

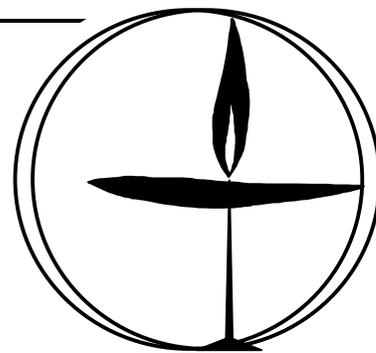
# UU News

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 17, 2014

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

Board President: April Gates—988-6517

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## BICENTENNIAL OF REV. CHAPIN'S BIRTH

You may have heard the same stories I have about Edwin Chapin's visit to Oneonta—the famed minister having to enter through a window the crowd was so large and it being no easy chore since he was not a small man, so I figured there would be a big article—it must have been big news, right? But there was nothing on the front page. Hmm. On page 4 of the January 31, 1879, *Oneonta Herald and Democrat*, appeared an article entitled "The New Church." It's four paragraphs long, and the only mention of Chapin reads, "Rev. Dr. Chapin preached yesterday afternoon and not half the people who desired to hear him could do so." Over the three-day celebration, the "attendance of laymen from the villages and neighboring towns, has been quite large." The article closes, "Other denominations have shown the Universalists perfect courtesy, and as there is always room for one more, we have no doubt the pleasant relations among churches in Oneonta will hereafter be added to by our friends of 'liberal belief.'" Oh, and the front page story that week? "The Pit and the Pendulum" by E.A. Poe. In its entirety

*PS: Contrary to the information in the December 3 newsletter article, Rev. Chapin was born in Union Village, now Greenwich, in Washington County.*

—Deb Bruce

*The creed of a true saint is to make the best of life, and to make the most of it.*

—Rev. E.H. Chapin

## FROM THE OFFICE...

- **The UUSO Office will be closed for the holidays 12/24-1/4.** Email, voice mail, and postal mail will be checked regularly. New "regular" hours will begin Monday, 1/5: M/W/F, 9-2; T/Th, 9-12. January 5 is also the deadline for the first newsletter of 2015!
- A draft of the **2015 Directory** will be posted in the rear of the sanctuary this coming Sunday, 12/21. Please check your listing and make any changes or corrections necessary.

—Robin Ahearn

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Returning...

I have returned from my sabbatical. I arrived back in Oneonta, late Thursday night (12/4) and started transitioning back to being your full-time minister the next day. That following Sunday was my first time back in the pulpit and it was gratifying to have so many people in attendance. I appreciated the many warm welcomes and the positive feedback on my reflections on what I learned during my time away. The potluck after the service was also a wonderful event—it was good to break bread with all of you.

I have returned to my normal office hours (Tues, 10-4; Wed, 12-4; Thurs, 10-4). I have a lot of catching up to do—so I expect there will be lots of meetings and pastoral visits in my very near future. If you have something you'd like to talk to me about, please drop me a line and let me know. I'll be making visits and phone calls as often as I can over the next few weeks.

It was a wonderful opportunity, these past four months. While I didn't accomplish all I set out to do, I believe I got what I truly needed. I have a better understanding of what feeds my spirit and what ministry I am most called to do. Most important, I come back to you all with the knowledge of how much I truly love being your minister and how much this community and all of you truly mean to me. Thank you for giving me this gift. Thank you for welcoming me home.

### Season's Blessings

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas (and all the season's holidays, for that matter)... at our house, and at UUSO.

At home, Cheryl has been busy decorating while I was away. This is our first true Christmas in our new house and we are both looking forward to decking the halls and trimming the tree. We even have a fireplace with a chimney this year, a detail not lost on my inner child.

At UUSO, the Cookies and Crafts event was a smashing success, drawing many from the community into our festively festooned sanctuary. The wreathes are on the front doors of Chapin Memorial. The giving tree for Family Services is up in the back of the sanctuary (and cleared of tags, too!). And, thanks to one of our Chalice Groups (small group ministry), the Christmas tree was up and decorated in time for our annual Holiday Workshop and Seasonal Stories service. We will once again have two services this Christmas Eve, an earlier family-friendly service at 6:30 pm and a later meditative service at 10:00 pm.

However you celebrate this holiday season, whether you are here with us or visiting friends and family, I hope the spirit of the season fills you and surrounds you. For under all the trappings of the holidays—the decorations, the television specials, the gifts, the traditional meals—under it all, this season is a celebration of Love, Hope, and Peace. The blessings we have and the miracle of what may yet come to be...

