

United Religious Community  
501 N. Main Street  
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If you wish to be removed from the TORCH mailing list, please call 574-282-2397 or email [urc@urcsjc.org](mailto:urc@urcsjc.org)

### **GIFT OF WARMTH UPDATE**

*The Advocacy Center of the United Religious Community distributed over \$33,000 to help pay heating bills so far this heating season. Over 150 families in St. Joseph County were able to benefit from this program.*

*We thank all our donors, especially Martins Super-Market and Just Energy of North America for their generous donations.*

### **Want to receive TORCH by e-mail?**

We have found that many congregation leaders on our e-mail list were not receiving or opening the attachments of their issues of TORCH. This issue is being mailed to all congregations. If you would rather we send it by e-mail please call the URC office at 282-2397.

### **NEW URC WEBSITE**

Thanks to a grant from the Neighborhood Resource Corporation the URC's website now has a whole new look.

Take a look at our exciting new features including the ability to make on-line donations to the United Religious Community.

You will still be able to access the complete list of local congregations, and read past issues of our newsletters. Also, don't forget to check out the Events Calendar for interesting and informative things to do in St. Joseph County.

The website is: [www.urcsjc.org](http://www.urcsjc.org)

United Religious Community of St. Joseph County

# **URC TORCH**

Volume 39, Issue 2

JUNE 2011

## United Religious Community of St. Joseph County **ANNUAL MEETING** **"Reclaiming Our Past; Moving to the Future"**

**DATE:** SUNDAY JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>  
**LOCATION:** JEWISH FEDERATION BLDG  
3202 Shalom Way, South Bend

(South East of traffic light at McKinley and entrance to Park Jefferson Apts.)

**TIME:** 2:00 – 3:30PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. CLERGY, CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND INDIVIDUALS ARE URGED TO ATTEND

RSVP by email to [urc@urcsjc.org](mailto:urc@urcsjc.org) or phone 282-2397

THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE: ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS; A REPORT FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR; RECOGNITION OF HEARTS AFIRE AWARDS; AND YOUTH PEACEMAKER AWARDS

**COFFEE, TEA AND DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED.**  
**THERE IS NO CHARGE.**

**STAFF**

**Rev. Dr. Carol L. Mayernick,**  
Interim Executive Director

**Joyce Williams,**  
Administrative Assistant

**2010-2011  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers:**

**Rev. Barrett Berry, President**  
Pentecostal Cathedral, South Bend

**Robert Stockman, Vice President**  
Bahá'í Faith, South Bend

**John Pinter, Treasurer**  
St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Bend

**Karen Dwyer, Secretary**  
St. Bavo Catholic Church, Mishawaka

**Rabbi Michael Friedland,  
Past President**  
Sinai Synagogue

**Board Members:**

**Debra Barton-Grant,**  
Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley

**Rev. Bradley Bohrer**  
Crest Manor Church of the Brethren

**Fr. Matthew Cowden,**  
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church,  
South Bend

**Charlotte Huddleston,**  
St. Augustine Catholic, South Bend

**Rev. Leonard Jepson,**  
First English Lutheran Church, Mishawaka

**David Kiely,**  
Sunnyside Presbyterian Church

**Rev. Bruce Naylor**  
Zion United Church of Christ

**Rev. Nancy Nichols,**  
Broadway Christian United Methodist Church,  
South Bend

**Sylvia Sebert,**  
South Side Christian Church

**Rabia Shariff**  
Islamic Society of Michiana

**Rabbi Eric Siroka**  
Temple Beth-El, South Bend

**Don Sporleder,**  
First Presbyterian Church, South Bend

**Marguerite Taylor,**  
First AME Zion Church, South Bend

## ADVOCACY CENTERS NEWS



The Advocacy Center of the United Religious Community continues to provide vital assistance to the less fortunate members of our community. The South Bend location at 501 N. Main Street will continue to be open **Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon until 2:00 pm.**

**At this time the Advocacy Center has funds available to help clients request identification documents such as birth certificates, and funds for some transportation needs. We also have a small amount of funds left available to help pay heating bills.**

In the first four months of 2011 we provided over \$29,560.00 in assistance to the needy in 190 households.

On behalf of those we serve, the URC and the Advocacy Centers would like to thank all the individuals, organizations and congregations who support our mission and services! In these uncertain times, your donations are vital to those less fortunate.



### URC is now on Facebook!

Please join us for up-to-date news of events and announcements.

### Widowed Women & Men Social Support

The Widow/Widower support program meets on the **2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 915 N. Ironwood Drive, South Bend.** If you know of someone who needs support through recent loss or just friendship, let them know. We invite you to keep this group strong and vital!

