

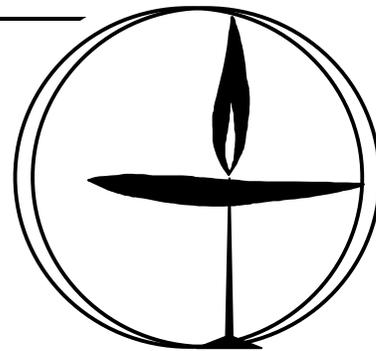
UU News

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

www.uuso.org uuso@uuso.org

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer



September 9, 2015

Minister: Rev. Craig Schwalenberg—432-3491 or 287-7906
revcraig@uuso.org

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Horne—432-7323

UUSO Church Building—433-7329

Director of Religious Education:

Susan Ryder—643-1927—dre@uuso.org

Editor & Office Administrator: Robin Ahearn—432-3491
uuso@uuso.org

A Reminder to Members...

Please be sure to put October 4 on your calendar to attend the October Congregational Meeting, at noon, in the Sanctuary. Also watch for the mailing, which will be sent out two weeks before the meeting and will include the agenda, budget, and any other materials you will need to see prior to this meeting. I hope to see you there.

—April Gates, UUSO Moderator

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY AT UUSO

Sign-ups for the 2015-16 SGM Program are in progress! Participants in this program meet twice a month in groups of about 10 to practice active listening. Groups discuss a wide range of subjects and participate together in service projects. It is a great way to get to know people in our congregation in a really deep and meaningful way.

For details and a sign-up sheet see Mary Krupp after a service or email dollover124@hotmail.com. Sign-ups end on September 19 and groups start in October.

—Mary Krupp

WELCOME POTLUCK—SEPTEMBER 13!

The Membership Committee invites everyone to the annual Welcome Potluck, which will be held immediately after the Ingathering service Sunday, September 13, in the sanctuary. Bring a dish to pass and your sense of fellowship as we celebrate the start of our new church year!

—Elayne Mosher Campoli

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Welcome to the New Year!

This Sunday, we mark the start of the new church year with our annual Ingathering/Water Service. Everyone is invited to bring a bit of water with some spiritual or personal significance for our communal bowl. We'll gather our waters together—symbolizing our coming together, working together, and building a better world, together.

It has all the makings of an amazing year for us at UUSO!

Our Committee on Ministry has been working, since early this year, on moving towards being a more overarching committee with the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the congregation's many ministries. While it may take some time to put this new model in place, the members of the committee are excited about the possibilities and are dedicated to making it happen to better help the congregation live its mission. Their focus on our shared ministry is one of the primary reasons we have a visitor from our UUA district staff this ingathering weekend.

Regional Staff Visit

The Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, our UUA Regional Leadership Development Consultant, will be visiting UUSO this weekend. On Friday night (9/11), at 6:30 pm, Rev. Renee will be facilitating a conversation about planned giving and our endowment at UUSO. Planned giving is one of the ways congregations work to ensure their financial future. Our Endowment Committee and our Finance Committee are both interested in how we might improve or add to our current Endowment Fund to better serve the future needs of our congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting in our sanctuary.

On Saturday, Rev. Renee will be facilitating the first annual Leadership Retreat at UUSO. The Board of Trustees, the staff, all the committee chairs, and other lay leaders have been asked to attend this retreat. Rev. Renee is going to help us be better leaders, improve our communication and cooperation, and give us the tools we need to be intentional and focused in our shared ministries at UUSO.

On Sunday, Rev. Renee will be meeting with the Board of Trustees to discuss their goals and focus for the coming year.

NYSCU Meeting at UUSO

In October, UUSO will be hosting the annual meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists. Several of our members are active leaders in NYSCU and this congregation has benefitted from several loans provided by NYSCU. Every year, they hold their annual meeting at a UU congregation in NY. This year, we are honored to be that host congregation. The keynote speaker at the meeting (and a guest in our pulpit that Sunday) will be the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed. Based on my past experiences with Rev. Mark, that will be a weekend not to be missed at UUSO.

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New Faces, New Commitments, New Opportunities

We start the new church year with three new Worship Associates. Cathi Wiltsey, Charles King, and Keith Willcox have all accepted my invitation to be Worship Associates in the coming year. Please thank them for their service when you see them and give them your enthusiastic cooperation when they are in the pulpit on Sunday mornings. I'm sure they will do a great job. Much gratitude to our past Worship Associates for all the work they did and for blazing this trail and setting such a high bar for our worship experience.