With Love during these Holy Days,  
—Rev. Craig & Cheryl

*Among Ourselves...*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Terry Davidson on the death of her husband and long-time UUSO Friend **Loren Davidson** who passed away last Thursday, December 11.

UUSO Member **Molly Swain** is currently in rehab at the AO Fox Nursing Home, One Norton Avenue, Oneonta. Cards welcome. Our best to Molly during her recovery.

UUSO Member **Howson "Hap" Hartley** is currently in rehab at the Chestnut Park Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, 330 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Cards welcome. Our best to Hap, as well, during his recovery.

*Sawdust from the Board*

Chapin Memorial Sanctuary was a busy place following this Sunday's Service, with our traditional holiday craft tables filled with busy people, flowing into the social hour, the Muffins (and beautiful creations) for Mali, our beautifully decorated Christmas tree, the gift tree for Family Services, and probably a few other activities as well. Some of you found time to check in with the Sounding Board, staffed by Board Vice President John Bagby, located for this very busy Sunday at the front of the Sanctuary near the choir loft. John will bring your concerns, likes and wishes, to the regular Board of Trustees meeting this Wednesday, December 17. We meet at 6:30 pm in the Chapin Loft and, as always, welcome members to observe. —April Gates, President for the Board of Trustees

**SERVICE ATTENDANCE:**

9/28	61	11/9	95
10/5	70	11/16	93
10/12	90	11/23	107
10/19	63	11/30	75
10/26	105	12/7	113
11/2	83	12/14	110

**HOLIDAY CONCERT**

The 41st Annual Community Christmas Carol will be held on Sunday, December 21, 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 1st UMC Praise Band, Crossfire; the Pathfinder Village Ringers under the direction of Paula Schaeffer; vocal soloists Mary-Anne Ross and Andrea Reece; the a capella ensemble Syncopation; and carols sung by the community. The admission is free and there are no tickets required. A free-will offering will be taken. for information call 432-4102.

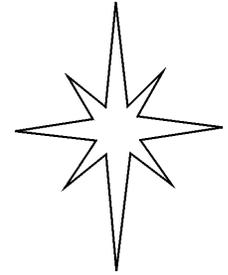
—Submitted by Virginia Wilson, Secretary, First United Methodist Church

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*Our Sun is a second—or third-generation star. All of the rocky and metallic material we stand on, the iron in our blood, the calcium in our teeth, the carbon in our genes was produced billions of years ago in the interior of a red giant star.*

*We are made of star-stuff.*

—Carl Sagan, Cosmic Connection: An Extraterrestrial Perspective



As we approach the darkest time of the year it seems appropriate to remember that we are all linked to the bright stars.

*You and I are not merely separated from the galaxies by unimaginable immensities of space; we are also connected to them by unimaginable immensities of time. We are literally made from stars. We are their descendants. The only difference between us and stars is time.*

—Gerald Grow, We are Literally Made from Stars

In January, the Religious Education Committee will host three Sundays of workshops for children and youth that will explore our place in the cosmos. These sessions will culminate with a service presented by participants on January 25. The sessions will include presentations by members of our congregation as well as activities to help us expand awareness. We will look at our own solar system, how people have viewed astronomy throughout time, and our own interconnection with the stars. We are hoping to arrange an evening field trip to the SUNY Oneonta Observatory at College Camp on upper East Street.

*Perhaps the deepest spiritual connection to the vast Universe that science has given us is an awareness that ancestral stars are part of our genealogy. We can now know and feel our connection to the heavens, for stars are among our ancestors. Every atom in our bodies, other than hydrogen, was forged in the fiery belly of a star who lived and died before our own star, the Sun, was born.*

—Connie Barlow, thegreatstory.org

We are all stardust!

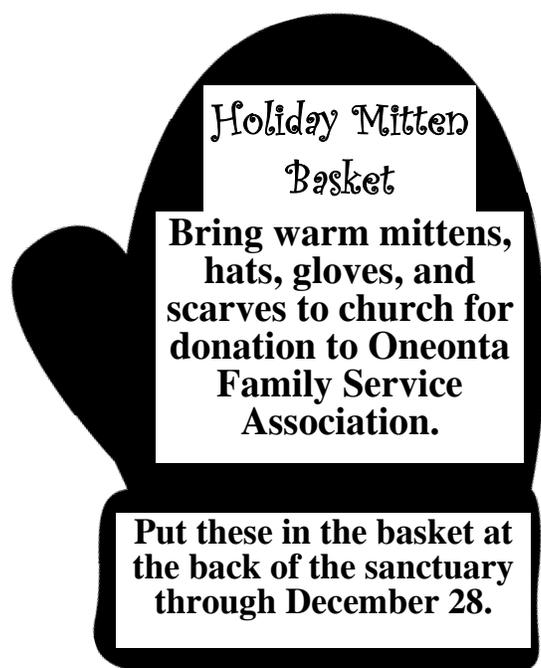
I wish you warm holidays that are full of wonder, peace, and love.

