

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

TOM HICKS, PRESIDENT
REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER
DECEMBER 2013

Solstice:
May you
experience
an alchemy
of the Spirit!

Angela Lee



SOUP 'N STUFF RSVP by 12 n on 16 Dec

WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER @ 6 PM

Please bring your assigned item ready to serve
SING-ALONG @ 7 PM



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

"Love Is My Favorite Word"
TUESDAY, 24 DECEMBER @ 7 PM

CHARITY COLLECTIONS
Socks, Hats, Gloves

For Salvation Army
Especially for Children
Due 15 Dec



For St. Benedict's Shelter
Due 22 Dec

BOARD & COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY PREPARE CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

The Board and Committee on Ministry are working hard to prepare a Congregation-wide conversation on the new five-year plan.

Last year, the Ad Hoc Committee 'stubbed in' some broad goals for the Congregation's five-year plan and handed it off to the Board. Since then, the Board has been studying GOVERNANCE AND MINISTRY by UU Minister and Alban Institute Senior Consultant, Dan Hotchkiss. This kind of Governance asks the Board to be Trustees of the whole who articulate vision, select strategies to implement it, make sure it happens, and protect people and property from harm--but not do the day-to-day management of programs or personnel. (Management is mostly the work of Minister and staff--paid and unpaid.) With this new understanding of Governance and the goals of the Ad Hoc Committee in mind, the Board has written new Ends to set our longer-term direction. The Board's insights into and hopes for the longer-term direction of UUCO are quite exciting.

Now, in conjunction with the Committee on Ministry, the Board is asking you for consultation and discernment on the next, middle steps. They will bring the new Ends to the conversation and ask for thoughtful evaluation of how our present programs and practices match them as well as our Covenant and Mission.

Usually we like to do a lot of brainstorming when we get together for these Congregational conversations! But the purpose of this meeting is different. We aren't trying to generate a lot of new "stuff." The dialogue will focus primarily on four topics: Membership, Leadership, Programming, and Facilities. Each topic will get just 30 minutes of dedicated conversation as we endeavor to identify the next steps to unifying our structure and always working smarter. It is important that we have as many voices as possible doing this work. Food and fun and reflection will be provided! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR 26 JANUARY 2014!**

FORUM
26 JANUARY 2014
9:30 AM- 12 N
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

We will need help
to put up trees and lights
in the sanctuary
by 14 December
Contact Elaine if you can help



Annual Tree Decorating
@ 10:30 am Service
On Sunday, 15 December
Please bring an ornament
expressing your
understanding of love

UUCO RECEIVES

PASTORAL STUDY GRANT

FROM LOUISVILLE INSTITUTE

UUCO has received a dedicated award in the amount of \$13444 for an expansion of its Spiritual Mentoring Program and its interfaith literacy work. The Louisville Institute has funded a proposal submitted by Rev. Dr. Claudia Ramisch with the approval of the Board. The project will be executed in two segments of Sabbatical time: June-mid-October 2014 and mid-January-March 2015.

UUCO's Spiritual Mentoring Program is based on Claudia's doctoral project, *Theology as a Second Language*. The premise of the program is that Unitarian Universalists are uniquely positioned to become literate in interfaith matters and to facilitate interfaith cooperation. The program teaches skills in mentoring and theological reflection across faith and denominational lines. Specifically, mentors learn to recognize the theological "cues and clues" of different belief systems.

The Congregation will receive funds for all elements of the project (*not* for the Congregation's operating budget) including further research on fostering interfaith literacy for members (i.e. non-professionals) of local faith communities, revising the present curriculum, expanding the curriculum, publishing the curriculum online, preparing the curriculum for hard copy publication, and offering a weeklong Institute to teach other ministers, religious educators, small group facilitators, and lay leaders how to implement it in a congregation. The Institute will be offered here in Owensboro in July 2015.

Claudia and Linda participated in the Religious Diversity Leadership Workshop at Hartford Seminary in June 2012 and shared the scope of the Spiritual Mentoring Program there. Dr. Lucinda Mosher, faculty associate and Multifaith Chaplaincy Director of Hartford Seminary, endorsed the project and will offer consultative services.

Watch for details! The Congregation will be involved at many junctures.

DECEMBER EVENTS

SUN, 01	TWISTERS, 1:30 PM
WED, 04	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE, 6 PM BOARD 6:30 PM
THU, 05	CAREGIVER'S LUNCH, 12 N TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30PM
SAT, 07	HABITAT CAN COLLECTION REIKI APPOINTMENTS
TUE, 10	INTERFAITH STUDY, 12 N
THU, 12	TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30PM
SAT, 14	FAMILY RE, 9 AM REIKI SHARE, 6 PM
SUN, 15	SALVATION ARMY GIFTS DUE BRING ORNAMENT FOR SERVICE
WED, 18	SOUP 'N STUFF, 6 PM HOLIDAY SING-ALONG, 7 PM
THU, 19	TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30PM
SUN, 22	SOLSTICE ACTIVITIES, 2:30 PM
SUN, 22	ST. BENEDICT'S GIFTS DUE
TUE, 24	CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 7 PM
SUN, 29	BREAKFAST POTLUCK, 9:30 AM



SOLSTICE MEDITATION By Rev. Christine Robinson

These next few days are the days of the Winter Solstice, a time when those who are very attentive to the skies note that the sun, which has relentlessly moved southward on the horizon since last June, seems to pause on its journey before beginning to climb northwards to center again.

Solstice is a time of pause.

So...pause.

Breathe. Relax. Rest. Be at peace.

Spirit of winter rest,
help us to enjoy your peace in this quiet place.

Remind us to pause during this season.

Grant us awareness,
keep our gratitude fresh each day.

May the songs in our heart
be blessings and insights to us and to others
and may compassion always shine forth
from the depths of our hearts.

Family Activities @
[http://](http://familydharma.pulelehuadesign.com/bodhi.htm)

[familydharma.pulelehuadesign.com/
bodhi.htm](http://familydharma.pulelehuadesign.com/bodhi.htm)

INTERFAITH MOMENT BODHI DAY OR ROHATSU By Barbara O'Brien @ About.com

Rohatsu is Japanese for "eighth day of the twelfth month." December 8 has come to be the day Japanese Buddhists observe the enlightenment of the historical Buddha.

In Japanese Zen monasteries, Rohatsu is the last day of a week-long sesshin, an intensive meditation retreat in which all of one's waking time is dedicated to meditation. Even when not in the meditation hall, participants endeavor to maintain meditation focus at all times -- eating, washing, doing chores. Silence is maintained unless speaking is absolutely necessary.

In a Rohatsu Sesshin, it is traditional for each evening's meditation period to be longer than the previous evening's. On the last night, those with enough stamina sit in meditation through the night.

The Buddha's enlightenment is observed at different times in other parts of Asia. For example, Theravada Buddhists of southeast Asia commemorate the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing into Nirvana at death on the same day, called Vesak Puja, which is usually in May. Tibetan Buddhists also observe these three events in the life of the Buddha at the same time, during Saga Dawa Duchen, which usually is in June.