

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro

C. Tom Hicks, Congregational President

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

Reminder

Rev. Ramisch is on Sabbatical beginning 1 July. If you have an emergency please contact a Pastoral Care Associate:

- Deanna Estes** 270-684-3942
- Tom Hicks** 270-684-1548 (also our President)
- Peggy Wilson** 270-685-0924

CAREGIVER'S LUNCH
Wed, 2 July @ 12 n.
Please RSVP to Tracy @ 270-275-4202 by Tues @ 12 n if you plan to attend.



**Cosmic Mother
Who Hears
the Cries of the World**
Dae Yen Sa
Buddhist Temple
New Hartford, CT



TWISTERS
Sun, 13 July @ 1 pm
Contact Scott for more info

No TAI CHI
On Thur, 31 July
Meditation Will Be As Usual @ 6:30 pm

Be Cool Go Green
At Farmer's Market on Sat, 19 July

UUCO will be selling Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks from 7 am-12 n.

Contact Linda @ 270-570-0323 to volunteer.



10th Anniversary: Denounce Torture Events



Lewatis McNeal, MPH
Lecture: Building Healthy Communities

Dr. Aseedu Kalik
Sermon: Interfaith Cooperation for Peace

2014 marks a decade of resistance to Torture by our Congregation. In previous years, speakers have informed us about social issues, offered statistics, taught us the moral principles related to ending torture and intimidation, and reminded us of the ways that spiritual traditions understand human rights. This year we were fortunate to have two concerned and knowledgeable community leaders in the UUCO sanctuary to address ways to build communities that can resist the very suggestion that torture could ever be acceptable.

On Wednesday, 25 June, Lewatis McNeal spoke about Building Healthy Communities. He reminded us that "health" is actually maintained through an integration of factors

across the spectrum of daily life not just physical wellness. He spoke at length about the importance of shifting from models of intervention to prevention to build truly healthy communities in a sustainable way.

McNeal taught us the CDC's Sociological-Ecological Model of evaluating a system and planning for well-being at all levels: Individual, Relational, Communal, and Societal. It is a comprehensive model that demonstrates the direct relationship between our personal lives and social policies and practices.



On Thursday, 26 June, International Day in Support of Torture Survivors, Dr. Kalik offered a sermon on the centuries-old cooperation of Muslim and Christian communities for the creation of peace. He shared historical examples of the Prophet Mohammad being counseled by Christians, of the Prophet offering safety to Christians for the practice of their religion, and of Christians protecting Muslims in the practice of their religion.

Dr. Kalik encouraged us to follow the simple direction of the Prophet: Spread peace, care for the poor, speak 'straight' words, and live uprightly.

Thursday evening's Prayer Vigil included three litanies: One for mercy on all people touched directly by torture, one for an end to the acceptance of torture in all the countries of the world, and one for healing of the attitudes and habits of mind and heart that allow torture to continue. Our prayer was strengthened by the presence of our Muslim visitors who always pray in the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, and by guests from Syria whose families are witness to so much violence and privation.

We are grateful to our community partners for challenging us to be faithful to our vision of a world free of torture--and for offering us tools to bring our vision to life.

Thank you to all UUCO participants, especially Claud Porter who has presided for the Vigil all ten years of its practice.



Rebecca, DuWayne, and Eleanor read the Litany of Countries as we pray for the end of torture in all homes, institutions, and countries.

INTERFAITH MOMENT: PIONEER DAY

(from the Library of Congress American Memory)
Observance of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints & State of Utah

This day commemorates the entry of Brigham Young and the first group of Latter Day Saints pioneers into Utah's Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847. They viewed their arrival as the founding of a Mormon homeland, hence Pioneer Day. The Mormons, as they were commonly known, left their settlement in Nauvoo, IL, and journeyed west seeking refuge from religious persecution. The final impetus for their trek was the murder of founder and prophet Joseph Smith on June 27, 1844.

Determined to settle in an isolated region, the pioneers made their way across the plains and over the Rocky Mountains to Utah. They lost many of their party to disease during the winter months. By the time that they reached Utah, the desolate valley was a welcome sight. Potatoes and turnips were soon planted, and a dam was built. With solemn ceremonies, the settlers consecrated the two-square-mile city, and sent back word that the "promised land" was found. By the end of 1847, nearly 2000 Mormons settled in the Salt Lake Valley. The first Pioneer Day was celebrated in 1849; it's first statewide celebration was in 1857. Pioneer Day is a state holiday.



