



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

December 7, 2016

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Celebrating the Holidays

We are entering the time of holy days and holidays. We've already celebrated Thanksgiving with our Thanksgiving service and the annual Thanksgiving potluck (much gratitude to Julian and Leah for organizing it this year and to all who contributed food or work to make it such a success.) UUSO's annual Cookies and Crafts, a beloved tradition in the Oneonta community, took place last Sunday and was, I hear, a bigger hit than last years. Congratulations and kudos to the C&C team for once again bringing this holiday gift to the community and raising money for UUSO's ministries. Here are the holiday worship services we have scheduled at UUSO:

Dec 11 "Stories of the Season"

This shorter intergenerational service will include music and stories celebrating various holidays of different cultures.

Dec 18 "The Long Night"

This service will remind us of the reason behind many of the season's celebrations, the longest night of the year. The cold and darkness outside can sometimes reflect our inner spirits, when hope is hard to find.

Dec 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

6:30p Family Friendly service with music and stories for all ages.

10:00p Meditative service with traditional readings and music.

No childcare will be available for these services.

The offering collected on Christmas Eve will go to Family Services.

Dec 25 "A Family Christmas Morning"

Cheryl and I will again be hosting a family style Christmas morning at UUSO.

You and your entire family are invited to join us for non-traditional worship service in the round, with Christmas carols, stories, meditations, and blessings.

(We might even bring a little Christmas Spirit, if no one objects.)

We invite you join us in dressing in your best pajamas and slippers. After the service, we will serve a Christmas brunch.

If planning to attend, please RSVP to the UUSO office by December 22nd.




(We will need to know how many people to plan and prepare food for.)

Hope to see you at some of these holiday celebrations!

With holiday cheer,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

We are glad to be participating in many ways to help in our world. Here are some of the projects that we are working on along with our entire UUSO community:

- Annual Mitten Basket:** Education Classes are once again collecting warm hats, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for donation to the Oneonta Family Service Association. Please bring donations to church to participate in our annual tradition to keep our community warm. Donations can be left in the "Mitten Basket" in the back of the sanctuary which will be there until after Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. All that we collect will be delivered to Family Services at the beginning of the New Year.
 
- Backpack Buddies:** The Explorers and Hogwarts classes learned about the Backpack Buddies and Personal Care Program that our church supports when Suzanne Miller and Dawn Kilts met with RE classes on October 16. They learned about hunger in the community and the impact it has on children. The children have been bringing small personal care items to donate to the Backpack Buddies Collection which is held for the whole church on the first Sunday of each month. They learned that people who are homeless don't really need big bottles of soap or shampoo but can really use the small shampoos and personal products that are provided when you stay at a hotel. They have remembered to save these when they do stay at a hotel and also to sometimes purchase sample sized items from local stores that they bring in to donate. They also bring in non-perishable foods.
 
- Guest at Your Table:** We are participating in the Guest at Your Table program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Many have a "Guest" box sitting at their table which collects small change or whatever their family donates during meals together. One family told me they seat a stuffed animal at the "Guest" spot along with the box to remind them of sharing their meal with those of the world who are in need. If you missed getting a box there is a display on the downstairs RE hall counter at Chapin. Feel free to take a box. Each box includes an envelope to use when you send in your total donation. You can also find more information on the UUSC's website at <http://www.uusc.org/guest-at-your-table-for-beginners/>


Thank you for participating in these projects in whatever way you can. RE children and Youth grow up in our UUSO environment of social justice awareness. It is an honor and a joy to be a part of their growing.

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

During our November 16th Board of Trustees meeting, we determined the items that we would be including in our End of the Year Appeal. We will ask for support for the Endowment, replace funds used to finish payments for the Marquee, and support an opportunity to match a generous offer regarding the Mara Kern Library.