This summer, our Social Action Committee, with the help of Board President Karen Palmer, crafted a covenant for their committee. Their covenant sets forth the purpose of their committee, how they wish to be with one another, and how they wish to do their shared ministry together. It is a living document, created by the good will and good intentions of everyone on that committee. This creation of a covenant, I believe, marks a new chapter in the work of our Social Action Committee. They are to be congratulated for their leadership and their willingness to do this important work. I'm excited to see where they go next—and what opportunities for transformation they bring to the congregation in the coming year.

Our Small Group Ministry is also kicking off in the coming weeks, with sign-ups already starting. Small Group Ministry is one of the best ways to connect to people in the congregation while still exploring and expanding our spiritual understanding and commitments. We have new Small Group Ministry facilitators this year and even more groups available to join. If you haven't tried Small Group Ministry, I urge you consider it this year. I believe you will be profoundly surprised by what you get out of it—and what you have to contribute to your fellow travelers.

An Exciting Time!

There is a sense of movement and growth in the air at UUSO. Ideas are becoming Actions. Plans are becoming Realities. We have new leaders in many positions, all committed to making our congregation be as welcoming, as caring, and as transforming as it can possibly be. I, and the rest of the staff, are ready to support these shared ministries in any way we can. We are all in this together—and it looks like we are in for a great year.

—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

Save the Date - WINE TASTING – Saturday, October 17!!!

Mark your calendars... The UUSO Wine Tasting Evening will be held this year on Saturday, November 17, from 7 to 9 pm!

We're looking for people to help out at this fundraiser for the church. We need people to cook appetizers or desserts and we need people to work in the kitchen or as wine stewards pouring wine that night. If you cook in advance, we'll reimburse you for the cost of the ingredients. If you work the evening of the tasting, we'll sell you a half price ticket and will give you plenty of time off to taste all the wines and foods. Please contact Kathy Paranya at 441-3206 or kparanya@stny.rr.com if you can help with any of these things.—Kathy Paranya

Sawdust from the Board

Guess what... On August 20, 2015, the last of our many beautiful inspiring stained glass windows in Chapin Memorial was restored! This took many years, many generous contributions by members and friends through the end-of-the-year appeals organized by Margaret Maguire, the excellent oversight of Rich Stelling as "Clerk of the Works," and the outstanding craftsmanship of Gene Mallard. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate all who participated in this impressive accomplishment to preserve these historical treasures. [*Look for more about our stained glass windows and our plans to commemorate the completion of their restoration in the next newsletter.* —Rev. Craig]

There will be other significant projects that the members and friends of UUSO will want to accomplish and some will require a significant amount of financial support. There are those among us who feel the Mission of UUSO is the cause for which they want to offer a legacy gift that will live on beyond their lifetimes. To accept larger financial gifts responsibly, we need to have the proper structures and procedures in place to assure that what is given will be managed and used as the giver expects. On Friday, September 11, beginning 6:30 pm at Chapin Memorial, our Regional Leadership Consultant Renee Ruchotske will be facilitating a session on "Planned Giving" to help us with this.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns and suggestions and two board members will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service the Sunday before the board meeting. —Karen Palmer, President, UUSO Board of Trustees, 267-4793, kpalmer14@hughes.net

UUSO ENDOWMENT GRANTS: FIRST CALL

Quick... Find the BLUE colored UUSO Endowment Grant application form in either the foyer of the Chapin Memorial building or at the office at Olympia Brown House. Or, if you prefer, you can email Robin at UUSO@UUSO.org or Grace at Chewsie6@gmail.com and ask for an email copy of the application. They must be completed and returned to the Endowment Committee at 16 Ford Avenue by October 12, 2015.

The Endowment Fund has \$4,000 available to provide grants to individuals, organizations, and to UUSO. Historically, individual grants have been able to provide up to \$800. If this amount of support could make a difference to a project or organization, we encourage you to apply.

Grants for the following purposes are considered:

1. Activities or programs that enhance the Society's operation or the wider Unitarian Universalist mission, but which are not included in the Society's annual operating budget. Past examples of such grants have included support for our music program, camperships for youth in the Society, the hearing assist loop and the bicycle rack.
2. Activities or programs that enhance the community at large. These might include providing funds for social or health projects within our community, for programs that beautify the community, for organizers of community events or to promote environmental issues.

