

UU News

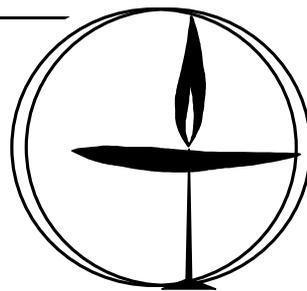
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

December 16, 2015



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

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Home—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

SIGN UP FOR YOUR PHOTO SITTING FOR THE PICTURE DIRECTORY!

As you likely know, we're working with Lifetouch Studios to produce a Picture Directory of our church family this year. We want as many members and friends as possible to be included in it.

If you haven't yet scheduled your photo sitting, please do it as soon as you can. The portrait times are rapidly filling up, so to get your first choice of date and time to be photographed, sign up now. The Lifetouch photographer will be here on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 27	2 to 9 pm
Thursday, January 28	2 to 9 pm
Friday, January 29	2 to 9 pm
Saturday, January 30	9 am to 4 pm

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BLACK LIVES MATTER DISCUSSIONS

Please join the Black Lives Matter Task Force at its continuing series of conversations regarding racial equity in the United States. Coming up:

- Sunday, December 20, Patricia Engel LaFata will facilitate a discussion on Color Blindness, in the Chapin Memorial Loft.
- Sunday, December 27, Karen Palmer will facilitate a discussion on our UU associations and their relations to the Black Lives Matter Movement, in the Olympia Brown House Living Room.

Join us for scintillating conversations and perhaps new ways to think about old persistent problems. We will meet at noon and be finished between 12:30 and 1:00 pm. Childcare will be provided.
—Patricia Engel LaFata

FROM THE OFFICE...

The UUSO Office will be closed for the holidays 12/24-1/3. Email, voice mail, and postal mail will be checked regularly. January 4 is the deadline for the first newsletter of 2016!
—Robin Ahearn

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Stories of the Season

This past Sunday, I was pleased to present the annual Stories of the Season service (followed by a very enthusiastic, energetic Holiday Workshop). This service is one of my favorites of the year as I am able to focus on one of my great joys, telling stories. It also gives me an excuse to look at other faith traditions and read through their myths and tales and cherished stories. This year, I very specifically chose a tale from the Islamic tradition and from the Jewish tradition. With all of the negative rhetoric in the public discourse these past months, I thought it a good idea to remind everyone that our Muslim brothers and sisters are celebrating their faith this time of year as well. I will also confess that as I did the voice for the Selfish Giant, I was holding in my thoughts a particular public voice that also seemed to be suggesting that building walls around our “garden” would be a good idea. (I often hold an image of someone in my head when doing voices while telling a story or when reading someone else's words—it is a trick I was taught to help distinguish different voices for the listener.) I want to thank everyone who attended the service and all those who provided such positive feedback. This service is one of the keystones to my holiday celebrations every year.

Christmas Eve Services

We will once again, this year, be having two services on Christmas Eve. The 6:30 pm service will be more family oriented. This year, the service will be inspired by the Central American tradition of The Posadas—or the Inns. This traditional Advent celebration usually involves whole neighborhoods over an entire week leading up to Christmas. However, many clergy have adopted it for use in worship services. Considering current events, I thought a focus on weary travelers and the spiritual practice of hospitality might be exactly what we all need this Christmas season. There will be movement and music and lots of singing, and I think it will be fun for all ages. The 10:00 pm service will be more meditative and traditional, but will still focus on the same themes. Whichever service you choose to attend, I hope you find our worship meaningful and spiritually rewarding.

Seasonal Blessing

This holiday season, Cheryl and I wish everyone in the UUSO family an abundance of love, joy, laughter, and good cheer. If you are traveling, we wish you a safe and speedy journey and a quick return home. If you have guests traveling to you, may they find their way to your door safely and be blessed by your hospitality. Whichever holidays you celebrate, we hope you find time in-between the hustle and bustle, the events and excitement, to pause and find the meaning of the moment. Feel the love in the air, the mystery surrounding us all, and the hope we all share—for a world at peace.

—Blessed Be, Rev. Craig (and Cheryl, too.)

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Be sure to check out the 2016 Winter Worship Schedule included in this week's newsletter—lots of interesting services ahead! —Robin Ahearn

A NEW AND IMPROVED U-USE-IT FOR 2016!

This year's new and improved UU-Use-It section of the 2016 Directory will include not only text but an actual **copy** of your business card! If you'd like to have your business card featured, please contact Anne Ray at 432-8575 by January 6. The cost is \$25 per card. It's a great way to spread the word about your business to all your UUSO friends! —Robin Ahearn

COOKIES AND CRAFTS UPDAE!