We acknowledged the success of the Assessment of our Ministries groups. The feedback was quite positive and we look forward to reviewing the insights provided by congregational members and friends. We will summarize the results and report back to the Congregation after our Board retreat in mid-

January. We reviewed and approved a new Social Media policy (published in this newsletter). Many thanks to the web committee and Evelyn for drafting this policy helping us to connect with people and convey our messages in an updated way. The Sounding Board comments were reviewed and the Board acknowledged the valuable voices of the elders in our Congregation.

Of note is that this past week Rev. Craig called the Board President to determine the level of support for his trip to Standing Rock. On behalf of the Board and Congregation, I stated we are proud of his call to lend his unique gifts in trauma ministry to this noble cause and we support him fully.

We will not hold a Board meeting in December. Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 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 and a Trustee and member of the Committee on Ministry will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service on January 15, 2017.



Karen Palmer, President
UUSO Board of Trustees

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UUSO MONTHLY MEETINGS • DECEMBER

Dec 6	6:00 PM	Social Action Committee	67 Church St.
Dec 10	10:00 AM	Anti-Racism Task Force	OBH Living Rm
Dec 12	6:30 PM	Religious Education Committee	OBH
Dec 18	12:00 PM	Finance Committee	OBH
Dec 18	12:00 PM	Mali Task Force	OBH
Dec 19	7:00 PM	Endowment Committee	OBH

CM: Chapin Memorial Sanctuary/12 Ford Ave. — OBH: Olympia Brown House/16 Ford Ave.

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEED A UU NAME BUTTON?

Buttonhole Rich Stelling, now in charge of their manufacture.

Email rstelling@stny.rr.com or call 433-1272.

-Alice Siegfried (*now gratefully retired from that position*)

UUSC—Guest at Your Table

In this season of giving, consider our own Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/ UUSC who is helping to meet the needs of many people through its partner organizations throughout the world. From immigrant mothers and children being detained in Texas to refugees who have fled to Europe, to hurricane victims in Haiti, UUSC is there. Pick up a UUSC Guest at Your Table box and informative pamphlet at the Social Action table at church and return your donation there by Jan. 8th. Thanks!

Adopt a Family

This year the UUSO will again participate in the Adopt a Family project. We will provide holiday gifts and help for three families who have been chosen for us by the Family Service Association. Beginning on November 27th, there will be a tree at the back of the Sanctuary. The tree will be laden with tags listing the needs and wishes of the children and their parents. It is again time for us to show the true holiday spirit by demonstrating our generosity. Let's all take a tag or two and purchase what it lists. Thanks to all that plan to participate and make this a happy holiday season for our three grateful families.

-Prue Stelling, Martha Robinson, Norma Lee Havens



NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

My Trip to Standing Rock

I've been asked if I am glad I went and if it was what I expected. It was not at all what I expected. And I would go back again if asked. I feel I was of use. I feel I helped make a difference. I know I learned a great deal while there. And... I think I was transformed, at least a little, by having been there on that holy ground and praying daily, in word and deed, with that diverse group of dedicated souls.

I sent daily journal updates to UUSO Chat mailing list. If you'd like to read them, please contact Evelyn, our office administrator.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig



Future Events of Interest

12/10 Saturday

Brown Bag Conversation - Standing with Standing Rock

UUSO Sanctuary Noon-2p

Join me for an informal conversation about my experiences while at the Standing Rock camp. Bring a brown bag lunch and sit and chat for an hour or two. All are welcome.

12/16 Friday

Standing Rock Soup Dinner and Raffle

First United Methodist Church 4p - 7p

A soup and bread dinner/fund raising raffle. Come eat, socialize, and possibly win prizes while watching videos from Standing Rock and talking to people who have visited the camp. Volunteers and donations of soup, bread, desserts, and gift certificates are requested.

1/15 Sunday

"Prayerfully Present: Selma and Standing Rock" worship

UUSO Sanctuary 10:30a

The tribal elders considered the gathering at Standing Rock to be a Resistance Ceremonial Prayer Camp.

We were literally standing on holy ground, and we were asked to be prayerfully present at all times.