The WWM has scheduled a luncheon at The Emporium on Tuesday, July 26th at 11:30 am. If interested please call Joann no later than July 19th at 258-0140. Guests are welcome!

## RECENT GIFTS RECEIVED

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Karen Dwyer  
Faith United Methodist Church  
First Baptist Church, South Bend  
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
First Unitarian Church  
Hilltop Lutheran Church  
Islamic Society of Michiana  
Lydick United Methodist Church  
Martin's Super Market  
Memorial Presbyterian Church  
North Liberty Church of the Brethren  
Sacred Heart Parish  
Sinai Synagogue  
South Bend Christian Reformed Church  
St. Andrew's United Church of Christ  
St. Bavo Catholic Church  
St. Joseph Church, South Bend  
St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
Zion United Church of Christ

**The URC and Advocacy Centers assist thousands of low-income people a year. While their needs are consistent our income is not. The URC depends on your generosity to make our work possible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.**

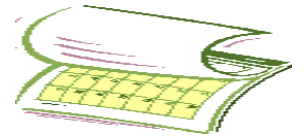
**THANKS FOR YOUR  
UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT!**



### Innisfree available for retreats

**Innisfree, a downtown South Bend bed and breakfast specializes in hosting retreats! The Celtic themed house is described as a place meant for healing. For more information go to the Retreats page at <http://www.innisfreebnb.com>.**

## SOME DATES TO REMEMBER



### June 2nd, 7:00 pm

Joint celebration of The Ascension of Jesus by Episcopalians and Lutherans  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
17195 Cleveland Rd., South Bend

### June 5th, 4:00 pm

Christmas Cantata "Child of Hope"  
Kern Road Mennonite Church

### June 7th, 7:00 pm

"Spirited" Comedy/Music Show  
Willow Creek United Methodist Church  
Corner of Jefferson & Capitol, Mishawaka

### June 12th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm

URC Annual Meeting  
at the Jewish Federation

### July 3rd, 10:00 a.m.

Service by Christian Center Church  
St. Joe County 4H Fair  
Free admission between 9:00 and 10:00 am

### August 20, 8:30 pm

Moonlight Madness Golf Tournament  
Knollwood Country Club

## NECESSARY KITS FOR THE HOMELESS



The St. Joseph County Homeless Continuum of Care, (CoC) a coalition of groups concerned with the needs of the homeless in our community recently conducted a survey of adults who slept in weather amnesty shelters during the winter and found a great need for basic hygienic and other helpful items.

To address the needs of the homeless the CoC is sponsoring a Homeless Connect Service Fair on **Wednesday, June 15th** from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm** at Broadway Christian Parish. The goal is to provide access to needed information, services, and support and they hope to be able to provide 200 people with kits of necessary items.

Each kit will contain the following basic items:

- 1 gallon freezer strength zip lock bag
- 2 sandwich bags
- Travel size wipes
- Small Hand Sanitizer
- 2 Granola Bars (nothing that will melt)
- A pair of socks
- A comb or hair pick
- Nail clippers
- Chap stick
- Small body lotion with sunscreen
- Sun glasses from dollar store
- 2 stamped envelopes
- 6 safety pins
- 6 Band Aids

In addition, they are asking for donations of sanitary supplies and money to purchase bus passes (a 2-way pass costs \$2.00, a monthly pass is \$35.00) Financial donations may be sent to Hope Ministries, 432 S. Lafayette, South Bend, IN 46601, marked Homeless Connect.

Any donated items can be delivered to Broadway Christian Parish UMC at 1412 S. Carroll St. by June 8th. URC member congregations attending the Annual Meeting on June 12th are welcome to drop off their donations there. Kits will be assembled in the gallon zip lock bags.

Any questions about this project or the Homeless Connect Committee of the CoC, please call Rev. Nancy Nichols, Broadway Christian Parish at 574-289-0333.

## DISMAS DESIGNS

### Sells beautiful jewelry

Dismas Designs is a social enterprise, providing men and women returning from incarceration with artisan, business and employment skills as they make their way back into society.

The Dismas residents design and make beaded and wire jewelry which is sold at booth sales or online: [etsy.com/shop/dismashousemichiana](http://etsy.com/shop/dismashousemichiana)

Profits from jewelry sales are put back into operating Dismas House. By participating in Dismas Designs residents earn credit toward their Dismas fees.



Dismas House staff members, Christina, Lorelee and Maria are pictured above with their jewelry for sale at the recent Community Prayer Breakfast.

They are available to set up their booth at locations in the area. Please give Dismas Designs a call for your next special event, craft show, club meeting or place of worship. Call 574-233-8522 or e-mail: [dismassouthbend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dismassouthbend@sbcglobal.net).



