

United Religious Community
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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

ORGANIST NEEDED!

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ in Mishawaka needs an organist for the 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service. The position pays \$60 per service.



If interested call 574-968-3639 for an interview.

URC TO RENT OFFICE SPACE

The URC is looking for an organization in need of office space. We have three offices available for rent on the second floor of our building at 501 N. Main St. in downtown South Bend. If interested please call Joyce at 574-282-2397.

St. Peter's to hold Dedication of Pipe Organ

Dedication of the newly refurbished pipe organ at St. Peter's United Church of Christ will take place at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 3, 2010.**

Dr. Craig Cramer of Notre Dame will perform several hymns and organ solos including Johann Sebastian Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D minor*.

The concert is free but donations are welcome.

St. Peter's is located at 915 N. Ironwood Drive in South Bend, at the intersection of Ironwood, Corby and Rockne.



United Religious Community of St. Joseph County

URC TORCH

Volume 38, Issue 5

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Friends,
We are united by our common belief in God, though our faith traditions differ. Along those lines, let me share a story with you:

A young disciple in India left home and traveled in search of a spiritual master whom he at last found sitting in prayer beside a river. The young man begged the master to teach him. The master rose slowly, then suddenly grabbed the younger man and dragged him into the river and under the water. Seconds passed, then a minute, then another minute. The young man struggled and kicked, but still the teacher held him down until at last he drew him coughing and gasping out of the water. "While you were under the water, what was it you wanted?" the teacher asked, when he saw that the other was at last able to speak again. "Air," the young man said, still panting. "And how badly did you want it?" "All . . . it was all I wanted in the world. With my whole soul I longed only for air." "Good," said the teacher. "When you long for God in the same way that you have just now longed for air, come back to me and you will become my disciple."

There are so many things we struggle for and with in this world. In this time of need and anxiety, I am encouraged and inspired by many of you who long for God. More than that, you unselfishly serve God in so many ways. As faith communities and social service organizations continue to face shortages and uncertainties, they persevere in helping the hurting, hungry, and homeless in our county and around the world. Please take the time to look at the list of fall activities and mission events within. Surely God is with us. May God bless you all!

Rev. Dr. William J. Wassner
Executive Director,
United Religious Community of St. Joseph County, Inc.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. William J. Wassner,
Executive Director

Marchell Wesaw,
Director of Victim Services
Director of Advocacy Centers

Joyce Williams,
Administrative Assistant

**2010-2011
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ADVOCACY CENTERS NEWS

The Advocacy Centers of the United Religious Community continue to provide vital assistance to the less fortunate members of our community.

In the first eight months of 2010 we provided over \$43,410 in assistance to the needy in 1,010 households in South Bend and Mishawaka.



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.

Marchell Wesaw

Want to receive TORCH by e-mail?

If you are receiving a printed copy of this newsletter and would like it sent by e-mail please call the URC office at 574-282-2397 and give us your current e-mail address.

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 and your support to keep this group strong and vital!

The WWM monthly newsletter can now be read on the URC's website: www.urcsjc.org. Please read it and share the information with your widowed friends.

**URC is now on Facebook!**

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

RECENT GIFTS RECEIVED

Bahai's of South Bend
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Morgan Stanley/Brian Kordansky
North Liberty Church of the Brethren
PNC Bank/Rising Timbers
St. Andrew's United Church of Christ
St. Joseph Church, South Bend
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Zion United Church of Christ

NOTE: Although there have never been any member fees to belong to the URC, we suggest an annual contribution of at least \$300 per faith community due to the increasing costs of operation and the growing needs of the less fortunate in our neighborhoods.

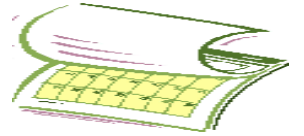
The URC and Advocacy Centers assist thousands of low-income people a year. While their needs are consistent our income is not. The URC depends on your generosity to make our work possible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT!

