



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of December 20, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Winter Worship Calendar

The Winter Worship Calendar (covering New Year's Eve Day through Easter) is included with this newsletter. Highlights of the worship schedule include:

- * January Intersession - The theme of the January Intersession is "Origins." Our children and youth, along with adult leaders, will be exploring the origins of life on this planet and the life of U.U.S.O. In the sanctuary, Rev. Craig will deliver services exploring our origin myths, the beginnings of Unitarianism and Universalism, and the beginning of this latest incarnation-- Unitarian Universalism. The Religious Education participants will round out the series with their summary of all they learned in their explorations.
- * Pulpit Guests - Our pulpit will be filled by some members of the congregation-- Pam Strother (12/31) and Duncan Smith (3/4). We will also have the pleasure of receiving a sermon from the Rev. LaDana Clark (3/25), who is also known as the "Rappin' Rev." That will be a service not to be missed.
- * Music Sunday - Our annual service celebrating the art and ministry of music and poetry will take place on February 25th. Join Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir as they explore Heaven and our search for inspiration.
- * Geek Sermon - Rev. Craig's annual geek sermon, where he preaches on something near and dear to his heart will take place on March 11th. Past topics of this unusual service have included Comic Books, Super Heroes, Geocaching, Doctor Who, and Dogs. What will it be this year? (You'll have to read the schedule to see what he's cooked up.)

If you're reading the digital version of this newsletter, you can [click here](#) to reach the new worship calendar. If you've got a hard copy, it's included!

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg
revcraig@uuso.org

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
The UUSO Office will be closed for the week following Christmas and will reopen January 3rd.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are going to embark on our no-rehearsal pageant during the 10:30 service next Sunday, Christmas Eve. We will hear the traditional Christmas story. As each character is mentioned a call goes out to see who would like to play that part. There will be simple costumes to wear. There are no speaking parts. The end result will be a Christmas tableau for all to see. This is a lovely pageant as anyone can participate as well as anyone can choose to pass. Many children remember this as one of their favorite intergenerational church services. There will be Christmas carols for all to sing.

The December 24th service will also be a time to bring warm mittens, hats, and scarves to donate to Family Services. Those in our Religious Education program offer this each year as a part of our holiday celebration at UUSO. Sometimes we have a “mitten tree” but most often is a “mitten basket” as it fits better in our sanctuary. Please bring (or help your child bring) new mittens, hats, and scarves for donation to warm the children of our greater community. Our mitten basket will be in the back of the sanctuary. All will be collected after the January 7th Service.

December 31 will be a “stay together” Sunday. This means that children and youth will attend the service together with the adults rather than having class. January 7 is the beginning of RE’s Intersession. This Intersession theme will be about Origins. We will have workshops throughout January that explore some stories of how we all began, evolution, and the beginnings of our UU Society here in Oneonta. We will have activities and guest helpers. We will present a Sunday service for the congregation sharing some of our experiences on January 28th.

May this Holiday Season Bring Peace and Kindness to You and to our World,

Susan Ryder
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuso.org



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

On behalf of the UUSO staff, I want to wish everyone a joyful, meaningful holiday. However you celebrate, with whomever you celebrate, may it be a time of reflection, renewal, and revelry. One of the blessings of working for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta is knowing that we support so many people in their own ways of making the world reborn, with hope and justice and love.

Cheryl and I also wish you a Merry Christmas. It has been a trying year in many ways and an exciting one, as well. We appreciate all the care and support we have received from members and friends of the UUSO community. This is a time for celebrating the gifts we've received and blessings we've given to others. For it is in this dance of blessings back and forth that the true meanings of the holidays become known.

Blessings on you all. Blessings be you all.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Rev. Craig



SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

Please note that the board will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. As usual, any members or friends are welcome to observe. The Sounding Board will be available on Sunday, January 14 after the service.

LAST WEDNESDAYS FILM SERIES—DEC. 27TH

Please plan to attend an uplifting film by Michael Moore--part of the Last Wednesdays Film Series on Peace and Justice for All:

DECEMBER 27 Where to Invade Next (2016)

Explores with great humor what the U.S. could do if it didn't spend all its dough on militarism. Moore travels the world and sees how other democracies handle everything from health care to drug laws.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., vegetarian meal at 6:00, film at 7:00 with discussion to follow. Free of charge. Childcare available, please contact the church office with number and ages of kids by Friday, December 22.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

In this season of giving, participate in the Guest at Your Table project by giving to our own Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/UUSC which is involved in helping marginalized people all over the world. Pick up a brochure at the Social Action table and learn about several projects including work with Pacific Islanders who need to be resettled because of rising sea levels due to climate change. Pick up an envelope return it with your check or credit card information to the Social Action table by Sunday, Jan. 7th. Thanks for your participation!

Action Team

—Social

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE?

Tiffany Doris is leading a planning discussion for developing an alternative worship service. Rev. Craig has approved this effort. If you are interested, meet Tiffany at Panera Bread at 11:30am every Monday starting January 8, 2018.

MAILBOX CHANGES

We appreciate the patience of the congregation during the process of changing the mailboxes. Some of the issues with the current mailboxes are that they are selective and outdated. Only certain people had mailboxes without any real rhyme or reason except that we were once a smaller church and everyone was able to have a mailbox. Because we have grown over the years, this is no longer possible. Also, as technology has advanced, most people are communicating by computer rather than hard copy therefore making the mailboxes far less useful. Many have become receptacles for buttons and other trinkets rather than their original intention of actual mail communication. The mailboxes are located in an awkward place just at the entrance of the sanctuary and therefore cause interference at times with the flow of traffic in and out. Then there is the height issue with some mailboxes being located higher than the person assigned could reach.

Here are the changes:

1. The current mailboxes will be removed and stored in the rummage room downstairs to later be an offer for the UUSO Auction.
2. This space will be replaced with a bulletin board (use to be determined)
3. A new wooden set of fewer mailboxes will be mounted in the coat room over the desk that is there now. There will be 32 boxes.
4. The boxes will be assigned to each of the current committees and teams and a few individual people who don't have computer access.
5. The Properties committee will be doing the work involved with these changes and Evelyn will be ordering and labeling the new mailboxes once mounted.

We understand that change tends to be disorienting and can cause some frustration. Those who primarily used our mailboxes for buttons will now use the button board as others do. We appreciate your patience with this new arrangement. In time, we anticipate this will serve us better given the changing times.

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



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

**Stay Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir.
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Patricia Engel LaFata
Ushers: **Need Volunteers for both services!**
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Scott Segar



How we are called and how we call ourselves can be a powerful tool for an enriched spiritual life.

**Stay Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Kathy Shimberg & Mark Van Laeys
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Arlana Young
Ushers: Need Volunteers
Chancel Table: Pam Strother
Sound System: Scott Segar

**THE UNITARIAN
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SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for January 10th issue
is January 8th, 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



Our last Green Sanctuary corner focused
on fair trade gift sources.

Another source for wonderful fair trade
gifts: www.thegoodbuy.com

This is the shop sponsored by our
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
Thank you to Cindy Squires for providing
the reminder about this wonderful site for
buying gifts during the holiday season and
all year long!