



**MONTHLY UU HERO-STORY**  
focused on Maria Mitchell & reached for the stars.



**SUNFLOWERS**  
at the fence line were planted for Earth Day by our children.



**PRIDE PICNIC**  
at Panther Creek Park was a way to meet neighbors.



**RUMMAGE SALE**  
cleaned out our closets & made money for UUCO & OASIS

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

Tom Hicks, President

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister



## WELCOMING WORKSHOP

The welcoming workshop on 11 July was spearheaded by Linda Craig. It included viewing and discussing the episode on Brain Science and Gender from the Charlie Rose Brain Series on PBS, creating a list of ways to be an ally on LGBTQ issues in our safe setting and in a public setting, and preparing a welcoming statement to be included on our Sunday bulletin and brochures. The workshop concluded with a homemade veggie lasagna lunch prepared by Elaine Winstead. Thank you Linda and Elaine for your leadership in making the Workshop happen.

### Ways to Be an LGBTQ Ally In-House...

- Listen for self-referent cues in a speaker's language. Use *their* preferences and language in pronouns, identification, etc. If unclear, ask what their preferences are.
- Notice your own responses in a situation and evaluate if they're valid and/or should be acted upon.
- Make a conscious change in your head: I will pay attention to the person and situation not my assumptions, questions, or biases.
- Respect "situational identities." Just because someone is 'out' (or questioning) at church, doesn't mean they are 'out' everywhere—and it's not your business to 'out' them. If you are uncertain about a person's preference, ask before you speak.

### Ways to Be an LGBTQ Ally Publicly...

- Confront issues directly if someone is in need. Speak to the issue if conversation is possible; if not, stand with a person and if necessary call for help.
- With kids: Dissolve the situation and tend to the bullied person first.
- Set the tone when you're in charge.
- Always respond with kindness and a calm demeanor.
- Remember others are watching and listening. Plant seeds even if conversation isn't possible at this point.
- Use "I" messages to communicate your understanding and stance. Be willing to say, "I disagree," to bigotry.
- Use other venues to present info and resources on how to do things differently if this situation is too volatile.

UUCO invites you to a caring congregation where you are free to be yourself without fear.

We are a welcoming, safe, just, and inclusive faith community that celebrates the diversity of age, race, sexual orientation and gender identity, range of abilities, education, cultural background, political perspectives, spirituality, and family structure among us!

### INTERFAITH MOMENT: RAKSHA BANDHI, 29 August

Hindus, Jains, and many Sikhs observe the Indian feast of Rakhi—or the tie between brothers and sisters. The feast has ageless roots in Hindu mythology and hold great cultural significance across religious traditions in India. The emphasis is on the love and duty that binds siblings together. It is common in ancient cultures and religions to refer to close friends and neighbors as brother, sister, aunt, uncle, or cousin even if there is no blood relation. Even the gods and goddesses pledged support and fidelity to each other! Hence this feast is also celebrated by men and women who pledge responsibility to each other in more distant relations, even without familial ties.

The observance is very simple: A sister makes a bracelet of braided thread. On the day of the ceremony, she places it on a brother’s wrist, then marks a *tilak* on him—both with a prayer. (A *tilak* is a religious mark with powder or paste that can be applied any of 12 places on a body, including the most familiar on the forehead.) The practices symbolize a sister’s respect for the brother. He responds with a solemn promise to protect her in all circumstances for life. She offers him bites of sweets or delicacies and he offers her a gift. They exchange a hug. The brother continues to wear the bracelet throughout the day—and possibly longer.

Rabindranath Tagore used the image of Rakhi to describe his hope for the relationship between Hindus and Muslims in protest of British action. Unfortunately, he was not able to persuade anyone to change course, but his vision is worth cherishing in our fragmented world.

### OWENSBORO INTERFAITH EVENTS

- ◆ **Interfaith Study Group** resumes with a planning meeting on Tuesday, 11 August at 12 noon in the Chalice Center. In previous years, this group has studied practices of different traditions and spiritualities, personal stories of blended religious identity, and academic information about different religions. The timeframe is an hour and leadership rotates among group members. At this meeting, it will be up to the group to choose a study topic and meeting time.
- ◆ **Interfaith Potluck Series** will begin Monday, 24 August, at the Hospital in Meeting Room A, near the cafeteria, at 6 pm. The hospital will provide decaf tea, coffee, and water. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share and your own table service. Please include a printed or typed list of all ingredients (including seasonings) to place on the serving table in front of your dish. This will accommodate different dietary practices and needs easily. The Interfaith Potluck will be a monthly event throughout the academic year and rotate to different sites. This event is the result of our consultation at the Islamic Center in April. Please join us and bring a friend!
- ◆ **Ministerial Association** meetings resume at a new time, 5 pm, on Thursday, 27 August at the Hospital.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES	
SAT, 01 6:30pm	Talent Show & Man-Cake Auction
TUE, 04 9am-12n	Home Office Hours
WED, 05 1-5pm	Home Office Hours
WED, 05 6pm	Board Meeting
THU, 06 6/6:30pm	Tai Chi/Qi Gong Meditation
SAT, 08 6pm	Reiki Share
TUE, 11 12n	Interfaith Study Group
THU, 13 6/6:30pm	Tai Chi/Qi Gong Meditation
SAT, 15 TBA	Multicultural Festival
TUE, 18 11:30am	Women Clergy
THU, 20 6/6:30pm	Tai Chi/Qi Gong Meditation
SAT, 22 9am- 12:30pm	Workshop: Cycles & Seasons
MON, 24 5:30pm	Interfaith Potluck @ OHRH
THU, 27 5pm	Ministerial Assoc @ OHRH
THU, 27 6/6:30pm	Tai Chi/Qi Gong Meditation
FRI, 28 6:30pm	Drum Circle
SUN, 30	5th Sunday Potluck

Details @ Sign-Up Central  
in the Sanctuary

**FIRST WORKSHOP IN THE LIFE IS SACRAMENTAL SERIES:  
CYCLES & SEASONS**

Saturday, 22 August, 9 am-12:30 pm

Registration by 19 August:

Member \$5/ Non-member \$50

Subscription for all 6: Member \$24/ Non-member \$240

Make checks payable to UUCO