

SERMON TOPICS:

- February 2—Fire Communion, Multigenerational
- February 9—Evolution's Art-works
- February 16—How Do I Love Thee
- February 23—The Once & Future Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sermon Topics	2
Board Meeting Highlights	2
Tales from the Doorway Part II	2
Children's RE: Birthday Bags	3
Merger Mania	3
Plastic Bottle Caps Wanted!	4
Upcoming Events	4

The Tyranny Of The Majority

After our American forefathers had crafted the U.S. Constitution in 1787, the wisest among them insisted that a Bill of Rights be added, including the protection of minorities against the will of the majority.

In a recent editorial, Tim Ethridge, Editor of *The Courier & Press*, pointed to this principle, applying it to a proposed amendment to the Indiana Constitution banning marriage between persons of the same gender. The fence sitters and those legislators who really don't want to go on record supporting OR opposing it, are contending "the people should decide" in a state referendum. They say let the majority win.

Ethridge answers that position... "think about what this State and Nation might look like if all rules and regulations only passed by popular vote. Neither Governor Mike Pence,

nor a member of the Legislature has suggested the abolishment of the business personal property tax be put to a state-wide referendum, and with good reason. How many among us would vote a tax increase on ourselves when the current system seems to be working?

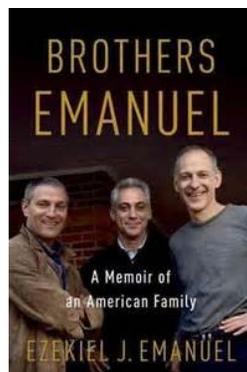
"On...Martin Luther King Day, think about the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Would it have passed by popular vote in Indiana, much less many southern states? Think about the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery in this nation...would it have survived a popular vote at the time black Americans could not go to the polls? What about the 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, which gave women the right to vote. Do you think the majority of American people, most of the voters being male, would have approved?

"For better or worse, we've had elections for our representatives. It should be up to them to vote publicly, within their conscience and belief... Then, with the choices there for all to see, it is up to the voters to determine whether to return them to office or send them home."

Way to go, Tim! We applaud you for affirming the rights of the minority.

I believe Justin Michael, our young inspiring speaker on June 12th, and activist working with other young people through FREEDOM INDIANA to defeat HJR-3 in the Legislature before it can go to a popular vote, is on the right track. The will of the majority could crush our justifiable right to marry whom we love.

Ed Howard



UUCE Book Club

The next meeting is Thursday, February 27 from 11:30am until 1:00pm. Bring your lunch to eat while we discuss this month's book, *Brothers Emanuel* by Ezekiel J. Emanuel. All members and friends are welcome!

List of upcoming books and discussion can be found at uucebookclub.wordpress.com. Contact Tina Sizemore for more info.



Sermon Topics

February 2—Tom Moor will lead us in our annual new year **Fire Communion**. *Multigenerational Service. No RE classes.*

February 9—Hardin Rathgeber will speak on **Evolution's Artworks**. The talk is a humorous yet scientific tale about the birth, life, and death

of the Universe as expressed by its Art.

February 16—**How Do I Love Thee**, presented by members of the congregation.

February 23—Reverend Doddie Stone returns to preach on **The Once & Future Church**. *Potluck following service.*

January Board Meeting Highlights

When slick roads were forecast in early January, President Ed polled other members of the Board and got permission to cancel the service scheduled for Sunday, January 5th. Then he announced the postponement of the Board meeting, previously set for Monday, January 6th, to Monday, January 12th.

Present for the delayed meeting were Board members David Fentress, Ed Howard, Chris Norrington, Suzanne Perrey, Mollie Pharo, Jasmine Sturgill, and Bev Tonso. Ashley Perkins, RE Director, was also present. Tina Sizemore was absent.

As the first order of business, the Chair recognized member Pam Thoren, an unexpected

visitor. After asking and getting permission to address the Board, she submitted her resignation as a member and as our representative to Congregations Acting for Justice & Empowerment (CAJE). Pam provided no reasons for her action. Though puzzled, everyone gave her a farewell hug and wished her well.

Chris Norrington, Treasurer, was next in line on the printed agenda. He noted that halfway through the Church year, we have realized over 58% of anticipated donations, but spent barely one-third of the amount budgeted. Attendance in December was: 25 on Dec 2nd; 22 on Dec 9th; 36 on Dec 16th; 41 at the multigenerational service on Dec 23rd; and

21 on Dec 30th; for an average of 29 persons.

President Ed reported having received notice that member Karim Shelton is ill and has decided to step down as a member of the Worship Committee and song leader. On the recommendation of Tom Moor, Chair of Worship Committee, he appointed Suzanne Perrey to the Committee and as song leader.

In her report, Ashley reminded everyone that her three days in the office are now Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am until 2pm.

Under new business, the Chair asked for volunteers to spearhead the Rummage Sale planned for 2014. The Board set June 13th and 14th for that purpose.

Tales from the Doorway Part

II by Hardin Rathgeber

Whenever I walk into the church, I slip into my greeter mode. If I see someone new, I treat them like I want them to become my new best friend. I always mention any upcoming social events (particularly potlucks and special dinners) and encourage them to fill out a name tag.