Return completed applications to the Endowment Committee of the UUSO, 16 Ford Avenue, Oneonta, NY 13820.

Please email Grace Smith at chewsie6@gmail.com or call 432-3491 if you have any questions about the application process.

—Grace Smith, Chair of the Endowment Committee

NEW ON-LINE DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Have you ever been away from home and wished you could look up the phone number for a member of our UUSO congregation? Have you ever been at your computer and wanted to quickly find the email address of someone in the society but your printed Directory wasn't nearby? Have you ever been out in your car and wanted to drop by the house of one of our UUSO friends, but you didn't have their address?

Well, now with the new on-line Directory of Members and Friends of the UUSO, you can do all these things. The on-line directory works with a computer, an iPad, or a smart phone. You'll find the on-line directory on our website, UUSO.org, at the top of the drop-down "Members" menu. You'll need a username and password to access any of the records, and you can request a username and password by clicking on the link provided in the Online Directory web page.

Once you've been given a username and password, all you need to do to access records is click on the blue bar at the bottom of the Online Directory web page. You can look a person up by either first name or by last name. It actually works best to specify only one of these – say only "Kathy" and you'll see all the Kathy's in the UUSO or "Paranya" and you'll see all the Paranya's in the Society. For some reason you won't see any records if you specify both first and last name, i.e., "Kathy Paranya" doesn't bring up anyone.

We've loaded all people in the printed directory who are over 18 years of age. If any of you prefer not to be listed in the on-line directory, please contact Robin at UUSO@UUSO.org, and she will remove your record.

Please contact Kathy Paranya at kparanya@stny.rr.com with any questions about the on-line directory or with any problems. —Kathy Paranya for the Web Committee

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Jennie Buffington and Children

Change of contact info: 8 Hubbell Avenue, Oneonta, NY 13820
437-1686(c); 441-3436(h)

FROM THE MALI TASK FORCE:

One of our generous congregants has stepped up and made the commitment to sponsor the little third grader who lost her sponsor. Thank you!

And if you are still interested in becoming a sponsor yourself, please let me know! We always experience some "slippage" of sponsors no longer able to continue with their sponsorship as the deadline for tuition payment draws nearer... and right now I have no back-ups in place. So if you are interested or just curious about this program, or even about joining the Mali Task Force, please let me know. We welcome new members! One of the highlights of my life has been my involvement with this dedicated and delightful group as we strive to make life changing differences to someone's (actually many someones!) life. And I continue to feel such gratitude that I am part of this caring and supportive community. —Shirley Ferguson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minecraft Adventure RE Kick-Off Event

Sunday, September 20, meet at Olympia Brown House, 16 Ford Avenue, at 10:30!

After gathering at OBH, we will move to the Carriage House across the street which has many Minecraft as well as other creative opportunities. We'll explore ideas of what a church community is and needs through building whatever we could possibly dream up.

Besides Minecraft there will be opportunities to build with other materials as well as a buildable snack! All ages from kindergarten through twelfth grade are needed as are all skill levels and abilities. We can only make a church community if we do it together!

Religious Education Registration Begins!

See our table at coffee hours on three Sundays: September 13, 20, and 27.

Register your RE Participant (we do this every year - even if you already did it last year.

Meet some RE teachers, view the curricula and ask us questions.

Please register as it saves me tracking you down later.

Although I wrote about these classes in the last newsletter, I'll take this opportunity now to tell you about them in more depth. Here is a bit more about what the classes will be doing this year on Sunday Mornings:

Explorers (K-3rd Grade): The "UU Spirit of Adventure" curriculum is going to be used by the Explorers class. Expect lots of action!

I'd like to add different kinds of learning, the learning from physical movement and the learning from challenge and adventure... I challenged myself to write a curriculum that teaches UU identity without the usual arts and crafts projects. I've included activities like dissecting a computer, building cantilevered architecture using graham crackers... (practicing) circus arts... Bring those active busy children in and watch them be amazed!

From the Introduction to "Spirit of Adventure" by Kate Tweedie Erslev

The class will be learning about such UU's as Tim Berners-Lee who invented the World Wide Web in 1989 (this led to our Minecraft kick-off idea), and the inventor of Jell-O, Peter Cooper, who also happened to build the first American steam-powered locomotive, the Tom Thumb. We will be looking at the various ways these famous UU's experienced their faith. Tim Berners-Lee, for instance, always insisted that the web "is for everyone" and refused to make a financial profit from his discovery. This is interesting as net neutrality is once again becoming an issue for our

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government. The class will be able to discuss issues such as this, as well as participate in social justice projects that correspond with their other weekly lessons.