International Day of Prayer for Peace

Plans are being finalized for the Annual International Day of Prayer for Peace Observance on **Tuesday, September 21st** at the County City Building in downtown South Bend. The observance will be over the lunch hour from approximately **11:45 to 12:45 p.m.**

The theme this year will be *"Putting the Pieces Together for Peace."* Representatives from different faith traditions will read prayers and each will attach a piece of a puzzle to create a large poster.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

September 14th, 7:00 p.m.
Hope in Troubled Times
Panel discussion at Notre Dame

September 20th, 6:30 p.m.
Red Cross Forum on Disaster Preparedness
Clay Church Firehouse, 17646 Cleveland Rd.

September 21st, 11:45 a.m.
Prayer for Peace Observance, County-City Building

September 22nd, 7:30 p.m.
Christian Culture Lecture at St. Mary's College

October 2nd, 8:00 p.m.
"Requiem for the Innocent" at Morris Performing Arts

October 3rd, 3:00 p.m.
Organ concert & dedication at St. Peter's UCC

October 9th, 11:00 a.m.
Ravina Park re-dedication

October 10th, 3:00 p.m.
Sesquicentennial Celebration at St. Andrew's UCC

October 17th, 1:30 p.m.
Community Gathering to Heal Domestic Violence
Jon Hunt Plaza in front of the Morris Performing Arts

October 17th, 2:00 p.m.
CROP Walk for Hunger begins in Howard Park

November 7th, 2:30 p.m.
Kristallnacht Observance at Temple Beth-El



South Bend Symphony to perform "Requiem for the Innocent"

"Requiem for the Innocent" is an original work that will attempt to fulfill our longing for concord and peace, as a prayer for the souls of the departed and victims of terrorism. It is a prayer of our society for the salvation and eternal rest of all the victims of terrorist acts. This work is in seven movements for baritone, chorus and orchestra, in English, Spanish, Latin, Hebrew and Arabic.

This concert is also a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts at Indiana University South Bend.

Special guest for this world premiere concert on **Saturday, October 2nd at 8:00 p.m.** will be composer, Dr. Jorge Muniz. For tickets contact the Morris Performing Arts Center, 574-235-9190



Here is your chance to sing with the South Bend Symphony!

Local choir members are needed to sing the spiritual portion of "The Requiem for the Innocent" to be performed at the Morris Performing Arts Center on **October 2nd.**

Volunteers will sing from the back of the audience. The music is simple and very easy to sing.

If you or members of your chorus are interested please contact Jorge Muniz at musicsb@iusb.edu or call 574-520-4458 as soon as possible.



REAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES NEW TRAINING CALENDAR

The Area 2 Agency on Aging/REAL Services has created a Community Training Calendar to provide businesses and residents of St. Joseph, LaPorte, Marshall, Elkhart and Kosciusko counties with a central locator for aging related educational opportunities. This is the latest endeavor from REAL Services' Aged and Disabled Resource Center (ADRC) to connect the community with needed resources.

To access the training calendar just go to www.realservices.org/ and select "Community Training Calendar" from the bottom of the left hand column. You will immediately be able to view local aging related trainings!

To spread the word about your training event just follow the instructions and submit your event to the calendar. For more information contact April Pierce at REAL Services, 574-284-7157.



St. Andrew's to hold Sesquicentennial Celebration

On **Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.** St. Andrew's United Church of Christ in Mishawaka will hold a celebration of their 150th anniversary.

Worship Service will begin at 3:00 p.m. with dinner to follow. The guest preacher and speaker for this event will be Rev. Geoffrey Black.

Please RSVP your intentions to attend no later than September 15th by calling 574-255-7047.



CROP WALK SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17TH

The Annual CROP Hunger Walk will again begin and end at Howard Park in downtown South Bend. **Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the Walk will start at 2:00 p.m.**

Rev. Lary Jackson, Field Director with Church World Services, has been working with the URC and other past CROP Walk volunteers to gather a leadership team and steering committee.

This leadership team has scheduled a Recruiters Gathering on **Sunday, September 12th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, 115 S. Francis St., in South Bend. All congregation and organization representatives are encouraged to attend in order to be equipped, resourced, and energized for the Walk. Packets will be available for pick-up.

Over the years, the CROP Hunger Walk has helped feed thousands of hungry residents of St. Joseph County and millions across the world. 25% of the funds raised will stay in St. Joseph County and benefit several local food pantries.



