



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of May 16, 2018

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Poor People's Campaign

Next Monday, I plan to be in Washington D.C. participating in the Poor People's Campaign event. This campaign, started over two years ago, is seen as a continuation of the dreams and actions of the Rev. Martin Luther King. It is "A National Call for Moral Revival." The campaign is trying to bring attention to and find solutions to the problems of systemic institutional racism, voter suppression, wage inequality, economic injustice, mass incarceration, and environmental devastation. Their full declaration of rights and demands for action can be found at [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org). One of the co-chairs of this campaign is the Rev. Willaim Barber, a pastor from the Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, NC. In a recent article by NPR, they quoted a fast food worker, Terrence Wise, who was participating in the campaign, "I'm hoping it shakes America's conscience—that it makes many more aware. The goal is to bring more and more American's into the movement and help make things better on all levels for everyone."

I've heard the call from our our UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Grey, and from many of colleagues who have joined the campaign. I feel it is time for me to step up and get involved. I'll be leaving Sunday afternoon to stay with friends near D.C. and participate in a training for the protest. Monday, I'll be in D.C. standing with clergy and lay-leaders from across the country. If all goes well, I'll be driving home Monday night and will be back here on Tuesday morning. If not, I expect the congregation will lend their support as I muddle my way through this new state of ministry and activism. For those who want to get involved, there are campaign events taking place in Albany as well. And

if you wish to support the campaign financially, there is a fund on their website to help offset legal costs for those being arrested in the protests.

### Advocacy Day for Reproductive Health

Continuing in this vein of social justice ministry, I will be joining clergy in Albany on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the Advocacy Day for Reproductive Health. I've attended this event several times in the past as a representative for Planned Parenthood, Family Planning of South Central New York, and the Concerned Clergy for Choice. I had not planned on going this year, but received a direct request from Rabbi Dennis Ross, the Director of Concerned Clergy for Choice. They feel they are close to making progress on a bill related to contraceptives and another on sex education. My past involvement with our local Family Planning organization and my experience as a UU minister who has taught *Our Whole Lives*, makes me a more effective advocate when meeting with our elected representatives. It is my practice to answer collegial requests for assistance whenever possible-- so I will be headed to Albany with the rest of the clergy. Fortunately, I expect no actions or arrests on that trip.

My gratitude, as always, to the congregation for supporting my social justice ministries AND for all the social justice work you do in your own lives. Together, we can make a difference.

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This coming Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, will be our COAST (Coming of Age Senior Trek) Service called, “We Believe”. It marks the ending of a full year of classes, discussions, and activities for six UUSO youth and their adult mentors. They have returned from their pilgrimage to Boston and have prepared statements of faith that they will present to you during the service. I am so very proud of them and I know you will be as well. They will have a service practice and pizza party at Chapin on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from one to four pm. We will also recognize those seniors in high school who will be graduating from our RE program at this Service.

The rest of the RE year is quickly coming to a close. All RE participants will attend the COAST service, the Memorial Day Service on Jay 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Flower Communion Sunday Service called, “Within the Seeds” on June 3. Nursery care will be available. Children from K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will hold their last class of this church RE year on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Explorers will talk about their year together and are encouraged to bring their favorite memories. The Seekers have opted to watch and discuss clips from the movie, “Jungle Book”. The Youth from 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade will have their annual canoe trip on June 10 (weather permitting) from 9am to 1pm.



We will host our annual All-RE Ice Cream Party at the Olympia Brown House on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Stewart’s Shoppes on River Street donates all supplies needed to create our own ice cream sundaes. We will end the year, as we began in the fall, by participating in the Kindness Rocks project. We will decorate rocks that will be placed in our community. These are meant to brighten someone’s day with words and drawings of peace, hope, and love.

There will be no further RE classes until we begin again after Labor Day in the fall. Everyone is welcome to attend summer services in the sanctuary. Babies to ten-year-olds may also go to childcare available in the downstairs nursery at Chapin.

In Peace,

Susan Ryder  
UUSO Director of Religious Education



# SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

## Mission Based Governance---Explaining Committees and Teams

During our Annual Meeting it was requested that as our leaders transition to operating under a Mission Based Governance model, we keep the congregation informed as to which groups are Committees and which groups are Teams. The principles of this model are described in the book "Governance and Ministry" by Dan Hotchkiss. First, a definition of each might be helpful:

Committees: The groups which sustain our Society and insure its health and vitality to carry on its Mission and Vision indefinitely. Committees are overseen by the Board of Trustees and are created or dissolved as needed by the Board of Trustees. There are exceptions in the bylaws for committees that are overseen by the Congregation, not the Board, such as the Nominating Committee, Endowment Committee, and Committee on Ministry.

Teams: The groups which are "hands on" in carrying out our Mission and Vision. Teams are overseen by our staff and are created and dissolved as needed by the Minister.

It is important to note that this is not a hard and fast division of labor. The staff remain accountable to the Board and the Board is responsible for generating appropriate policies to support the work of the staff. There are many ways that the Board and Staff roles intersect and both ultimately serve the congregation.