What does that mean? How is it done? Join me for a reflection on mindfulness in our social justice work.

3/12 Sunday

"This Land is Whose Land?" Worship

UUSO Sanctuary 10:30a

The Doctrine of Discovery is one of our country's, one of our faith's original sins. Created by papal decree in 1452, affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1823, and poisoning our land and our spirits to this very day. Join me for a sermon about the harm we've done and the new legacy we might create.

The MUFFINS FOR MALI bazaar will continue following the service each Sunday up till Christmas. Delicious Home baked muffins will be on sale for \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00. As always, original African jewelry including stunning bracelets, earrings, and necklaces will be available to give as gifts or to treat yourself! In addition, many creative gift items for the holidays will be on sale to tempt and delight you! A fun and yummy way to begin - or continue - your holiday shopping! Stop by our table, and munch on a muffin while you decide on which unique item or items to purchase as you check off names on your shopping list. Join us on Sundays through December 18. Every dollar taken in goes to support Youchaou's school in Mali. And thank you for your support!

-From The Mali Committee

UUSO News / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assessment of our Ministries—What's next?

The members of the Board and Committee on Ministry are grateful for those who took the time to participate in our interactive group discussions using the appreciative inquiry approach. The purpose was to assess how we are doing and what we might want to strive for in terms of our ministries. The feedback regarding the process has been generally positive. Some comments were "It was so good to hear the thoughts of other people in the congregation", "The dreams people have for UUSO are exciting", and "This really helped me to connect with some more people".

The six groups of 5-7 people plus 2 facilitators included young adults, middle-aged adults, and elders. If you missed out on this opportunity, don't worry. Our plan is to conduct sessions like this twice a year. We'll do this again in late February or early March 2017. Our next rounds of assessment will each have a focus around a particular area. Examples are stewardship, social action, worship, religious education, music, and governance.

So, what are the next steps? The Board and Committee on Ministry members are currently providing summaries of each discussion that took place. We will meet together to look at the themes that emerge and develop a report that hopefully helps us all understand the salient information that will describe how we are doing now in fulfilling our Mission and also guide our plans going forward.

While the Committee on Ministry is meeting this month, the Board is not meeting again until our retreat on January 14, 2017. So, we ask for your patience as we work to give you a full report of the results in mid-late January. We will then begin preparations for our next round of assessments and expand the opportunities for even more people to participate!

Karen Palmer, President
UUSO Board of Trustees

From the Social Action Committee:

Please consider signing the AAC Petition to cancel the F-35. It reads as follows.

WHEREAS:

- The F-35 is an unsafe weapon of offense of war that crashes often, serving no defensive purpose, its production and operation causes major environmental pollution;
- The F-35 causes major health impacts including cognitive impairment in children from extreme noise and other hazards;
- The F-35 is scheduled to cost more than \$1.4 trillion over 50 years;
- The F-35 will be used to cause massive killing and disruption in more wars like: Iraq; Syria; Libya; Yemen and Vietnam--killing, wounding, and creating millions of refugees;

THEREFORE, We the undersigned request the following;

- The immediate cancellation of the F 35 program as a whole,
- The immediate cancellation of plans to place any such dangerous and noisy jets near populated areas,
- The redirection of the money for the F 35 back into environmental and human needs in the US and other F-35 customer nations around the world.

Lisa Barr, SAC

NEW POLICIES

Social Media Policies for the UUSO

November 16, 2016

Definitions for all of the policies below:

“Core Staff” refers to:

The Minister

The Director of Religious Education

The Office Administrator

Administrators may create, post and moderate content for all Facebook pages. Administrators will appoint moderators from the congregation for our Facebook pages. Administrators are empowered to block or remove those who use our Facebook pages inappropriately.

In addition, one member at large will act as the Moderator for all Facebook pages.

The Administrators and the Moderator are empowered to remove inappropriate content on any Facebook page by taking a screenshot, removing any posts or comments that are deemed inappropriate, and sending the screenshot to the Minister and/or the Board of Trustees, indicating why the post was removed.