A PRAYER

by Rev. Heather K. Janules
(Cedar Lane UU)

Our prophets died
for the freedom of faith;
We are here in their spirit.
We are here to practice
and sustain our living tradition;
To light a chalice,
Claiming for justice
The heat and power of fire.
In our free faith, we are here,
Seeking freedom from despair,
The freedom to be loved as ourselves,
And the freedom
to grow beyond imagination.
We are here,
Gathered in the name
of all that we find holy.
Let us give thanks
for the gift of gathering here.

Care & Feeding of Ministers

Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley, MidAmerica Regional Staff, offers a workshop entitled, "Care and Feeding of Ministers," to interested congregational clusters. In it she describes the reality of a minister's schedule, relationships, duties, responsibilities, and boundaries. (You can find a summary of it in Heritage UU's archived newsletter @ <http://huuc.net/heirloom/HeirloomMar2011.pdf>)

It is really amazing the number of people (not you folks!) that sincerely think that ministers only work on Sunday! In reality UU ministers are expected to work 2112 hours a year: 48 hours for 44 weeks. (The lowest number I've ever recorded was 2404.) We are also expected to use 4 weeks for study (that's usually reduced by on-call realities) and take 4 weeks as vacation without any on-call duties.

A Letter of Ministry defines our responsibilities as well as the commitments of the Congregation. After a certain number of years, full-time ministers are allowed a Sabbatical--details also contained in the Letter of Ministry.



A Sabbatical is an extended period without duties, without on-call availability, and with rest and renewal as the only expected work. Because our budget is so tight, my Sabbatical is partially funded by a grant from the Louisville Institute. I will be doing research and writing for our Spiritual Mentoring Program as well as sleeping--a lot!--and playing with Solomon.

Just in case you've been out of pocket as we prepared for Sabbatical, I thought I should review what to expect the next 4 months (through mid-Oct) and again next Feb-Mar.

- ❖ All business calls should go to Tom as President. If you need something and don't know who's in charge, call Tom before doing anything.
- ❖ All programming questions should go to Linda.
- ❖ All pastoral concerns should go to Deanna, Peggy, or Tom as Pastoral Care Associates.
- ❖ Sunday Services will be covered by members and guest preachers as organized by Tom.
- ❖ Daily duties and community meetings have been divided up among members. If you're interested in helping out, check with... Tom. (I'm sure you see the theme!)

Thank you Tom for all your work! Thank you everyone for stepping up! As the Irish say, "Pray for me as I will for thee that God may watch between us," Claudia



Participants work on the Strengths & Shadows exercise during the workshop on Congregational Emotional Health held on 21 June 2014.

Three strength & shadow pairs were identified for attention in policy and practice.

Watch for more info from your Board!

SABBATICAL GUEST PREACHERS

We welcome to our sanctuary a number of guest preachers during Claudia's sabbatical. Please be sure to introduce yourself and help them get settled!

- 06 JUL: Shannon Sanderson
Representing VOAD
- 13 & 27 JUL: Rev. Dottie Stone
Retired, Former Terre Haute UU
Membership/Growth Chair
- 03 AUG: Chris Rothbauer
Intern for UU Ministry
- 17 AUG: Rev. Anisa Evans
UCC Minister
- 24 AUG & 07 SEPT: Dr. Court Lewis
OCTC Philosophy Professor
- 14 SEP: Judge Charles Boteler
Interfaith Traveler
- 28 SEP: Rev. Peter Connolly

JULY EVENTS	
02, WED	Caregiver's Lunch, 12 n Congregational Life, 6 pm Board, 6 pm
03, THU	Tai Chi, 6 pm Meditation, 6:30 pm
10, THU	Tai Chi, 6 pm Meditation, 6:30 pm
13, SUN	Twisters, 1 pm
16, WED	Leadership Council, 6 pm
17, THU	Tai Chi, 6 pm Meditation, 6:30 pm
19, SAT	Be Cool, Go Green, 7 am-12 n
23, WED	Fairness Coalition, 6 pm
24, THU	Tai Chi, 6 pm Meditation, 6:30 pm
25, FRI	Drum Circle, 6:30 pm
31, THU	Meditation, 6:30 pm