



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

May 10, 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Minister's Column</i>	1
<i>Religious Education</i>	2
<i>News & Announcements</i>	3-4
<i>Worship Services</i>	5

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Provisional Budget Passed

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, they approved the provisional budget for the 2017/2018 year. Unfortunately, this budget is based on a pledge total that is ~\$15,000 short of our stewardship goal and ~\$7,000 less than last year's operating budget. This required us to make some difficult decisions on where to make up for that financial shortfall. Lynn Beken, our Treasurer, in consultation with the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Minister, made recommendations in this "austerity" budget. Here are some of the areas where funding was reduced and how I think we might adapt to the new financial reality.

- **Aid Fund** - This fund represents the money I have available to provide financial assistance to members of the congregation with a financial emergency. I do not provide financial assistance to non-members, instead referring people to Caring Connections, which we support as individuals and as a congregation. Even though this fund is not funded in the current budget, I will still consider emergency requests. If I feel the need is warranted, I will still provide financial assistance and will then ask the congregation to help cover the cost.
- **Childcare** - The budget only includes funds to provide childcare during Sunday morning worship services. In the past, it has been our practice to offer childcare for ALL church sponsored events. While I still believe that is the right thing to do and it helps attract and encourage participation of young families, our policy will have to change. Organizers of church activities and events that have funding are **STRONGLY** encouraged to offer childcare and pay for it out of their funding. If your activity or event does not have funding, then we will have to find a different way to be family friendly. Perhaps your event can be designed to be child friendly. Perhaps we could start a child-care cooperative program with qualified members of the congregation. I am open to ideas on how we can continue to provide this sort of hospitality and support to our families with younger children.
- **Social Action Committee** - The Social Action Committee has been on an upswing in the past several years, offering programs and activities and bringing in nationally-known speakers. All of this requires great coordinating effort and financial support. Unfortunately, their budget has been greatly reduced in

next year's budget. Fortunately, as a ministry of the church, the Social Action Committee can raise funds to support their efforts with approval of the minister. I expect to work closely with them in the coming year to find ways to raise the funds they need to continue to do the excellent work of education and advocacy on the issues we consider a part of our greater UU ministry.

- **Staff Professional Development** - These funds were added to the budget in the past several years to allow our staff members to join their relevant professional organizations: Tim and Michael, the UU Musicians Network; Evelyn, the Association of UU Administrators. The funds also allowed one staff member to go to their professional group's gathering or a workshop every year. I believe these professional connections are essential to staff morale and provide resources to our congregation in uncountable ways. As such, I will be paying for staff membership in their professional organizations out of my own professional expenses. While this not ideal, I see no reasonable alternative.
- **Contract Labor** - These are the funds designated for any non-regular staff wages we have to pay. Snow removal is a key part of this budget as is paying for Dave's replacement when he goes on vacation. Snow removal is going to be an issue we are going to have to address. If we don't pay for it, we will have to get volunteers to help with it.

These are a few of the cuts that we made in the budget. We have struggled the past few years to make our stewardship goals. This year, we tried a new process, one designed to get us more comfortable talking about money, identify what our level of resources truly are, and give people a better understanding of what they pledge in relation to everyone else. Unfortunately, we didn't get enough participation in the anonymous survey to answer all of these questions in a meaningful way. And so, the questions regarding our stewardship goals and our actual resources, remain unanswered. Are our dreams/visions too big for our financial reality? Are people uninspired by our mission and vision? Are people unhappy with the Board or the Minister or some program? We don't know. We only know we did not reach the level of funding we needed to sustain our current work together. And so, we will now adjust and adapt accordingly.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

It's hard to believe we are getting so close to summer. There is, however, much still to do in UUSO Religious Education.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

May 14: Last RE Class from the curricula – a celebration of the class and their year.

May 21: An Intergenerational Service called “Finding Your Tribe”. UUSO Children and Youth will help present a service for the congregation that will include celebrating new UUSO member, recognizing our wonderful RE teachers, and celebrating the high school senior teens who will be finished with high school this year and on to another stage in their lives. Members of our Youth Group, the YRUU, will talk about their experiences at District Youth Cons (Conferences) and share some music with us.

May 28: NO RE - Memorial Day. Childcare will be provided in the Nursery up to age 10. All Children and Youth may also choose to attend the service in the sanctuary. Chalice Bags will, as always, be found in the foyer. These are available to those of all ages who are better able to participate in a service while keeping their hands busy.

