



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

nUUz

Issue 1, Volume 73 January 2012

5310 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Contact information

Interim Minister:

Rev. Jennie Barrington
Office hours: 10:30 - 2:30
Mon. ~ Wed. ~ Thurs.
revjennie@uufortwayne.org

Minister Emerita:

Rev. Dr. Laurie E. Proctor

Congregational Administrator:

Kirsten E. Eckert
Office hours:
Sun.-Thurs. 9 AM to 1 PM
administrator@uufortwayne.org
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Director of Religious Education:

Director of Music:

Suellen R. Kipp
music.suellen@uufortwayne.org
2012 Congregational President:
John Sheehan
president@uufortwayne.org

This Congregation is dedicated to the progressive transformation and ennoblement of individual and social life through religion, in accordance with the advancing knowledge and growing vision of humankind. Bound by this common purpose, and committed to the freedom of belief, we hold in unity a diversity of convictions.

Sunday Morning Services



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Saturday, December 24, 7 PM

By the Light of our Guiding Stars - Rev. Barrington

Sunday, December 25

11 AM Service: *On Christmas Day in the Morning* - Rev. Barrington

Sunday, January 1, 2012

10 AM

Youth Religious Education: *In our Hands* project work

Forum: *Religious hangovers: a discussion* (orange juice served)

11 AM

Service: *Hopes & Wishes for 2012: Member participation on this lay-led service*

Sunday, January 8, 2012

10 AM

Youth Religious Education: *In our Hands* project work

Forum: *Resolutions: the science of positive change* with Sarah Weaver

11 AM

Service: *Tikkun Olam* ~ Rev. Barrington

Please plan to stay after the service for an important all-congregational meeting about finances.

Sunday, January 15, 2012

10 AM

Youth Religious Education: *In our Hands* project work

Forum: *Peace actions retrospective* with Jain Young

11 AM

Service: *Martin Luther King, Jr.* ~ Rev. Jennie Barrington; Choir will sing

Sunday, January 22, 2012

10 AM

Youth Religious Education: *In our Hands* project work

Forum: *China and the New Year* with Lisa Esquivel Long and John & Jackie Moore

11 AM

Service: *Lay-led service*

Sunday, January 29, 2012

10 AM

Youth Religious Education: *In our Hands* project work

Forum: *Islam* with Imam J. Tamir Rasheed

11 AM

Service: *Liberal Utopian Communities* ~ Rev. Barrington

Childcare available for infants and toddlers, 9:45 AM to 12:15 PM

Minister's Meditation



The Rev. Jennie Barrington
Interim Minister
January 2012

"First comes thought; then organization of that thought, into ideas and plans; then transformation of those plans into reality. The beginning, as you will observe, is in your imagination." [Napoleon Hill]

Dear Members and Friends,

It was many months ago when I chose "Transformation" as the theme for the worship services in January. Back then, I did not know that I would be asking you to attend, on January 8th, yet another all-congregational meeting about fixing the roof of your beautiful and beloved Double-Hyperbolic Paraboloid building. And yet urge you I must-- Please come on **Sunday, January 8** to inform yourselves, discuss, and vote on your church's financial matters. I know that the discussion and the whole day will be worthwhile and enjoyable. As a whole congregation, you have done

wonderfully with the many all-congregational meetings through which you have moved forward with the "interim work" you brought me here to do with you.

January's theme of "transformation" led me to the quote, above, by Napoleon Hill. That quote led me to Mr. Hill's list of "Twelve Great Riches of Life." They are:

1. Positive mental attitude;
2. Sound physical health;
3. Harmony in human relationships;
4. Freedom from fear;
5. The hope of achievement;
6. The capacity for faith;
7. A willingness to share one's blessings;
8. A labor of love;
9. An open mind on all subjects;
10. Self-discipline;
11. The capacity to understand people; and
12. Financial security.

I offer you Mr. Hill's list of what is most important in life not to plug his book, *Think and Grow Rich* -- Though apparently it is one of the top best-sellers of all time. Rather, I write to show you how shiny your congregation's path to success is at this time-- When assessed in terms of Mr. Hill's list, UUCFW already has most of the elements that lead to a flourishing future. I feel confident about the vote you are planning on a new settled minister this spring, and your hiring a part-time Director of Religious Education in 2013, and your expanding your

programming for all age groups, and your raising UUCFW's profile on social justice matters, and your increasing your membership numbers over time, and even about your raising enough money to fix the roof.

