Sunday through Friday mornings. Place your items in the cart near the button rack.

Thank you for all your generous donations these past weeks in the carts! Thank you!!

Meats, fresh, frozen, or canned are needed!! Also, canned **soups**! **Click here >** for the other needs from the [food pantry](#) and [hospitality programs](#).

ALL donations are greatly appreciated!

Care Committee

For **anyone looking for a place to gather on Christmas Day**, you are invited to Allen and Gail deSomers' at 2 [REDACTED] for a Christmas Brunch at 11 a.m. Please R.S.V.P to g [REDACTED]

Building Committee

For those of you who were at church on Sunday morning, you would have noticed the surprising flooding coming from the floor drains in the kitchen and bathrooms after the service. The problem has since been identified as roots in the outdoor pipes and has been fixed. Additional work will be scheduled to fix a break in the line outside of the church.

Many thanks to those who jumped in to assist:

- Kyle Hulse for his expertise and getting Tyler's Plumbing (where he works) to come out within two hours.. Heather Hulse for patiently keeping their sons busy while they waited over an hour for Kyle to help assess the situation.
- Kathy Vetter for her assistance over the phone and for meeting the plumber at church Sunday afternoon. Kathy then coordinated on Monday with the plumbers, the city and carpet cleaners. Kathy also found an

important email from several years ago describing where the clean out valve is outside the building saving the plumbers much time.

- Alan Hamlet and David Mayfield, Ben Barwick, Jeremiah Cox for their assistance in assessing the situation
- Alan Hamlet, Ian Bunker and Allen DeSomer for spending more than an hour mopping the sewer water out of the men's room.
- Carys Kresny for delivering needed cleaning supplies.
- Alan Hamlet for coming back to church Sunday afternoon to shop vac the water on the hallway carpet.
- Karen Heffernan, Diana Mendelsohn, Tom Platt, Kathy Platt, and perhaps others who mopped the ladies' bathroom, hallway, foyer and kitchen.
- Chuck Leone and Mary Alice Lundergan who stepped up to host the Auction event that was scheduled to be at church Sunday afternoon. Chuck Leone for following up with the city on our sewer insurance.
- Bill Stevens and Lucy Higgins for a fast pivot in moving their Auction event location.
- Gail deSomer for putting out bins to catch water leaking through to the basement and for meeting with the carpet cleaning company.
- The GOSH group in their flexibility when not able to meet in the building.

We really do have a village who springs into action when needed!

The building is back to usual business, but we will notify folks if/when we need to have some down time again for the permanent fix.



[Saturday Night Crafters](#)

This is a new affinity group that will be **starting on January 4th at 6pm**. All fiber crafters are welcome. The group is drop in and hosted at the home of Christina Tolomei. For more information email

! [REDACTED]

[Gen XMZ Meditation Group](#)

Starting January 8th on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month **at 6pm** Gen XMZ is hosting a meditation group! Together we will explore different meditation techniques and find ways to increase our chill while enjoying community together. This group is open to everyone in church! If you have questions, direct them to Justine Backus [REDACTED]



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
NEWS**

[UUA Holiday Message from President Rev. Dr. Sofia Bentacourt](#)



With gratitude for all of the ways that UUs have been living their faith boldly in the past year, may this season be a time for us all to reflect on our renewed commitments to justice and compassion in 2025 together.



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