June 4: An Intergenerational Flower Communion Service brought to you by Pam Strother, myself, and members of the K-12 Religious Education Program. This is an important tradition where we join in celebrating the Earth's Beauty. It is practiced by many UU congregations around the world. Each participant will bring a flower (extras will also be available at church) and leave with a flower they choose from the many we all have brought for each other. Children of all ages find great meaning in celebrating our differences, our oneness, and the beauty of our Earth in this way.

June 11: RE Fun Day at the Olympia Brown House (16 Ford Ave) for those in K-5th grade. There will be games, Quidditch, treats and activities.

Annual RE Youth Canoe Trip for those in 6-12th grades. This is a much-anticipated tradition where we canoe a stretch of the Susquehanna River (weather permitting). Field trip forms and more information will be available closer to the date of the trip.

June 18: Annual All RE End-of-Year Ice Cream Party at the Olympia Brown House. Stewarts Shoppes of Oneonta donates all the fixings for make-your-own ice cream sundaes. There will be games, activities, and fun!

June 25: NO RE. The Religious Education Program will begin again in the fall. Childcare will be available in the Nursery and Lower level classroom at Chapin for those up to age 10 for the entire summer.

It is an honor to work with the youngest of our UUSO community and to work together with all the adults who find joy and give their time to this work. Please let me know if you are interested in being a teacher for one of our RE classes that will begin next fall.

In Peace and Springtime,

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education
dre@uuso.org

UUSO NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Concert for Mother Earth Saturday

Recording artist, folksinger, topical songwriter, and activist John O'Connor will appear in concert with Nat Williams at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, 12 Ford Avenue, Oneonta, on Saturday, May 13, at 7 PM. Local musicians Jason Starr & the Galaxy Singers — Kathy Shimberg, Charlie Reiman, and Dennis Shultz — will open the concert. The concert is a benefit fundraiser for Compressor Free Franklin (CFF), co-sponsored by UUSO's Social Action Committee. Suggested donation is \$15. Refreshments will be served from 7:00 PM.

John O'Connor, whose debut album "Songs for Our Times" (1984) was named one of the best albums of the year by the Washington Post, is known for his songs and ballads about ordinary working people and their struggles. O'Connor, who has toured widely throughout the United States, is a resident of Franklin, NY.

Compressor Free Franklin (CFF) was formed to address construction of the Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline (NED), the proposed large compressor station planned for Otego Road, and the Constitution Pipeline. Currently, the NED and compressor station are on hold. The NYS DEC's denial of its 401 Water Quality Certificate halted impending construction of the Constitution Pipeline, which has filed an appeal. A decision by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals is expected in late spring or early summer 2017.

Meanwhile, CFF continues to actively address other issues related to increased fossil fuel consumption and infrastructure expansion by supporting other like-minded groups throughout the Northeast protecting their communities. "Just opposing an issue is never enough; providing other options and solutions to the issue is the proper response," says Don Hebbard, founder of CFF. The group is currently supporting a renewable energy project in Franklin, Community Shared Solar, which if constructed, will provide solar electric energy for the school and town buildings. For more information on CFF and its activities see website www.compressorfreefranklin.org.

UUSO Church Mice Unite!

One of the things we discovered from our Stewardship AI (Appreciative Inquiry) meetings was how many ways the members of this community contribute their time and energy to our shared ministries. And that generosity of service isn't limited to just the adults. Our children and youth also participate in the care and support of our congregation, though not always in the same ongoing, organized ways.



After the service on Sunday, I shared with some of our younger members a program I've seen at other UU churches I've served. A special group of dedicated "church mice" that help care for and clean up the sanctuary. I asked the kids what such a group would do here at UUSO and they quickly suggested they could help clean up after social hour on Sunday mornings. They started enthusiastically listing all the ways they could help. "We could pick up chairs." "We could bring dishes back to the kitchen." "We could sweep the rug." (That was a popular suggestion.) And so, with that, we have all decided to start a UUSO Church Mice club.

The first quarterly meeting of the UUSO Church Mice will take place on Sunday, May 21st, at noon, in the Gathering Room in the basement of Chapin. Any and all kids who want to be Church Mice should join us. We'll decide on the Church Mice mission, create a covenant, and maybe even appoint some leaders (we do like to support democratic principles at UUSO.) There will also be pizza-- because Church Mice don't work for peanuts... or crumbs. Hope to see you there!

Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMPRESSOR FREE FRANKLIN

presents

"A MOTHER'S DAY
CONCERT
FOR MOTHER EARTH"

Featuring performances
by singer/songwriter/ recording artist

JOHN O'CONNOR

with Nat Williams

opening performance by

Jason Starr

and

The Galaxy Singers

Kathy Shimberg Charlie Reiman

& Dennis Schultz

at the UUSO

12 Ford Ave Oneonta



MAY 13 2017

7:00PM

refreshments will be
served from 7:00PM

suggested donation
\$15

cosponsored by the SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta and
Compressor Free Franklin

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

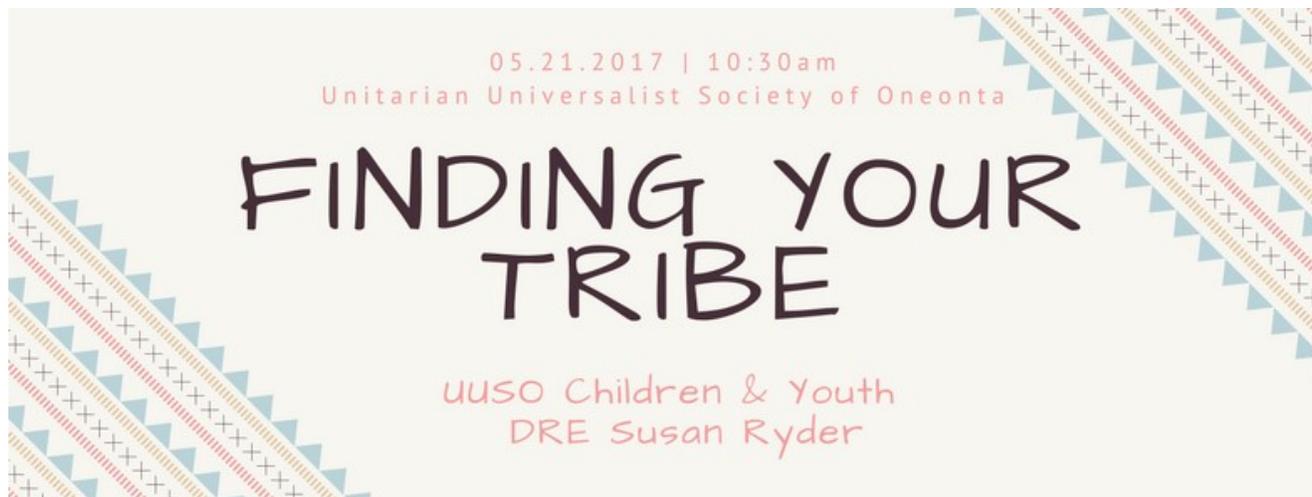
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Women have been shamed about their roles and bodies since the fall of Eve in the story of Genesis. Women are discovering a newfound sense of freedom and liberation-- and it started with pockets.

**Children's Worship at OBH at 10:30*
With Music provided by Paul Carter
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Adina Johnson
Ushers: Arleen Benedict
Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas
Sound System: Scott Segar



With this special service, we will explore and recognize the importance of finding your way to the place and the people that you can call your own.

New Member Recognition
R.E. Teacher Appreciation
Graduating Seniors Bridging
****Stay Together Sunday***
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Shelly Hilts
Coffee Hour Hosts: **Need Volunteers!**
Ushers: Vickie Andritz
Chancel Table: Dotty Hudson
Sound System: Beth Small

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for May 24th issue is May 22nd.

Order of Service Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



Go for an energy upgrade.

For most of us, going off the grid may not be in the budget But if you're looking for mucho savings on your electric bill, here are three super-easy changes you can make:

Replace incandescent light bulbs with efficient CFLs or LEDs.

Americans spend 20 percent of their electricity budget on lighting alone. Energy-efficient lighting can save the average household more than 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, 1,600 pounds of carbon dioxide and (get ready for this one) up to \$110 per year in electricity costs.

Install a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts your home's temp.

If the initial cost of a programmable thermostat (about \$115) deters you, keep in mind that it can reduce your energy usage by more than 15 percent in the summer and up to 25 percent in the winter.

For those of you that need hard numbers, that's up to \$250 in heating and cooling costs every year you use it and \$2,500 over the course of 10 years.

Shade your windows.

It sounds simple enough, but when you consider the huge difference it makes, you'll wonder why you still have naked windows. While the sunlight is refreshing in the summer, using light colored blinds and drapes – which reflect light instead of absorbing it – can save you up to \$210 per year on heating and cooling costs.