In short, I write to send you positive energy and affirmation of all you've accomplished during this interim period. You have done that interim work thoughtfully, carefully, and with real commitment and love for your congregation. I see a bright future ahead for UUCFW as a whole. And Mr. Hill's list is also my New Year's wish for you individually, and as families and small groups-- my wish for all of you and yours: a positive outlook, good health, harmonious relationships, peace of mind, goals you can rightly believe you can achieve, a sense of faith and trust, generosity, work that is fulfilling, an open mind, self-discipline, insight into other people, and fewer financial worries.

You are all so good at working hard and thoughtfully on keeping your congregation alive! Please take a moment to notice how far you've come, and how well. Read the Search Committee's packet, which is on display by the coffee urns. Learn all you can about areas of UUCFW's church life that have not been your passion areas. And allow yourselves to feel pride in your church's present accomplishments and bright future. Before you launch full-speed into this new year, please take a moment to receive the pride and affection I feel for the whole UUCFW church family. It is true that your roof needs to be transformed-- But your congregation is already admirable

and loveable just the way you are,
as it always has been.

With care and cheer,

Rev. Jennie

Worship Services in January

The Theme for the Month is "Transformation"

01/01/12 [Lay-led Sunday
coordinated by the Worship
Committee]

01/08/12 "Tikkun Olam"
"Transformation, Restoration, and
Healing are three words UUs use
frequently. But what do we really
mean when we say these words?
This worship service will explore
Tikkun Olam, which means
repairing the brokenness in the
world. [Rev. Jennie preaching]
Please plan to stay after the
service for an important all-
congregational meeting about
finances.

01/15/12 "Martin Luther King,
Jr. Sunday" [Rev. Jennie preaching]
[Choir Sunday]

01/22/12 [Lay-led Sunday
coordinated by the Worship
Committee]

01/29/12 "Liberal Utopian
Communities" [Rev. Jennie
preaching]

**Special Note about Sunday, February 5*

***On Sunday Morning, February 5,
we will welcome new members
who have recently joined the
congregation, with a ceremony
during the worship service.
Please plan to attend to meet
and welcome them! If you are
interested in becoming a***

***member, please sign up for the
Pathways to Membership
Classes, which will take place on
Monday evenings, January 9 and
16, from 7 to 8:30 PM, at UUCFW.
It is necessary for new members
to take one of these orientation
classes before they sign the book.
To sign up, please write your
contact information on the sheet
on the Welcome Table in the
foyer, or speak to a member of
the Membership Committee. You
may attend the classes even if
you are not sure about becoming
a member. But you need to sign
up in advance.***



Interested in Becoming a Unitarian Universalist?

Then please
plan to attend our two-part
membership class in January.
You will learn about the
Unitarian Universalist history,
our doctrine (none), and how our
congregation interacts with the
rest of the Unitarian churches.
We spend time talking about
how our own beliefs developed,
too. The sessions are informal
and tuned into what you want to
know. You can come explore,
or if you are ready to join, plan
to attend both sessions as the
first step to membership. Dates
are **January 9** and **16** from **7-
8:30 PM**. A sign-up sheet is on
the Welcome Table in the foyer
or you can e-mail Toni Kring
(tkring47@aol.com),
membership Chairperson, to
indicate your plan to attend.

January Forum

January 1, 2012

Religious hangovers: a discussion
(orange juice served).

January 8, 2012

Sarah Weaver, Holistic Coach
Resolutions: The science of
positive change

*This is about the science behind
making positive change happen in
2012. There will be a short
question and answer session with
handout about the cycle of making
a lifestyle change. The knowledge
of this cycle can help define your
readiness for change and embrace
the process. The cycle can be
applied to any area of your life.
Also, materials and support will be
available for making a vision
board. A vision board can serve as
daily reminder for the grander
vision of your life.*

January 15, 2012

Jain Young and others
Retrospective of our
congregation's peace activism and
a discussion on future peace
progress in the world.

January 22, 2012

Lisa Long and **John and Jackie
Moore** on their 2011 visits to
China (January 23 is the Chinese
New Year)

January 29, 2012

Imam J. Tamir Rasheed, Fort
Wayne Islamic Center
On Islam religion

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Ministerial Search Committee

Have you ever heard of radical hospitality? Do you know what discernment means? How about what it means to have a prophetic voice? Our committee is being educated while immersing ourselves in the search for our new settled minister.