Seekers: (Mainly 4th-6th Grade): The class will work with "Popcorn Theology I" this year. It is written by Michelle Richards, who also writes *UU World Magazine's* UU Parenting blog www.uuworld.org/hashtag/parentingblog, and [Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting](#). Her work provides me with my favorite resources and inspirations for activities to use in RE that children and youth really love. I personally think it is genius to have children watch parts of great movies that naturally lead to exploring important themes together. Both [Popcorn Theology I](#) and [II](#) are popular with classes. Each offers different movies and themes so this year's class will cover very different material than the [Popcorn II](#) class that some children remember from two years ago. This year's themes will be: *The Choices We Make; The Search for Truth; Working for a Peaceful, Fair World; and Acceptance of One Another... and Ourselves*. I highly recommend checking out her blog as well as her wonderful book.

OWL, Our Whole Lives, (7-8th Grade): By the time this newsletter goes to print we will have had our orientation for parents/guardians of seventh and eighth graders who are interested in participating in OWL (Our Whole Lives) this year. I have been familiar with OWL now for some years and am officially trained to teach OWL as are some other Youth Advisors at our church. Yet in preparing to offer this year's classes, I find myself even more amazed at how exceptional it is and that a program this excellent is available for free to our area's teens. I wish I had spent all last year promoting it to our community. This year we are opening the class to non-UU seventh and eighth graders as a social justice service to the larger community. To that end, we will plan another parent/guardian orientation should you or anyone you know still want your child to be a part of this class. Please let me know, as we will close enrollment soon. I truly believe this curriculum offers information and perspectives not available elsewhere to our youth. It was invaluable to my own son. It provides teens with the essential tools they will need to have healthy relationships, understand themselves and others, and to navigate in our changing world. It has the potential to save lives. It is very common for parents to have push-back from their teen about signing up for OWL. What parents may not know is that almost all resistant teens appreciate and enjoy this important class in just a few short weeks."

ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FRIENDS OF 7th AND 8th GRADERS:

Consider OWL (Our Whole Lives) for the teen in your life. I believe it is one of the most important classes your teen will ever take. Contact Susan Ryder at sryder@stny.rr.com if you have any questions. We must close enrollment soon.

YRUU (9-12th Grade—Young Religious Unitarian Universalists): I will write more about this group in the next newsletter. Please contact me if you need any information sooner.

I am looking forward to our Religious Education Year ahead!

—Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education

**Two Very Different and Wonderful OWLs:
Our Whole Lives and *Oneonta World of Learning***

Please note that our Unitarian Universalist OWL (*Our Whole Lives*) program is completely separate from another local OWL (*Oneonta World of Learning*). UU's have provided lifespan sexuality programs as part of religious education for over 40 years. The latest version of this endeavor, *Our Whole Lives*, has been used for over 11 years to provide human sexuality, relationship, and self-care education for faith communities as well as by public, charter, and private schools: after-school programs; youth groups; home-schoolers; colleges; correctional facilities; and groups in other settings. The *Our Whole Lives* curriculum in itself contains no religious references or doctrine.

The *Oneonta World of Learning* is a locally based coalition of volunteer parents, artists, educators and other professionals who work to create a local children's museum that provides an interactive and engaging environment for younger children to learn through play and exploration. The *Oneonta World of Learning* is not a program focused on human sexuality.

Both OWLs offer very important services to our community!

SEPTEMBER DINING FOR WOMEN

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, September 13, at 6 pm in the UU sanctuary. Each month the group learns about and supports organizations that help women and girls in developing countries improve their lives.

The featured program this month is Community-based Maternal Mental Health program in northern Uganda. A project of the Peter C. Alderman Foundation, it works with pregnant victims of war trauma who are suffering from depression, anxiety and PTSD, conditions that produce enormous suffering, poor outcomes for babies, and keep women from becoming productive members of society. This month, Dining for Women will also provide ongoing support for One Heart World-Wide, which works to improve the lives of women and newborns in rural Nepal.

All are welcome to come to the monthly meetings. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. For more information, call Linda at 433-2985. —Linda Wilcox

CONCERT!

Composer, performer, and educator Robert Nasta (a.k.a. Chester "Big Boy" Coda) will be performing a solo concert of his music at the UUSO on Saturday, September 12, starting at 7 pm. The concert is a benefit for the nonprofit organization Artists for World Peace of which Nasta is the musical director. There is a \$10 suggested donation.