HOW YOU CAN HELP THE RED CROSS PREPARE FOR A NATURAL DISASTER

The URC, in cooperation with the American Red Cross of St. Joseph County, will be hosting the next FOCUS Community Forum on **Monday, September 20th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** The event will be held at Clay Church's "Firehouse" located at 17646 Cleveland Road, South Bend..

The subject of this forum will be Disaster Preparedness and how congregations in our area can help the Red Cross be ready in case of a major natural disaster.

The event will be primarily geared to pastors and other congregational leaders, but anyone in the community is welcome to attend.



Kristallnacht Observance

On **Sunday, November 7th, 2010**, the Kurt and Tessye Simon Fund for Holocaust Remembrance at Temple Beth-El will host Howard Reich, jazz critic for the Chicago Tribune, for its annual Kristallnacht observance. Mr. Reich will speak and show his film, "Prisoner of her Past" about his mother, a Holocaust survivor, and her late-onset Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 305 W. Madison Street in South Bend. The program is free to the public but reservations are required by November 2nd. Please call Temple's office at 574-234-4402 or by e-mailing Temple@tbe-sb.org to make a reservation or for more information.

Community Gathering to Heal Domestic Violence to be held on October 17th

Statistics show that last year in Indiana 55 people died as a result of domestic violence and more than 100,000 calls were made to crisis phone lines.

In an effort to show survivors, abusers, and their families that people of faith are united in wanting domestic violence halted, the URC and Madison Center will hold a Community Gathering to Heal Domestic Violence. This interactive, interfaith service will be held on **Sunday, October 17th from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** at Jon Hunt Plaza (in front of the Morris Performing Arts Center).

SOS advocates from Madison Center will be present should anyone become distressed during the service. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Discover what unites Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox believers.

A Christian Culture Lecture will be held at St. Mary's College O'Laughlin Auditorium on **Wednesday, September 22, at 7:30 p.m.** The featured speaker will be author, Thomas Cahill, whose books include *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, *A Saint on Death Row*, and *Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus*, excels at distilling complex historical movements into entertaining, lively, and enlightening stories.

Cahill will bring fresh insights to a centuries-old separation and examines the barriers to unity among Christians. The event is free but tickets are required. Call 574-284-4626.

Hope in Troubled Times: Interfaith Voices

Hesburgh Center of International Studies at the University of Notre Dame will be the location of a panel discussion on **September 14th at 7:00 p.m.**

Professors and community members from several faiths will reflection how different religious traditions find hope in the midst of tragic loss. Panelists include: Lionel Jensen (East Asian Language and Cultures). Mahan Mirza (Arab and Islamic Studies), Dan Sheerin (Classics and Theology), and Rev. Bill Wassner (United Religious Community of St. Joseph County).

The panel is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, Indiana University South Bend; the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

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- * Please join Women in Ministry to celebrate the re-dedication of Ravina Park on Saturday, October 9th at 11:00 a.m. *
- * Feasting and fellowship will be shared by everyone in the Ravina Park community. *
- * The park is located on Indiana Avenue, two blocks west of Miami Street. *
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Military Appreciation Game



On Sunday, August 22nd, at 2:00 p.m, a special Military Appreciation Game was held at Coveleski Stadium. The game, co-sponsored by the Silver Hawks and the Michiana Military Support Network (of which the URC is a founding member), was preceded by a Resource Fair for military families. Children of those deployed were involved by joining players on the field before the game. The National Anthem was performed by Deb Meyer of Blue Star Mothers and Miller's Vets. Clay High School Jr. ROTC was the Color Guard. The first pitch was thrown by Gary Whitehead, retired Military Support Director from Elkhart County and an invocation was given by Rev. Bill Wassner.



Congressman Joe Donnelly and Silver Hawks owner and former South Bend Mayor (and Indiana Governor) Joe Kernan also participated.

It was a perfect summer day for baseball. Unfortunately, the Silver Hawks lost to Bowling Green, 7 to 11. Everyone who attended had a good time and we are looking forward to a bigger and better Military Appreciation Day next year.

The URC was pleased to be a part of recognizing, honoring, and supporting those who serve our country!



Pictured here are members of the Clay High School Junior ROTC and Swoop.