—Susan Ryder, Director of Religious Education

## MUFFINS FOR MALI

Stop at our “Muffins for Mali” table after the service on Sunday. There will be muffins, handicrafts and jewelry for sale to raise money to buy books for the new library at Youchaou’s School in Mali. The library will serve both the school and the community.

—Suzanne Miller for the Mali Task Force



### **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES**

If you would like to create your very own Guest-At-Your-Table Box to sit on your holiday table, you will find white box blanks near the mitten basket at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take as many as you need.

### **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE FOR UUSC**

UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) Guest-At-Your Table boxes are on the table in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to donate to their work on a variety of projects around the world on human rights issues. Projects include sustainable recovery in Haiti after the earthquake, the human right to water, and economic justice for workers. —Suzanne Miller

### **SUMMER CAMP FOR UU YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

Registration for UU summer camp experiences for our youth and families is under way. Sessions fill quickly at many of the UU Camp and Conference Centers and now is the time to register to avoid waiting lists.

Many youth and families from the region attend Unirondack, a UU Camp and Conference Center in the forever-wild Adirondacks. The camp provides an opportunity for children and families to live our UU values in a creative, accepting and nurturing community outside the doors of our congregations. For more information or to register for camp or programs, visit [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org).

In addition to Unirondack, other Camp and Conference Centers in the region include Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. And if you are looking for experiences further from home, there is Unicamp in Canada, DeBenneville Pines in CA, U-Bar-U in TX, Unistar in MN, and The Mountain in NC.

Many of the centers have year-round programs. all provide an opportunity for personal growth, fellowship, and community. —Submitted by Dan Gottfried, Executive Director, Unirondack

## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES...

Come share in the candlelight services, celebrating the birth of Jesus and his message of hope:



### **Family Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm**

Music and stories for all ages

Music provided by the UU Instrumental Ensemble and  
Music Director Tim Horne

### **Meditative Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 pm**

Contemplative and Traditional

Music provided by the UU Choir and Music Director Tim Horne

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## *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*



**UUSO Newsletter—December 17, 2014**

**CALENDAR  
DECEMBER**

|        |     |                                                                                           |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dec 18 | Thu | 5:30pm - 6:30pm/Yoga/CM                                                                   |
|        |     | <b>6:00pm/Caroling at The Plains</b>                                                      |
| Dec 19 | Fri | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                               |
|        |     | 7- 10:00pm/Tentative Building Use/CM                                                      |
| Dec 21 | Sun | <b>10:30am/Service: "Two Hundred Years!"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>                                |
|        |     | 1pm/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft                                                          |
| Dec 22 | Mon | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                               |
|        |     | 3:00pm - 4:00pm/Building Use/CM Loft                                                      |
|        |     | 6:30pm - 8:00pmZen Mediation/CM                                                           |
| Dec 23 | Tue | 6:30- 9:30pmStop the Pipeline Mtg/CM                                                      |
| Dec 24 | Wed | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                               |
|        |     | 1:30pm/Small Group Ministry/Off-site                                                      |
|        |     | <b>6:30/Christmas Eve Service--Family Srvce/Music &amp; stories for all ages/CM</b>       |
|        |     | <b>10:00pm/Christmas Eve Service--Meditative Service/Contemplative and traditional/CM</b> |
| Dec 26 | Fri | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                               |
| Dec 28 | Sun | <b>10:30am/Service: "Words, Words, and More Words"/Adrienne Martini/CM</b>                |
|        |     | 12pm/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm                                                        |
|        |     | <b>1pm/Free Hypnosis Clinic/CM Loft</b>                                                   |
|        |     |                                                                                           |
| Dec 29 | Mon | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                               |
|        |     | 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM                                                          |
| Dec 31 | Wed | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                               |