We are very pleased to inform you that we have completed our telephone interviews of the ministers who indicated an interest in us. Following the interviews Toni Kring has led the committee in a very thorough checking of references that each candidate has provided to us. After great deliberation and lively debate WE HAVE CHOSEN three pre-candidates! We were pleased at the number of very good candidates and we chose three women. We hope within days we will have them matched up with our pre-candidating weekends in January and February. Each of them will

attend a very intense weekend that will include in-depth interviews, touring Fort Wayne, traveling to another city to preach in a neutral pulpit, and at least four meals with us. When they preach, the congregation will not know that they are preaching as a part of our pre-candidating weekend and our committee is to keep confidential why we are attending the service. Larry Curtis is doing the arranging for these weekends and has been a gracious representative of the committee in dealing with other congregations who are allowing us to have a Sunday for our pre-candidates. We will get a good idea of how much energy each pre-candidate has and how they deal with very little down time as our committee will be with them nearly continuously from Friday evening until their departure on late Sunday afternoon. We will also get a chance to see how they build

rapport, their preaching style, how well they match up to what our congregation has indicated they want in a minister, and what is important to them in their search for a settled ministry.

Please don't forget that no matter how tempting it is to ask, we are keeping our pre-candidates confidential! This is a very exciting time and we can't wait to meet them and, in the process, meet the minister who may become our next settled minister.

Happy Holidays from the MSC to all of you.

Terry Mihlbauer
Secretary
MSC
12/18/11

HIPAA

The HIPAA Privacy Rules do not allow any information to be given out regarding patients. Healthcare providers cannot tell you if someone is hospitalized or in their care. If you or someone you know is hospitalized or ill and would like to be contacted by the minister and/or the Care Committee, please call the church office at 747-1867 and notify Kirsten. Thank you.

Important Notice

This newsletter will be published biweekly (or monthly) on our UU website. As a reminder, please do not put any personal identifying information in the nUUz that you would not want someone looking at the website to access.

December 2011 Board of Trustee highlights

The Board of Trustees held its last meeting of 2012 on December 22. Some highlights include:

- The Board approved Rev. Barrington's suggestion that the Christmas Eve free-will offering be divided evenly between Wellspring ministries food pantry and UUCFW.
- Year-end finances are in the black at this point. Looking ahead to 2012 and beyond, we believe that the right-sizing of our budget at the Fall congregational meeting will enable us meet our essential needs with no additional changes.
- The Ministerial Search Committee has completed telephone interviews of all candidates who indicated an interest in learning more

about UUCFW and has checked their references. After "great deliberation and lively debate" it has selected three pre-candidates for intense weekend visits early in 2012. Once this process is completed, it hopes to select one of them as a final candidate to visit UUCFW to meet us and preach at our Sunday services.

- Repairs on the roof of Social Hall are continuing. Board members plan to meet with a representative of our architectural firm to become more familiar with the structural issues and related financial and litigation options. These will be presented to the congregation for decisions at the upcoming special

congregational meeting on January 8, 2012.

- The inaugural December 10 Faith and Politics on Immigration drew over 80 attendees and netted approximately \$500 surplus over expenses. A portion of this was used to purchase a new omni-directional microphone for the congregation's use. A second Faith and Politics program is being considered for early 2012.
- The Board is planning an orientation for new incoming members on January 18. Department heads and committee chairs will be invited.
- The Annual Spring Congregational Meeting will be held after the service on **Sunday, March 4.**

THE GARDEN PARTY 2012 Let's raise the roof!

Next May we will be having our **Second Thyme Around Shoppe** for the **Garden Party**. If you received replacement goodies (gardening tools, pots, anything garden related) for the holidays, don't forget that we will use it in our Shoppe. If you need help in storing anything or would like to have your gently-used treasures picked up, please call Jackie Moore at 418-5720. Most of the proceeds will go towards our new roof.

My Last Message as your President

(Editor's note: Many of you received this as an email message from Rebecca in early December. Most of the information needs to be reiterated and I've interspersed some new information as necessary.)

It has indeed been an honor to serve as the Congregational President this past year. I know that John Sheehan will be able to take over this position and handle your questions after Jan. 1.

As I head toward my new position as "Past President" I need to share with you one more bit of roof news and some budget information.

First, the roof. As C.L. Shust construction workers began the tear off of our old roof, they were able to get a better look at what lies beneath, as we knew they would. Sadly, the news was not good. They have found damage to the actual deck of the roof, and because of the unique design of our beloved building, the repair of that damage will be rather costly. In order to shore the building to withstand the winter, we need to add yet another \$17,000 to our already \$118,000 roof expense. In the spring we'll know more about additional costs for repairs. This is certainly unwanted, but not really unexpected. We knew this was possible from the beginning.

The original vote for roof repair authorized the Board to spend up to \$125,000 on a roof as close to the original as possible. This new expense takes us beyond that amount, so, according to our Bylaws, we need to take yet another congregational vote to authorize this additional expenditure. If this vote fails, we will have to end construction at the \$125,000 mark.

