



# All Souls Unitarian Church



Love is the Spirit of this Church  
and service is its law.  
To dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another.  
This is our Covenant.

## Year of Renewal Sabbatical Information

## Background

The last six years have been an exciting time at All Souls Unitarian Church, beginning with celebration of our centennial as a voice of liberal religion in central Indiana and continuing with a major building renovation in 2004. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of all of our members and friends, we completed an expansion and extensive renovation and now have a church building that will serve us well into our second century. With our building secure for the future, we can now move to a renewal of spirit within the congregation. This year presents a grand opportunity, because our Minister Bruce Clear and our Director of Religious Education Nancy Renner Clear are taking some well-deserved time off for a few months in 2010 to refresh and renew. This time is provided by Bruce's contract as "sabbatical" time. Bruce and Nancy's time away extends from mid-February to mid-June, 2010. Rather than place our congregational activities on hold while Bruce and Nancy are away, we are instead taking the opportunity to engage in our own period of revival as a congregation. Accordingly, 2010 has been designated "A Year of Renewal" for All Souls.

This Handbook provides a reference for congregational activities specifically during Bruce and Nancy's absence. Members should also watch for Newsletter articles and Order of Service inserts to keep abreast of Year of Renewal events before, during, and after the sabbatical period.

## **Ministerial and DRE Presence**

Although it is common practice to employ an interim minister during a ministerial sabbatical, All Souls has instead engaged the services of two part-time UU ministers to provide pastoral services and to provide continuity for our Sunday services.

First, Rev. Loring Prosser is serving as Pastoral Services Minister to be available for counseling, visitations and to perform weddings, memorials, and other rites of passage. Many of you know Loring as the retired minister of Oaklandon UU Church. He has sung in the choir and has given a sermon or two at All Souls. Loring is very pleased to be able to assist us in this capacity.

Another ordained UU minister, Forrest Gilmore, is serving as Worship Services Coordinator to coordinate our Sunday services, providing us with continuity while helping us implement our renewal ideas. Forrest has recently moved to Bloomington, Indiana in order to focus on his wife's career and to be nearer to her family. He has served mid-sized congregations in Monterey, CA and Princeton, NJ. In order to learn more about Forrest, you are invited to visit his website: [www.forrestgilmore.com](http://www.forrestgilmore.com).

In addition, Carly Wise, former D.R.E. of First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati, is filling in on a part-time basis as Religious Education Director during Nancy's absence.

Please refer to the Contacts page for contact information.

## **Sunday “Worship” Services**

All Souls’ motto, “Where Reason and Religion Meet”, has deep significance to our congregation. It reminds us that we honor using rational intellect where religion is concerned, and we take pride in striving to keep open minds. The motto also serves to remind us that there is more to religion than logic. We know that we derive a satisfying sense of reverence and belonging that defies logical explanation. It is this “other” aspect of our religion we are emphasizing at this time. During Bruce Clear’s sabbatical, we are focusing on ways in which we come together as a congregation to create a sacred space for worship. We are experimenting with enhancements to our service to help us tap into a more spiritual aspect of our lives, including different ways of calling the congregation together, using music to establish and enhance a sense of sacred place, more involvement of our youth, and encouraging our guest ministers and speakers to stimulate both our head and our heart. We defer to our Summer Services those speakers with presentations on social justice, the environment, world events, entertainment, or other topics of current interest to our congregation and visitors.

### **A Word about Words**

The use of words such as “worship”, “sacred”, or “spiritual” need not carry negative connotations for anyone. “Worship” means, honoring what we value and find of worth. “Sacred” means reverence for things that carry deep meaning for us. “Spiritual” means allowing our feelings to deepen our religious experience.

## **Please Make Suggestions**

You should expect to really like some things we try, to be a little unsure about some other things, and to perhaps be out of your comfort zone with other parts of our experimentation.

Understanding that not everyone will feel the same about each and every thing we try, we still need to get a general idea of what things “feel right”, what things don’t quite fit but could be tweaked, and still other things that are just not going to fly.

You are encouraged to give your honest feedback to any one or more of the following individuals: John Murphy, Tom Sibert, John Mendonca, Andrea Vermeulen, Jean Miller, Bob Brunner, Mary Gosling, Rex Martin, or Forrest Gilmore.

## Sabbatical Sunday Calendar

Feb 14:	“Send off Sunday”
Feb 21:	Rev. Daniel Charles Davis – Minister Winston-Salem UUU Church
Feb 28:	Rev. Forrest Gilmore - Worship Service Coordinator
Mar 7:	Rev. Loring Prosser - “Retired” Minister Oaklandon, Pastoral Services Minister
Mar 14:	Rev. Ed Harris - Minister Emeritus All Souls Unitarian Church
Mar 21:	Julia Corbett Heymeyer - Professor of Religion (Retired), Ball State University
Mar 28:	Rev. Forrest Gilmore - Worship Service Coordinator
Apr 4: (Easter)	Rev. Ed Harris - Minister Emeritus All Souls Unitarian Church
Apr 11:	Rev. Loring Prosser - “Retired” Minister Oaklandon, Pastoral Services Minister
Apr 18:	Rev. Stephan Papa – Special Assistant to the President , UUA
Apr 25: (Earth Day)	Rev. Don Wheat – Minister Emeritus Third Unitarian Church, Chicago

## Sabbatical Sunday Calendar (Continued)

May 2:	Rev. Barbara Child – Interim Minister UU Church of Indianapolis
May 9: (Mothers' Day)	RE Presentations
May 16:	Rev. Marvin Chandler - Jazz Pianist
May 23:	Rev. Jerry Wright – Retired UU Minister, Past District Director of the MOVUUD (Predecessor to the Heartland District)
May 30: (Memorial Day)	Memoirs Group - Members Memoirs
Jun 6:	Rev. Don Wheat – Minister Emeritus Third Unitarian Church, Chicago
Jun 13::	Welcome Back Bruce and Nancy
Jun 20:	Summer Services Begin

## Organ Concerts and Special Music Events

Feb 28: 1:30 pm	Organ Recital – Catherine Elliot, Organist & Choirmaster, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Franklin, IN Luncheon at 11:45 am in the Social Hall
Mar 21: 1:30 pm	Organ Recital – Hillary Sullivan, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington and Dean of the Bloomington Chapter, American Guild of Organists Luncheon at 11:45 am in the Social Hall
May 16: 4:00 pm	New Heartland Festival Choral Concert

## **Contacts:**

Note: Bruce Clear will be unavailable 2/14/2010 – 6/6/2010

**Pastoral Services Minister** (Counseling, visitations, weddings, memorials, etc.)

Rev. Loring Prosser (317) 271-3361  
blprosser@comcast.net

### **Religious Education**

Carly Wise (513) 533-4274  
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### **Worship Services Coordinator**

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### **Sabbatical Issues**

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