All social media postings and management are to abide by our Public Relations Policy and Disruptive Behavior Policy.

1. Official Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/UUSOneonta

The Core Staff will act as administrators and can post upcoming public events and UUSO worship services. All public events should have an event page. It is recommended to have at least one post per weekday. Posts must be directly related to the ministry of the Society. In addition to public events and UUSO worship services, posts about a member or group of the congregation may be posted if there is an intersection between the ministry of the Society and something involving that person or group. Also, news and information from the UUA can be posted. No advertising of goods, businesses, or services allowed. (Note: UUSO sanctioned events that charge an admittance fee [e.g. Wine Tasting, Dessert Theater, etc.], or a UUSO sale, [e.g. Book and Plant sale, Cookies and Crafts, etc.] are permitted to be posted.)

2. Facebook Group - "UUSO Community"

www.facebook.com/groups/1496132733959453

Anyone in the group can post to this group page. No advertising of businesses or services is permitted in this group.

3. Facebook Group – “UUSO Marketplace”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/112029639206176>

The selling of items and services of interest to the UUSO community is permitted, and business advertisements are allowed and are restricted to once per week. Anyone in the group can post to this group page.

4. Email group “UUSONEWS”

UUSONEWS@googlegroups.com (for the entire congregation)

The Core Staff can post to this email group. Only official Society announcements and messages may be posted. Recommended schedule of postings: Monday – Minister posts his schedule, Tuesday – RE Director posts RE information, Wednesday – Worship information is posted, Thursday & Friday – Upcoming events are posted.

5. Email group “UUSOCHAT”

UUSOCHAT@googlegroups.com (discussion group for the congregation)

Any member of the UUSO community can request to be added to this group. All subscribers may post to the group. The Core Staff will administer this group.

6. Twitter - @UUSOneonta

The Core Staff can post to the Twitter account. (Note: Twitter replies and followers cannot be moderated.)

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

The Anti-Racism Task Force is pleased to announce the following events planned for the next few months. We hope that you will find something that appeals to you and will help you grow in your understanding of and commitment to becoming an anti-racist congregation. Check the UUSO website for more info and updated events.

Many thanks to the active, regular members of the ARTF, who have been working and meeting regularly to plan, especially Alice Siegfried, Cindy Squires, Grace Smith, Duncan Smith, Donna Behrendt, Zanna McKay, Karen Palmer, Patricia La-Fata. Submitted by Susan Turell.

If you are attending and need childcare, please let the facilitator of the event know as least one week prior.

January

- Sunday, January 8th Noon: Whistling Vivaldi book group discussion facilitated by Donna Behrendt.
- Sunday, January 22th, noon: facilitated by Alice Siegfried and Zanna McKay
“A Class Divided.” the classic film of the 1970 third grade class divided by eye color to provide an exercise to show what discrimination feels like and what it can do to people. Fourteen years later a mini-reunion of that class is also filmed by Frontline. Discussion to follow.

January through May: we are planning monthly Food for Thoughts discussions, some videos/movies, and other events. In February, we are planning some candlelight dinners to watch and discuss a video produced by Monet’s daughter.

Let us know ideas you have that will help all of us grow in our understanding and commitment.

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

Stories of the Season

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg



12/11, Service at 10:30AM, Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

There are many stories told during this season of holy days and holidays. Tales of hope and love, joy and generosity. Come, let me tell a tale or two to thee...

**Stay Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne & the UU Choir

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patricia Engel LaFata and Jesse Schwabe

Ushers: Arlana Young & Kimberly Elsener

Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas

Sound System: Beth Small



In this season of merry making and twinkling lights, we sometimes forget the long night--and those trying to make it to the dawn. Let us pause and reflect on the trying times, the painful memories, and the way through to the other side.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jane Bachman
& Bob Brzozowski

Ushers: Kimberly Elsener
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Paul Carter

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us for one of our candlelight services
celebrating the birth of Jesus
and his message of hope.