Second, the budget. As you may recall, a 2012 budget was presented and approved at the fall Election Meeting. Even though the budget was approved, there were some questions

about some alternatives that might be considered to help us better meet our expenses and present meaningful programs and services. Some have asked about using the Endowment fund to defray some of our expenses, some wanted more information about refinancing our mortgage loan to spread out the cost over more years and reduce our cash flow, and some expressed concerns about the severe cuts in dues, programs, and operating expenses.

Members of the Finance Committee, the Endowment Committee, and the Board met in late November to discuss these issues and to try to craft some options for you as a congregation to express your opinions about. We plan to offer three options up for a vote at a **Special Congregational Meeting on January 8**. These options will involve:

1. Using more of the Endowment fund for operating expenses. Costs and benefits will be presented.
2. Details regarding the refinancing of the mortgage on the education wing of the building.
3. Doing both of the above.
4. Doing nothing to the adopted budget for 2012 and living with the ramifications.

We know that how a congregation uses its resources reflects its values. We need you to attend this **Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 8** to tell us what you value.

We have recently received some "Christmas gifts" to the congregation that we'd like to acknowledge. We've been the recipient of \$1,000 from **Larry Hayes & Toni Kring** for a new marketing campaign. The **Romeos** graciously donated our live tree in the Sanctuary this year in honor of **Dick VerWiebe, Larry Burke, and Lex Dormire**. **Marsha Wallace** bought us a new artificial tree to use in the sanctuary in the future that will allow us to have a lighted tree. And the

Examining Immigration event purchased a multi-directional microphone for the church. We also had some congregational "angels" who offered extra money for our Ministerial Search we'd like to thank:

John & Hope Sheehan

Peg Maginn

John & Jackie Moore

Jim & Susie Silver

Roger & Rachel McNett

Ed & Cynthia Powers

Karen Goldner

Greg & Lisa Johnson

Another "angel" to thank is **John Oldenkamp**, who supported our "**Raise the Roof**" campaign with a matching 4-1 donation of \$20,000.

In synopsis, this congregation has come a long way in 2011. We have revised our Bylaws, revitalized our membership procedures, initiated new ways to involve children in our services, carried out a very successful auction, Garden Party, Garage Sale {which helped Fort Wayne area folks, flood victims in Mexico, inmates at the Allen County Jail, as well as the Community Center} and Chili Cook-off, initiated the SCRIP program, reorganized Hospitality and Soup Sundays, created a new Music Committee, experimented with a Faith and Politics series, raised money for our local trees through a creative community art event (*en Plein Air*), took members and friends on art adventures in neighboring communities (*ArtVentures*), started oral histories between youth and elders, cared for one another in times of sadness and joy, and Oh, yes, we began a huge fundraising campaign for our lovely building, complete with a blessing and farewell to our old roof. Not bad for 12 months work. Thanks for your part in all of it!

Fondly,
Rebecca

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 8, 2012

directly following the 11 AM service

At the June 12, 2011 Special Congregational Meeting, the congregation voted to authorize the Board to spend up to \$125,000 on a roof as close to the original as possible. A new expense (to shore up the roof) takes us beyond that amount. According to our Bylaws, we need to take another congregation vote to authorize this additional expenditure. The vote will be between the following two choices:

1. Spend an additional \$17,000 to shore up the roof for winter and for general constructions purposes OR
2. Stop roof repairs when we reach the already approved \$125,000

Also, we will vote on possible options for the 2012 Operating Fund budget:

1. Using more of the Endowment fund for operating expenses; costs and benefits will be presented.
2. Refinancing of the mortgage on the education wing of the building.
3. Doing both of the above (Endowment & Refinancing)
4. Doing nothing to the 2012 adopted budget and living with the ramifications

A quorum of 30% of voting members is necessary;
please plan to attend.

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January 2012 Birthdays and Church Anniversaries



Birthdays

Therese Mhlbauer	01/01
Duncan Keirns	01/04
John Ward (Roemisch)	01/06
Terri Swim	01/07
Robyn Newman	01/09
Hope Sheehan	01/11
Owen Wade	01/13
Danny Swim	01/14
Rick Stirratt	01/15
Kira Downey	01/15
Foster Keirns	01/24
Linda Michael	01/25
Melody Ellert	01/26
Edith Stoneking	01/26
Heidi Prussing	01/28
Sarah Weaver	01/30
Kathi Weiss	01/31

UUCFW Anniversary

Ernest Zala	01/06/1957
Ina Dormire	01/03/1988
Susie Silver	01/15/1989
Jim Silver	01/15/1989
Rachel Blakeman	01/23/2000
Therese Mhlbauer	01/07/2001
Zachary Thorn	01/28/2007
Melinda Rice	01/04/2009
Chris Gerardy	01/02/2011
Lisa Gerardy	01/02/2011