**JANUARY 2015!**

|       |     |                                                             |
|-------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 2 | Fri | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                 |
| Jan 4 | Sun | January Session Workshops/OBH                               |
|       |     | <b>10:30am/Service: "In the Beginning..."/Rev. Craig/CM</b> |
|       |     | 12pm/COAST Brown Bag Lunch/OBH                              |
|       |     | 1-3pm/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft                          |
| Jan 5 | Mon | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                 |
|       |     | <b>9:00am/Newsletter Deadline</b>                           |
|       |     | 3- 4:00pm/Building Use/CM Loft                              |
|       |     | 6- 8:00pm/Small Group Ministry/OBH                          |
|       |     | 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM                            |

|        |     |                                                                            |
|--------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 6  | Tue | 10-12pm/Small Group Ministry/OBH                                           |
|        |     | 4:30-8:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft                                           |
|        |     | 6:00pm/Social Action Cmte/Offsite                                          |
|        |     | 7:00pm/Web Cmte/OBH Dining Rm                                              |
| Jan 7  | Wed | 8am-9am/Aerobics/CM                                                        |
|        |     | <b>5:30pm/Vespers: "A New Year: Charting the Course"/Diana Friedell/CM</b> |
|        |     | 7pm - 8pm/Membership Cmte/OBH                                              |
| Jan 8  | Thu | 4:30- 6pm/C&C Mtg/OBH Dining Rm                                            |
|        |     | <b>5:30pm/NAACP/OBH Living Rm</b>                                          |
| Jan 9  | Fri | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                |
|        |     | 5Pm/COAST Wizard of Oz Retreat/CM                                          |
|        |     | 5/COAST Wizard of Oz Retreat/OBH                                           |
| Jan 10 | Sat | COAST Wizard of Oz Retreat ends/CM                                         |
|        |     | COAST Wizard of Oz Retreat ends/OBH                                        |
| Jan 11 | Sun | January Session Workshops/OBH                                              |
|        |     | <b>10:30am/Service: "Are We Alone?"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>                      |
|        |     | <b>2pm/Dining for Women/CM</b>                                             |
| Jan 12 | Mon | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                |
|        |     | 3pm - 4:00pm/Building Use/CM Loft                                          |
|        |     | 6:30-8/RE Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm                                           |
|        |     | 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM                                           |
| Jan 13 | Tue | 4:30- 8:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft                                          |
| Jan 14 | Wed | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                |
|        |     | 1:30pm/Small Group Ministry/Off-site                                       |
|        |     | <b>6:00pm/Scrabble &amp; Potluck/CM</b>                                    |
| Jan 16 | Fri | 8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM                                                |
|        |     | <b>5:30pm/Pizza &amp; Games/CM</b>                                         |
| Jan 18 | Sun | January Session Workshops/OBH                                              |
|        |     | <b>10:30am/Service: "Awe, Wonder, and Insignificance"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>    |
|        |     | 12pm/Finance Cmte Mtg/OBH Upstairs                                         |
|        |     | 12/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm                                           |
|        |     | 1-3pm/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft                                         |

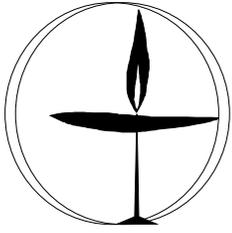
CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

**Rev. Craig's Office Hours:**

**Tuesday, 10-4; Wednesday, 12-4; Thursday, 10-4**

**Office Administrator's Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30-12:30**

**\*\*\* The UUSO Office will be closed 12/24-1/4. \*\*\***



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
12 Ford Ave.  
Oneonta, NY 13820

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

**December 21, 2014**

### **"Two Hundred Years!"**

*Start Together Sunday*

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Edwin Chapin, for whom our church is named, is on December 29. What lessons remain for us after 200 years?

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

Music provided by  
Music Director Tim Horne  
& Special Guest

*Ushers: Martha & Paul Robinson*

*Coffee Hosts: Alice Blu &  
Ben & Diana Friedell*

*Worship Associate: Bob Brzozowski  
(Please submit announcements  
to Bob via email by 12/20.)*

**December 28, 2014**

### **"Words, Words, and More Words"**

*Stay Together Sunday*

The new year gives us a chance to focus on something new. But, sometimes, it brings us back to something old that we'd forgotten.

**Adrienne Martini**

Music provided by Pat Pantaleoni

*Ushers: Jennie Buffington &  
Adina Johnson*

*Coffee Hosts: Mary Krupp &  
Pam Strother*

*Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini  
(Please submit announcements  
to Adrienne via email by 12/27.)*