The Cookies and Crafts Committee would like to thank each person that helped us make this event what it is. The cookie/treat quality was higher than ever. You people ROCK! Then there were the peeps who were in the trenches arranging cookies, cashing customers out, serving food, cleaning and organizing the kitchen, greeting our customers, selling raffle tix, selling cookies, and wrapping purchases. And then there's the strong and able who helped us set up and tear down....thanks to the max!

As you've probably already heard or read, the UU made \$3300 from this event. Awesome!

This committee is made up of smart, creative, lovely people. If you would like to join us, please let us know! —Liz Jacob-Carter for the C and C Committee

JANUARY CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Delaware Otsego Audubon Society Golden Eagle Project

DOAS has joined the University of West Virginia in a research project to study the migration and wintering patterns of Golden Eagles. Golden Eagles are found throughout the northern hemisphere but there is only a small population that lives and breeds in the Northeast; virtually all of them migrate through New York and a few winter here.

DOAS has two eagles with satellite tracking devices and plans to outfit four more this winter. Since the eagles live and migrate along the ridges, the information gathered will be used to guide the safe development of wind power in our area. —Julia Gregory

HOLIDAY CONCERT

The 42nd Annual Community Christmas Carol will be held on Sunday, December 20, at 3 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. The concert will feature the handbell choirs of First United Methodist Church and Brass Ensemble under the direction of John Jurgensen; the Pathfinder Village Ringers under the direction of Paula Schaeffer; and vocal soloists and carols sung by the community. The admission is free and there are no tickets required. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information call 432-4102.

—Submitted by Virginia Wilson, Secretary, First United Methodist Church

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

All are invited to a UUSO *Las Posadas*-Inspired Celebration for All Ages:
The Annual Christmas Eve Family Service, December 24, at 6:30 pm



*En nombre del cielo
os pido posada,
pues no puede andar
ya mi esposa amada.*

Pray give us lodging, dear sir, in the name of heav'n.
All day since morning to travel we've giv'n.
Mary, my wife, is expecting a child.
She must have shelter tonight. Let us in. Let us in!

—Hugo Olaiz

Las Posadas is a traditional Hispanic celebration from Mexico, parts of Central America, and parts of South America. It is increasingly being adapted and celebrated in Anglo, Hispanic, and Latino parts of the United States as well as other parts of the world. *Las Posadas* means “lodging” in Spanish. This ceremony/celebration is a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph looking for a place to shelter for the night when they are about to have their new baby Jesus. It is a festival that allows us to experience yearning for sanctuary. We will experience how it feels to finally find welcome. We also have the opportunity to experience what feels like to provide welcome to others. It is an active celebration full of hope, love and joy. It is a timely message for us all.

In preparation for our USSO Family *Las Posadas*-inspired service, it might be a good time to remind children of our Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. These are the base of all that we do together in Religious Education. These principles lead us to social justice actions and to creating a world that offers sanctuary to those in need. These also inspire the lovely, joyful, and fun intergenerational service we will have together on Christmas Eve.

This is the way the UU Tapestry of Faith children's programs and curricula describe the Seven UU Principles:

1st Principle: We believe that each and every person is important.

2nd Principle: We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

3rd Principle: We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

4th Principle: We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

5th Principle: We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.

6th Principle: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.

7th Principle: We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

I am excited for us all to have this time together—to welcome the hope of new life and to celebrate the joy of opening our hearts to those who need sanctuary. We plan to adapt our service to be similar to the no-rehearsal nativity pageants that some of us have celebrated together at UUSO in other years. There will be parts for all who wish. Please join us!

The UUSO Annual Meditative Service will also be offered at 10 pm.

—*Feliz Navidad!* Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education

ANNUAL FRIENDS OF CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Annual Friends of Christmas Dinner will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, on Christmas Day from 12:30-2:30 pm, and is sponsored by St. Mary's and Saturday's Bread.

The UUSO is invited to participate in four ways:

First, encourage lonely or needy individuals and families to attend the dinner. If someone needs a ride to the dinner, please call Nancy Fodero at 435-7188 or Ann Steen at 432-1283.

Second, seek out the homebound and make arrangements to have a meal delivered by calling Nancy Fodero at 435-7188 or Ann Steen at 432-1283 on or before December 23.

Third, volunteer time (set up, cook, serve, deliver meals, clean-up, etc) by calling Kelly Ahlqvist at 432-1871 on or before December 23.

Fourth, to do donate specific foods and/or to make Christmas cookies, pies or breads, call Kelly Ahlqvist at 432-1871 before December 23. Items should be brought to the First United Methodist Church Wednesday, December 24, between 9-4.

For more information, call Ann Steen at 432-1283. —Rev. David Mickiewicz, St. Mary's Church

SIGN UP FOR YOUR PHOTO SITTING FOR THE PICTURE DIRECTORY!