Children's RE: Birthday Bags

The Children's Religious Exploration class is collecting items to create "Birthday Bags". These bags will be donated to the Patchwork Central Food Pantry for those who would like to celebrate birthdays but do not have the funds for a cake, candles or other decorations. The kids are asking for donations for boxed cake mix, cake frosting, and candles.

There is a donation box in the foyer and any help is greatly appreciate! Once we have the "ingredients", the kids will put them together and they will be taken to the food pantry.

Our "Birthday Bags" include a cake pan, cake mix, frosting, candles (or other decorations) and a birthday card.

Thank you for all for your continued support of our program!

Merger Mania—The Hidden Consequences

Many small independent local hospitals, often the only medical center in the county, are in large numbers affiliating with larger medical systems with hidden consequences.

According to Marsha Mercer, a freelance writer in the AARP Bulletin, it is "part of a sweeping national trend. Small hospitals are going the way of the corner drug store, hardware store, and neighborhood bank."

More than 100 hospital deals took place in 2012, double the number just three years earlier. Of the 5,724 hospitals in the U.S., about 1,000 will have new owners in the next seven years or so, predicts Gary Ahlquist, a senior partner in the consulting firm of Boos & Company. "The days of the stand-alone community hospital are...numbered," says Larry Scanlan, author of *Hospital Mergers: Why They Work, Why They Don't*.

We saw it happen in Evansville when Welborn Hospital was bought by St. Mary's Medical Center and ceased to exist except as a charita-

ble foundation. Facing tremendous pressures to cut costs and empty beds, small hospitals are forming partnerships with doctors' practices and other health care providers, all of which means medical care is becoming more concentrated in fewer institutions...Again, according to Ms. Mercer, the most common consequence for patients is higher prices for medical care.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had its part in spurring the change. The law reduces the rate of growth in Medicare payments to hospitals and provides incentives to form partnerships with other health care providers. Also, a system has a greater bargaining power with insurance companies than a single hospital and can therefore demand higher prices for its services.

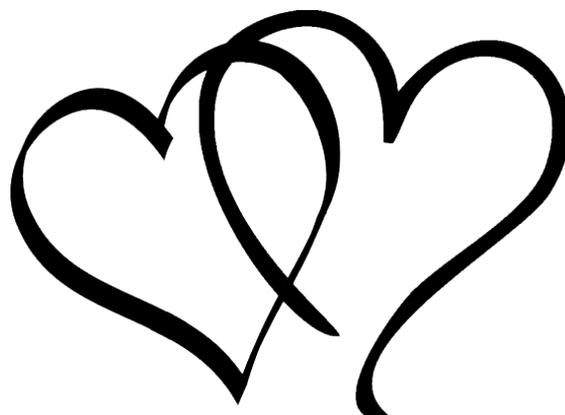
Civil libertarians are alarmed by the mergers. By joining with a much larger Catholic health system, a hospital in Newport Beach, California, hoped to enhance patients' access to a host of services—except one. Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian started banning elective

abortions this year after reaching an agreement to affiliate with St. Joseph Health. The controversy has fueled a debate as Catholic and non-Catholic hospitals strike deals in a wave of health care mergers.

Women's health advocates say affiliations between non-Catholic and Catholic hospitals have squelched abortions in a number of locations, and full-blown mergers have affected health services such as sterilization and contraception.

Thus the right of a woman to choose is gradually nibbled away.

Ed Howard





**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Evansville**

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-474-1704

Service on Sundays at 10:00 AM
Youth RE on Sundays at 10:30 AM



Board of Directors:

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Stewardship	John Schaeffer
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Open
Congregational Life	Bev Tonso
Worship Associates	Tom Moor
Newsletter Editor	Ed Howard
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
	Ashley Perkins
	www.uuevansville.org

Webmaster
Website

Plastic Bottle Caps Wanted!

UUCE is collecting plastic bottle caps for our bench project. There is a blue recycle bin in the church foyer especially for this project. If you have plastic bottle caps but cannot make it to the church, please let us know and someone can pick them up aoa@uuevansville.org.

Thank you!



Upcoming Events & Activities

Sun, Feb 2: 9am Adult Discussion Group

Sun, Feb 2: 10am Fire Communion, multigenerational service

Mon, Feb 3: 6pm Down to Earth meeting

Mon, Feb 3: 7pm Board meeting

Tues, Feb 4: 7pm Pagan Study Group

Fri, Feb 7: 7pm Drum Circle

Sun, Feb 9: 10am Evolution's Artworks

Mon, Feb 10: 6pm Down to Earth meeting

Tues, Feb 11: 7pm Pagan Study Group

Sun, Feb 16: 9am Adult Discussion Group

Sun, Feb 16: 10am How Do I Love Thee

Mon, Feb 17: 6pm Down to Earth meeting

Tues, Feb 18: 7pm Pagan Study Group

Fri, Feb 21: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter Spaghetti Dinner—sign-up sheet in foyer

Fri, Feb 21: 7pm Crystal Drum Circle

Sun, Feb 23: 10am The Once & Future Church
Potluck following service

Sun, Feb 23: Religious Exploration meeting during potluck

Mon, Feb 24: 6pm Down to Earth meeting

Tues, Feb 25: 7pm Pagan Study Group

Wed, Feb 26: 6:30pm Congregational Life Committee meeting

Thurs, Feb 27: 11:30am Brown Bag Book Club