*Happy Birthday
and
Happy Anniversary!
We are glad you're
part of our family.*

Sisters Over Seventy (SOS)

*Thursday,
January 12, 2012
10:30-Noon*

Positive Optimism will be the topic for discussion for Sisters Over 70 on *Thursday, Jan. 12* from 10:30 to noon at the Meetinghouse. We'll start with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "*You must do the think you think you cannot do.*"

Have you ever accomplished something you thought you could never do? Our theme reading from *Transitions* by Julia Cameron has lots of food for thought about adventures and risk.

To the Point:

15 Unitarian Universalist Elevator Speeches

Unitarian Universalists have different religious beliefs but share a common faith. We know that life is holy, that each person is worthy, and that, when we join together to plant the seeds of love, the world blossoms.

~Erik Resly~

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Share *your* talents!

Congregational Ministry Department

Congregational Ministry Chair

Ed Powers (ZzEdPowers@aol.com)

Worship

Kees deWit
(keesdewit@frontier.com)

Membership/Welcome

Toni Kring (TKring47@aol.com)

Ushers & Greeters

Care Committee

Jacqueline Moore
(Rashana99ism@hotmail.com)

Music on Old Mill

Mental Health Committee

Larry Hayes (ljhayes38@aol.com)

Transitions Team

Kira Downey
(kleostage@frontier.com)

Congregational Music Committee

Dennis Shipley
(shiple50@frontier.com)

Hospitality

Hope Sheehan
(hopesheehan@yahoo.com) and
Mary Lybarger
(sunshinedoulacare@gmail.com)

Religious Education (Youth) Department

Youth RE

Terri Swim
(jds33@hotmail.com) and
Abi Hobbs
(Abigail.hobbs@gmail.com)

Outreach

Publicity

Carol VerWiebe
(carolverwiebe@gmail.com)

Adult Programming Department

Adult Focused Social Activities

Forum

Jon Pontzius
(jpontzius@earthlink.net)

Dinner Club

Toni Kring (tkring47@aol.com) and
Cynthia Powers
(ZzEdPowers@aol.com)

Social Action & Service Department

Social Action & Service Chair

Colleen Carpenter
(colleen.carpenter0507@gmail.com)

Peace & Justice

Dave Lambert
(dl2001@comcast.net)

Langhinrichs Gallery

Susan Wenger
(wenger49@frontier.com)

Stewardship Department

Stewardship Chair

Lisa Johnson
(HomeswithLisa@aol.com)

Finance Committee

Karen Goldner
(kgoldner@frontier.com)

Endowment

Carol VerWiebe
(carolverwiebe@gmail.com)

Fundraising

In need of a chair

Canvass

Christel Gehlert
(cgehlert1@frontier.com)

Garden Party

Rachel McNett
(ramcnett@gmail.com)

Spirituality

Earth Spirit Circle

Dee Koehl (dkoehl@frontier.com)
and Deb Roemisch
(debjsd@yahoo.com)

Philosophy & Spirituality Discussion

Jon Pontzius
(jpontzius@earthlink.net)

Physical Operations Department

Building and Grounds Chairs

Danny Swim
(jds33@hotmail.com) and
Jim Reeder
(jim.reeder@frontier.com)

Memorial Garden

John Moore
(itnoore20112@frontier.com)

Fun

Romeos contact

John Moore
(itmoore20112@frontier.com)

Sisters

Marsi Lawson
(mugs@lifescapes.net)

Sisters Over Seventy

Carol VerWiebe
(carolverwiebe@gmail.com)

UU Gardens

Abi Hobbs
(Abigail.hobbs@gmail.com)

nUUz
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
5310 Old Mill Road
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January artist in the
Langhinrichs Gallery
Bill Heffelfinger, Water Colors and
Jerry Krider, Wood works

Next nUUz article deadline:
01/20/2012



Love is the spirit of this church ...



Visit our website at:
<http://uufortwayne.org>



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24 @ 7 PM

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 8, 2012 directly following the 11 AM Worship Service

Pathway to Membership classes
Monday, Jan. 9 and Monday, Jan. 16, 7-8:30 PM



Sunday Morning at the Meetinghouse

The Children & Youth have **Religious Education** classes **every** Sunday morning from 10 AM through 10:45 while the Adults are free to attend our **Forum**. Older children and teens are asked to worship with the congregation during the Sunday morning Worship service at 11 AM. We continue to have childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:45 to 12:15.