About 160 people attended the Annual Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 5th at Century Center in recognition of the National Day of Prayer.

The event opened with piano music by Melaney Gabris of Unity Church of Peace. After welcome remarks and an invocation by Dr. Dennis Engbrecht of Bethel College a breakfast of vegetarian selections was enjoyed by all.

Prayers were read by:

- Larry Dwyer, Baha'i Faith Community
- Rey Hernandez, Iglesia Manos de Cristo
- Rev. Martha Carroll, Southside Christian Church
- Pastor Cory Gathright, Interdenomination Ministerial Alliance
- Imam Spurgeon Hasan, Islamic Society of Michiana
- Deacon Greg Gehred, Little Flower Catholic Church
- Harold Beu, First Unitarian Church
- Tina Rakhi and Amarjit Singh, Sikh Community



Rabbi Eric Siroka of Temple Beth-El introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. David Campbell, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. And the event ended with a benediction by Rev. Susan Haynes, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Mishawaka.



Join the *Southside Singers* for  
**Christmas in June**  
 Sunday, June 5th at  
 4:00 pm  
 Kern Road Mennonite  
 Church  
 18211 Kern Road, South Bend



The snow may have stopped them in December, but the Southside Singers still want to perform their Christmas Cantata “**Child of Hope**” complete with a live orchestra. There is no charge but a free will offering will be taken with proceeds to benefit the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

There will be an Ice Cream Social with Christmas cookies after the concert!

**TEENS WILLING TO WORK FOR YOU**



The Day Reporting Program at the Juvenile Justice Center in St. Joseph County has students that need to fulfill their court ordered community service. They range in ages from 14 to 17 and can be supervised if needed. They are a good resource for projects that you don't have enough volunteers for and are willing to do whatever you need.

For more information contact Kimberly Majewski, Program Support Specialist at 574-235-5426.

**Victim Impact Panel Active at URC**

The Victim Impact Panel (VIP) is a program directed toward people who have been charged with impaired driving and ordered by the court to attend.

Victim Impact Panelists share their stories in the hope that the participants will understand the very real consequences that may result from making the choice to drive while impaired.

The program is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the URC office. This year 56 people have received certificates of attendance. Participants are usually referred by the St. Joseph County Adult Probation Department but anyone interested is welcome to attend.

The program is also available for presentation to students, employees, congregations and social groups. To arrange for a Victim Impact Panel to address your organization please call 574-282-2397.

**Attend the 4H Fair for FREE**



On Sunday, July 3rd at 10:00 am Christian Center Church will hold a non-denominational church service at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair. Fair officials have agreed to open the gates to allow everyone to enter without any admission charge between 9:00 and 10:00 am.

After the church service guests are welcome to stay and enjoy the day at the fair. Food vendors will be open, animals will be on exhibit and all entertainment is free of charge.

**The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

In celebration of eleven years of full communion and as a sign of Christian unity, Lutherans and Episcopalians will be celebrating this Principal Feast of the Church on Thursday, June 2, at 7:00 p.m.

The Reverend Matthew Cowden of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church will be preaching.

Presider will be Pastor Terri Peterson of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

The celebration will take place at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend.

Clergy are encouraged to vest and process in white stoles and festive copes.

**Moonlight Madness**

A special nighttime golf tournament to support Michiana Youth Ministries will be held August 20th, starting at 8:30 pm. The nine hole four person scramble will be held at Knollwood Country Club in Granger. The cost of \$60 per person includes golf and cart, contests, prizes, full breakfast and illuminated golf balls!



For more information call Mike Reichmann at 574-807-8179.

Greetings!

I am honored to serve as Interim Director during this time of transition. I will do my best to help prepare the United Religious Community for the future and for the next director.



In the past we have gathered as people of faith with a common mission and vision. The early founders and participants took a leap of faith and dared to reach out to those whose religious practices were different from their own. We need to reclaim that tradition more than ever today, and continue building relationships with each other and our neighbors.

One way we do that is to gather with other congregations at an annual meeting. This year it will be on **Sunday, June 12th** at the Jewish Federation from **2:00 to 3:30 pm**. **This is the most important meeting for the URC all year.** We need at least two or three representatives/delegates to attend this meeting from each congregation. Please make sure your clergy person has forwarded to our office the names of individuals who will be there.

We hope to have a full slate of officers and board members (21) to elect. There will also be a “state of the organization” presentation and an opportunity to ask questions. Our uniqueness comes from our response as people of faith. No matter what we each do separately, it is our coming together that makes this organization different and worthy of our support. We are saying to our children, our community and the world that people of various faith traditions can work together for good.

Come and join your brothers and sisters of faith at the Annual Meeting!

Rev. Dr. Carol Mayernick  
 Interim Director