

THE LIGHTED CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY FORUM

Forum meets at 9 am in Room 101/103. Everyone is welcome. Childcare is provided. Co-chairs: Jim Anderson, Tom McConville, Bill Welge

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Sunday Service & Religious Exploration Classes 10:30 a.m.
Nursery and childcare available.

02/05/17

A screening of the documentary "Living for 32," a 40-minute film featuring Colin Goddard, a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting who is now an advocate with the Brady Center. <http://livingfor32.com/>

02/12/17

Indiana Forest Alliance, with Sandra Messner
We work to protect our state forests from the massive increase in logging, and we work to preserve wilderness. We speak about the danger our state forests are in, and how people can help.

02/19/17

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Martina Sternberg –Director, Community Mobilization, Military Family Research Institute at Purdue.
Martina and her husband are raising their grandson, Gabriel. She noticed a need to provide resources and support for the many grandparents raising their grandchildren. She started an online facebook page for grandparents and had the first "meet and greet" support group in December. Martina will discuss why so many grandparents are raising grandchildren, the impact on the grandchildren, and why resources are so important.

FEBRUARY THEME: FREEDOM

Friday, 2/3

7:00-8:30 pm

Imbolc/ Candlemas: a cross quarter holiday, a date between a solstice and an equinox

Sunday 2/5

Preacher: Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd
Sermon: Free Love
Associate: Don Gresham
Music: Janine Cochran
Pulpit Prep: Don Gresham
Sound: Mary Finley
Joys & Sorrows

Sunday 2/12

Speaker: Anna Bowen
Topic: Music as Therapy
Associate: Dorothy Hughes
Music: Janine Cochran
Pulpit Prep: Michael Lewis
Sound: Dan Lybrook

Sunday 2/19

Preacher: Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd
Sermon: Until All Are Free
Associate: Janice Thiel
Music: Richard Maddux
Pulpit Prep: Janice Thiel
Sound: Jason Dufair

Sunday 2/26

Speaker: Kris Taylor
Topic: RUMI, a Poet for the Ages
Associate: Dianna Poindexter
Music: Janine Cochran
Pulpit Prep: Robin Poindexter
Sound: Noemi Ybarra



The Religious Education program kicked off the semester by making welcome signs during a Spirit Circle.

MINISTER'S MUSE

My searching friends,

I've always been a bit of a free spirit. I've even been called a wild child. Growing up, my mother would make me run circles around the car before we set off because it was hard for me to be confined in the car for too long. I often ran off to explore without letting anyone know where I was going. I loved to climb. I would talk to strangers. I was hard to control.

Yet, I excelled the most in my life when I had boundaries. When I knew exactly how far from the house I could explore, I found far more exciting trees to climb and forts to build within that space. Otherwise, I would keep moving outward and not find the heights and the depths that I found within my boundaries.

Knowing my parameters helped me to feel safe exploring all that was within them. We know this to be most true for children, but it is true for adults as well.

One of our Unitarian Universalist principles is the "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." We sometimes mistake this to mean that we can believe whatever we want. We know, however, that we are not free to believe that children are inherently sinful or that our LGBTQ neighbors are damned. We are not free to believe that other people's spiritual paths are wrong. We are not free to believe that our actions do not affect anyone but ourselves. The boundaries around our freedom of belief are often implicit, but they are very much real. We cannot believe whatever we want to believe.

Having these boundaries around our free searches for truth and meaning can be helpful. They help us to know when we are getting off track. They keep us close enough to our spiritual home that we can bounce what we find off of each other and continue to learn from each other. They let us cull the depths of what is within, rather than covering incredibly broad area but remaining on the surface. They do not limit our freedom, they enhance it. They allow us to revel in our searches. They invite us to find the truths that are already in our lives, to make meaning out of our personal experiences. They show us all of the beauty and wonder that is already a part of our lives, here and now. They bind us together as a people of faith, who believe different things but come together around shared values. Those shared values and our religious history provide us the boundaries that enrich our personal free searches for truth and meaning. They allow us to be free spirits. To let our hearts guide us. To remain spiritually open and to live in the questions.

As we move into this February's theme of Freedom, let us explore together where boundaries help to shape our experience of freedom.

Blessings, Elizabeth

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Sabbatical Minister

Our sabbatical minister was welcomed during coffee hour on January 8. I appreciate committees who have changed their meeting times to accommodate her half-time schedule.

Her office hours February – June are:

- 1st and 3rd Sundays in the pulpit
- 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays in the office
- 2nd Wednesdays in the office

Concealed Carry Task Force

In the wake of recent mass shootings and a Facebook discussion about gun policy on our church's premises, the board has created a concealed carry task force to develop a policy on concealed carry. The task force consists of members of the board, committee on ministry, and safety committee. They will develop a policy and present it to the board for approval sometime in the next several months.

To that end, we are offering the screening of "Living for 32," a documentary about a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting, Colin Goddard, who now is an advocate with the Brady Center. The film, followed by discussion, will be shown at forum on Sunday, Feb. 5.

An evening showing and discussion will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:00 pm in room 101/103. For those unable to attend, the documentary is also available online for free at <http://livingfor32.com/>.