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You can sign up online by going to our web page at www.UUSO.org and clicking in the link in the “Upcoming Events” area of the home page. You can also sign up during coffee hours in December and January.

If you are unable to come to the church during the dates and times the photographer will be here, you can submit a photo of your family to be included in the picture directory. (Please contact Kathy Paranya if the photo you want to use has been taken by a professional photographer.) Rev. Craig will also be happy to come to your house and take your picture, so please contact him to schedule a visit at revcraig@uuso.org or 287-7906.

Each family photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 photograph as well as a copy of the new picture directory as soon as it is published. Lifetouch will also donate \$5 to the UUSO for each family that is photographed. There is no requirement to purchase any of the portraits that are taken by Lifetouch, but if you do want to buy some, there are a number of packages available. Senior Citizens, Active Military, and First Responders (fire, ambulance, etc.) can receive a 20% discount on any photo packages they purchase.

Sign up NOW to have your portrait taken!

—Kathy Paranya for the Picture Directory

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you Love, Hope and Peace...

From the UUSO Staff:

Rev. Craig

Susan Ryder

Tim Horne

Michael Frye-Hunt

Lynn Beken

Beth Rafter

David Ray

Robin Ahearn



CALENDAR DECEMBER

Dec 17	Thu	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM/Jung and Yoga/CM
		4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		4/Pastoral Care Team/OBH Living Rm
Dec 18	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Dec 19	Sat	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
Dec 20	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Magic, Mystery, Myth, and Meaning"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12 PM/Black Lives Matter Discussion Patricia Engel LaFata/CM Loft
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm
Dec 21	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Dec 22	Tue	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM/Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		6:30 - 9:30 PM/Stop the Pipeline/CM
Dec 23	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Dec 24	Thu	6:30 PM/Christmas Eve Family Service/Rev. Craig/CM
		10:00 PM/Christmas Eve Meditative Service/Rev. Craig/CM
Dec 26	Sat	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
Dec 27	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Best of Intentions"/Adrienne Martini/CM
		12 PM Black Lives Matter Discussion Karen Palmer/OBH Living Rm
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
Dec 28	Mon	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM

Jan 2	Sat	9 - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		6:00 PM/Building Use(tentative)/CM
Jan 3	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "No Pillars of Sale!"/Rev. Judy Thistle/CM
		12 PM/Black Lives Matter Film/CM
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
Jan 4	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Jan 5	Tue	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		4 PM/Web Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm
		6 PM/Social Action Cmte/67 Church St
Jan 6	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Jan 7	Thu	4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Building Use/C&C/OBH Dining Rm
		7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Membership Cmte/OBH Living Rm
Jan 8	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM 5:30 PM/Pizza & Games/CM
Jan 9	Sat	9 - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
Jan 10	Sun	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		1:30 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/CM
		2 - 4:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM/Building Use/CM
Jan 11	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM/RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Jan 12	Tue	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Jan 13	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

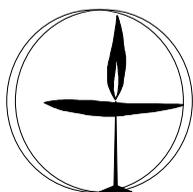
Rev. Craig's Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs, 10-2

Office Administrator's Hours:

Mon, Wed & Fri, 9-2; Tues & Thurs, 11:30-2

JANUARY 2016

Jan 1	Fri	6:00 PM/Building Use(tentative)/CM
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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

December 20, 2015

"Magic, Mystery, Myth, and Meaning"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

Where do magic, mystery, and myth fit in our modern world of science, rationality, and reason? Surely, we have left such things behind by now. Haven't we?
I hope not.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
Music Director Tim Horne**

Ushers: Martha and Paul Robinson

Coffee Hosts: Kathy and Spike Paranya

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

(Please submit announcements to

Cathi via email by 12/18.)

Christmas Eve Services:

Family Service 6:30 pm

Meditative Service 10 pm

December 27, 2015

"Best of Intentions"

Stay Together Sunday/No Religious Ed

As a great sage, Adam Savage, is wont to say, "Failure is always an option." Let's start the new year with the best of intentions.

Adrienne Martini

**Music provided by
Kathy Shimberg & Friends**

*Ushers: **Volunteers Needed!***

Coffee Hosts: Mary Krupp and Pam Strother

Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini

*(Please submit announcements to
Adrienne via email by 12/24.)*

January 3, 2016

"No Pillars of Salt!"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

In the biblical story, Lot's wife is warned to keep her gaze on the path ahead; looking back, she is turned into a pillar of salt. We have no such restriction. Looking back at the past year may be just what we need for the year ahead.

Rev. Judy Thistle

**Music provided by
Music Director Tim Horne**

Ushers: Kevin Schultz &

Alexandra Tolin Schultz!

Coffee Hosts: Mary Ambrose & Alex Riba

Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

*(Please submit announcements to
Keith via email by 1/1.)*