Here is the current list of teams:

- Social Action Team
- Worship Team (Music is now assumed under Worship)
- Pastoral Care Team
- Connections Team (formerly Membership)
- Fun Team (formerly Social Activities)

All other groups remain as Committees for now and there will be no more changes until Rev. Craig returns from his sabbatical in December 2018. During the sabbatical, the Board will resume oversight of the teams. When Rev. Craig returns, he will return to assuming this oversight role.

At a recent workshop presented on the theme of Strategic Boards that I attended with Keith Willcox and Jennifer Hyppio, we were affirmed that Mission Based Governance does indeed provide advantages toward focusing on and implementing our Mission and Vision effectively.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions via the "Sounding Board" held after the June 17 service.

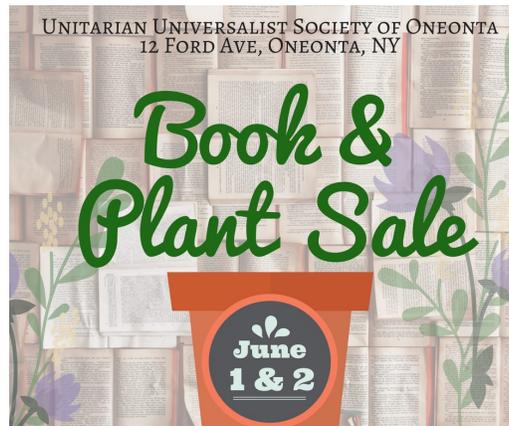
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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BOOK AND PLANT SALE IS COMING!

Start collecting your books, movies, and music and keep an eye out for any plants that might be growing that you'd like to donate. Put June 1 and 2 on your calendar! Contact Deb Bruce for Book Questions and Julia Gregory for Plant Questions. More information to follow!

Thanks,  
Deb Bruce, UUSO Librarian



### CANDELIGHT DINNERS

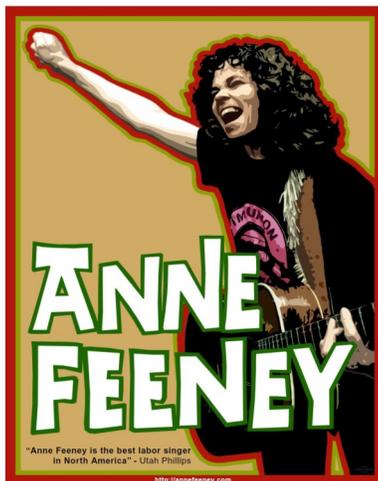
Thirty-five of us enjoyed dinners at five homes (VanLaeys, Miller/Vom Saal, Siegfried, Stuligross, Summers) May 5 or 6. Let's plan four a year with the next possibly August 4 and 5. We welcome your suggestions for dates—or if you would like to host. Thanks, Alice Siegfried and Justine Roefs

### LAST WEDNESDAYS FILM SERIES ON PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL IS MAY 30TH, FEATURING "CONTROL ROOM."

This award-winning documentary gives a platform for four key players and witnesses to the U.S. media display of what happened when its military invaded Iraq. It shows the U.S. media product concerning "Operation Iraqi Freedom" as tailored "Central Command" and its statistic-spouting operatives. And it shows what the Arab world saw and heard about the inhumanity of modern warfare. Featuring Marine Officer Josh Rushing, a spokesperson to General Tommy Franks, who resigned and started Al Jazeera English when the Pentagon forbade him to comment on Control Room. Will Egyptian director Jehane Noujaim's work also make you question your assumptions?

Doors open at 5:30, vegetarian meal at 6PM, film at 7 and discussion to follow.

-Social Action Team



## Benefit Concert for Syrian Refugees

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta (UUSO)

12 Ford Ave, Oneonta, NY

Doors open at 6:00PM Delicious snacks. Concert at 7:00PM

50/50 raffle at intermission. Suggested donation \$5 - \$40.

# UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



The Coming of Age Spiritual Trek challenges our youth to find and articulate their beliefs. Come, honor their work and be inspired in your trek.

*\*Stay Together Sunday*  
 With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne  
 Worship Associate: Alex Schultz

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jim Mills' Small Group  
 Ushers: Keith Willcox  
 Chancel Table: COAST  
 Sound System: Nathan Elsener



Referencing the work of David Bohm and others, Nettie Jean will explore a comparison between scientific knowledge and religious belief.

*\*Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*  
 With Music provided by Bill Mayer  
 Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Rosemary Summers & Cathi Wiltsey  
 Ushers: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 Chancel Table: Memorial Committee  
 Sound System: Scott Segar

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**UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for May 30th issue  
is May 28th, by 9AM.

**Order of Service Announcements:**  
Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

**Verbal Announcements:**  
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service



**Green Sanctuary Corner**

**RELAX!**

Enjoy Earth 911's tips on how to relax in eco-friendly ways  
including using

CBD oil derived from cannabis—legal everywhere!

<https://earth911.com/living-well-being/relaxing-products/>

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