Family Service

6:30pm

*Music and stories
for all ages*

Meditative Service

10:00pm

*Contemplative
and traditional*

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF
ONEONTA**

12 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY



Sunday, December 25th: "A Family Christmas Morning" with Rev. Craig and his wife, Cheryl DeDecker.

Join us for a Christmas morning tradition: a holiday celebration with family. Come in your best pajamas and slippers. Sing songs, share stories, and enjoy a Christmas morning feast. Please RSVP to Rev. Craig if you'd like to attend.

December 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM
Chapin Memorial Sanctuary
12 Ford Ave, Oneonta, NY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OBH: Olympia Brown House—16 Ford Ave	CM: Chapin Memorial Sanctuary—12 Ford Ave	Green: Off-Site		1 4:30 Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft	2 8am Exercise Group/CM	3
4	5 8am Exercise Group/CM 6:30PM Zen Meditation/CM	6 6PM Social Ac- tion Cmte/67 Church St.	7 8am Exercise Group/CM 10AM Small Group /CM	8 4:30 Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft 5:30PM NAACP/OBH	9 8am Exercise Group/CM	10 10AM Anti- Racism Task Force/OBH Lvlg Rm 12PM Sanding Rock Talk/CM
11 2PM CCS Concert/CM 7PM The Compassion- ate Friends / CM	12 8am Exercise Group/CM 6:30RE Cmte/ OBH 6:30 Zen Medi- tation/CM	13 7PM Small Group/OBH	14 8am Exercise Group/CM 5:30 Affinity Grp/OBH 6PM Scrabble and Potluck/CM	15 4:30 Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft	16 8am Exercise Group/CM	17 11AM Build- ing Use/CM 5PM RE Christmas Practice Party/CM
18 12PM Finance Cmte/OBH 12PM Mali Task Force/ OBH	19 8am Exer- cise Group/CM Newsletter Deadline 7PM Endow- ment Cmte/ OBH	20	21 8am Exercise Group/CM 10:30AM Small Group/OBH	22 4:30 Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft	23 8am Exercise Group/CM	24 6:30 Family Christmas Eve Service/CM 10PM Medita- tive Christmas Service/CM
25 	26 8am Exercise Group/CM	27 10:30AM Small Group/OBH	28 8am Exercise Group/CM 6PM Last Wed.'s Docu- mentary Series/ CM	29 4:30 Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft	30 8am Exercise Group/CM	31 

For the most up-to-date information on events
and building reservations,
please see our calendar on our website at:
www.uuso.org/church_calendar
Or click on the Calendar tab on our website:
UUSO.org

The Change for Change for December goes to the Family Service Association/FSA whose mission is to support individuals and families in meeting their own needs. FSA provides emergency services, school supplies to lower income families, a clothing program, and a Thanksgiving food baskets. FSA's Parenting Resource Center offers workshops for parents on a variety of topics. UUSO participates in FSA's Christmas Adopt a Family project. Take a tag from the Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary to get involved.

**THE UNITARIAN
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SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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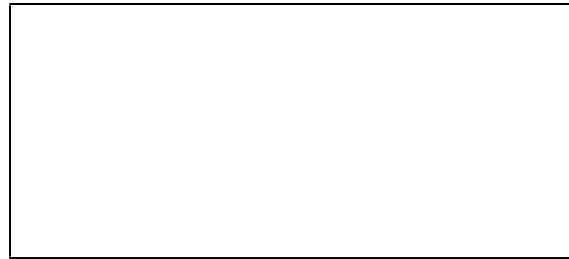
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UUSO Board of Trustees

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for Dec 21st issue is Dec 19th.

Order of Service Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



3 ways to recycle:

- Take plastic bags to Price Chopper, Hannaford, or Wal-mart
- Take fluorescent light bulbs to Home Depot
- Take Styrofoam to a UPS site, such as The Shipping Room