Dr. Nasta graduated from SUCO with a BA in music, and he taught at the college from 1988 to 1995. A multi-instrumentalist, he composes and performs in a wide variety of musical settings. His music has been featured on radio broadcasts, in dance performances, and he has performed his compositions as soloist at numerous venues. His music for Chester "Big Boy" Coda is best described as songs in a blues-based style. For more information about Robert visit Robertnasta.com. To learn more about the work of Artists for World Peace visit, visit Artistsforworldpeace.org.

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**CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER**

Sep 9	Wed	6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
Sep 10	Thu	5:30 PM/NAACP/OBH Living Rm
		7-9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Sep 11	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10-11:30 AM/Jung & Yoga/CM
		6-6:30 PM/Building Use/CM
		6:30-8 PM/"Conversation About Planned Giving"/Rev. Renee Ruchotzke/CM
		8:00 PM - 8:30 PM/Building Use/CM
Sep 12	Sat	9 AM-3 PM/Leadership Retreat/CM
		7:00 PM/Building Use/Concert/CM
Sep 13	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: Ingathering and Water Communion/"Many Currents, One Stream"/Rev Craig/CM
		12 PM/Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		12/Religious Ed Registration/CM
		12:00 PM/Welcoming Potluck/CM
		1-4/Bldg Use/BOT/OBH Living Rm
		2-4/Building Use/CM
		5:30 PM - 6:00 PM/Building Use/CM
6-8:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM		
Sep 14	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10:00 AM/Office Cmte/OBH
		6:30 PM/RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Sep 16	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		4:00 PM/Web Cmte/OBH
		6:30-8:30 PM/Board of Trustees/CM
Sep 17	Thu	7- 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Sep 18	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10- 11:30 AM/Jung & Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM/Pizza & Games/CM
Sep 20	Sun	9- 10:30 AM/Building Use/OBH
		10:30/Service: "Days of Awe"/Pam Strother & UUSO Members/CM
		10:30 AM/RE Kick-off/OBH
		12 PM/Religious Ed Registration/CM

		12-1:00 PM/Building Use/OBH
		12-2/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm
Sep 21	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
		7/Endowment Cmte/OBH Living Rm
Sep 22	Tue	6:30- 9:30 PM/Stop the Pipeline/CM
Sep 23	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Sep 24	Thu	7- 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Sep 25	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10- 11:30 AM/Jung & Yoga/CM
Sep 26	Sat	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM/Youth Art Class/Carriage House Art Studio
Sep 27	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Coping with Conflict"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12 PM/Religious Ed Registration/CM
Sep 28	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Sep 30	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM

OCTOBER

Oct 1	Thu	6/Sm Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		7/Membership Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		7- 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Oct 2	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Oct 4	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Our Power, Our Promise"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12/CONGREGATIONAL MTG/CM
Oct 5	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline
		6:30 PM/RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Oct 6	Tue	1PM/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		6 PM/Social Action Cmte/67 Church St
		6PM/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		7:00 PM/Web Cmte/OBH Dining Rm

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

Rev. Craig's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10-2

Office Administrator's Hours:

MW&F, 9-2; Tues & Thurs, 11:30-2



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

September 13, 2015

"Many Currents, One Stream"

**Ingathering and Water Communion*

There are many currents and eddies in
the waters of life; Pulling and pushing
us in different directions;
Ultimately, it is all one stream—
and we're all one people.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
the UUSO Choir and
Music Director Tim Horne**

*You're invited to bring a small bit of water
from somewhere spiritually significant to you
to share in the Water Communion.

Ushers: John Rafter & Volunteers!

Coffee Hosts: Jane Bachman &

Bob Brzozowski

Worship Associate: Charles King

(Please submit announcements to

Charles via email by 9/11.)

September 20, 2015

"Days of Awe"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

As we honor our Jewish heritage, we
are asked to live and plan our lives
more deliberately, to ask forgiveness,
to remember the dead, and to
rededicate ourselves to our vision of
the good and the true.

These are the Days of Awe.

**Pam Strother &
UUSO Members**

**Music provided by
Music Director Tim Horne**

Ushers: Debbie Misner & Tom O'Brien

Coffee Hosts: Ben & Diana Friedell

Acting Worship Associate: Pam Strother

(Please submit announcements to

Pam via email by 9/18.)