Nominating Committee

The descriptions of all our church's elected positions have been updated to adjust for changes in technology, to expand the duties of the president elect and past president, improve communication, and better training for incoming electees.

Election for new leadership positions will be held at the May congregational meeting. In the next few months, the nominating committee will be seeking two nominees for board trustee, a president elect, as well as two members for the nominating, and one for the endowment committee. Rev. Davis will be submitting nominees for the Committee on Ministry to the board. If you would like to have more information about any of these elected positions just let Dorothy Hughes know.

Thanks to all for everything you do to keep our congregation and community thriving. May we continue live our covenant to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love and help one another.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dorothy Hughes, President
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Looking Back: In January, we learned more about the themes of courage and resistance. The youth made dry soup mixes and herbal bath products to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. We also made welcome signs and started up a new round of "Mystery Pals" to learn more about each other.

Looking Forward: In February, we'll explore the theme of freedom.

Important Reminders and Upcoming Events:

- Feb 26- Mystery Pal reveal celebration in fellowship hall following service
- Feel free to donate a book to the RE library. You can find the link here: <http://tinyurl.com/pt329cy>. Donations are much appreciated to help us build our RE library.
- RE Registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/pgspcsb>

Changes to Lighted Chalice

After much discussion with Program Council, the board of trustees, and our sabbatical minister, it has been decided to reformat and re-purpose the monthly Lighted Chalice.

Beginning with the March issue, the Lighted Chalice is transitioning its focus to reporting **what has happened** rather than **what is coming up**.

Features of the new LC will include, but are not limited to:

Keeping current columns: info about services/forum, minister, DRE and president's columns.

Adding new features: news about completed church events, social justice and other UU activities in the church and in the community, RE events, news from the UU region and UU national, save the date for upcoming events/fundraisers.

What will it take to make this new format effective? To this end, **we will need reporters** (committee chairs, event planners, etc.) to get the news to the Lighted Chalice editor or Program Council chair. Please take photos at events and submit them and information about the completed events to lightedchalice@gmail.com by the 15th of each month.

If You Want to Know What's Going On

Program Council meets the First Tuesday at 6 pm, Room 101/103

The monthly Program Council Meeting is an information hub for church activity. Bill Welge, chair, would like committee chairs, event organizers and fundraising chairs to attend or send a representative to the monthly Program Council meeting, or a submit a brief update to him via email. If you are interested in planning an event, contact Bill so he can add your item to the agenda. oxygenphilosophy@gmail.com.

Connecting Stories: Past and Present

Indiana Voices of Women invites you to a series of monthly gatherings to learn about women of wisdom, to listen to those who have gathered and to share your personal wisdom (as you are willing). We will gather in circle, in community and in spirit to listen, to learn, to explore and to connect.

In this time, you will learn about a "woman of wisdom" and what she might teach us. You will have a space to share your own story with others and to listen fully to others stories without judging, affirming, fixing or responding. It is our hope that connections will be made, understanding deepened and community enhanced.

Gatherings are at the West Lafayette Library from 6 to 7:30 pm.

Upcoming gatherings

- March 9: Harriet Tubman hosted by Johanna Wu
- April 13: Elizabeth Cody Stanton hosted by Kris Taylor
- May 11: May Sarton hosted by Linda Dolby

All are welcome to come to listen, share and connect. The event is a gift to the community from the women of IVOW, however we do encourage you to register on EventBrite so that we can anticipate and plan for the size of the community that will gather.

Travel to Statehouse for Old Forest Bill

Monday, Feb. 20 from 9am - 5 pm

Rae Schnapp @ 765-714-4829 or raeschnapp@gmail.com

Carpool/bus from church for Rally at the Statehouse on SB420 Old Forest Bill. Lunch provided. Please WEAR GREEN!

Join citizens from across the state as we converge on the State House to reshape the future of our forests!

Your state forests are for your enjoyment...habitat for Indiana's amazing biodiversity... They shouldn't be logged to death!

Take the day off (it's President's Day), gather a crew, bring a sign, and show up to help send an unmistakable message to lawmakers: we value trees left standing!

Sandy Messner will speak at Forum on this topic on Feb. 12.

"One Night in Bangkok" Service Auction and Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 25 from 5 - 9:30pm

Mark VanMeeter uuctcauction@gmail.com

Escape the winter blues by attending the "One Night in Bangkok" service auction and dinner on Saturday, Feb. 25.

We'll be auctioning off items and services donated from our own church members and enjoying a fabulous Thai dinner. All proceeds will go to the UUCTC general fund.

The silent auction opens at 5pm. Dinner will be served at 6pm, with the live auction to start at 7pm. Childcare, pizza, and a movie will be provided for children under 12.

Dinner reservations can be made using the link below (\$10 per adult, to be collected at the event). Please join us for an exciting evening!

Dinner registration website: <https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuuctcauction2017.eventbrite.com&token=lfDMB3GTs%2B00f%2BpMRy%2BdpxBvsAXJ6j2QzEUqkxYe0k%3D>

Donation website: <https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgoo.gl%2Fforms%2F4t9MRVaK5W8CP8on1&token=vLOmi8IYcOnhFmCnTansH0MezRCMG5AR7MdQwcBEtZI%3D>

