

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

Tom Hicks, President | **September 2016 Newsletter** | Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

ANNUAL CANVASS

Rebecca Hopkins, Board Member, will present the annual budget at the service on Sunday, 4 September. Pledge Packets will be distributed at that time. Please return them by 25 September.

INTERFAITH STUDY

The Interfaith Study Group will meet for the first time, this academic year, on Thursday, 15 September @ 6:30 pm in the Chalice Center. The group will set its schedule and study plan at that time. This year's book is *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer* written by Eboo Patel and published by Beacon Press. The ISBN is 080-703-3626. Please let Claudia know if you plan to attend.

AUTUMN EQUINOX

Fall officially arrives Thursday, 22 September @ 9:21 am.

AUTUMN PRAYER

By Rev. Christine Robinson

God of the Autumn, help us to live
with the grace of falling leaves
the enthusiasm of the flaming Aspens
with the serenity of the old trees,
whose roots reach deep
into the earth.

God of the Autumn, help us to know
that living and dying are one
that life is precious,
and beautiful, and limited,
that nothing good is ever lost.

God of the Autumn, help us to see
in the ways of nature

The gang @ CROP Walk 2015



CROP Hunger Walk 2016

It's hard to imagine it's our 12th year walking for our hungry neighbors, but it is. CROP is the "hunger arm" of Church World Services. It meets immediate needs through disaster relief and by keeping 25% of every walk's proceeds in the local community. It also helps self-help projects for food production get started all over the world. For example, it helps farming communities establish seed banks, build sand dams for irrigation, and form cooperatives to share equipment.

There are three ways you can support this work: Send it positive energy and goodwill; be a walker; make a financial donation.

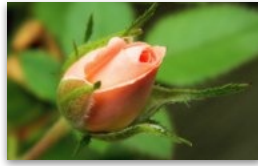
This year's walk is on Sunday, 25 September at 2 pm. We'll be gathering at Smothers Park about 1:45 so we can "step off" together. Claudia is already registered and able to accept donations online by credit card. Cash and check pledges can be made at church every Sunday until the 25th. This year's local beneficiary is A Simple Path. Here's Claudia's link:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/owensboroky/claudia>



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES	
SAT, 03	Reiki by Appointment
SUN, 04	Annual Canvass begins
TUE, 06	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
WED, 07	Home Office, 12-3 pm
SUN, 11	Peace Vigil, 6 pm
TUE, 13	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
THU, 15	Home Office, 12:30-3 pm
TUE, 20	Women Clergy, 11:30 am Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
THU, 22	ODCMA @ OHRH, 9 am
SUN, 25	Pledge Packets due back CROP Hunger Walk, 2 pm
MON, 26	Interfaith Potluck, TBD
TUE, 27	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm

ANNUAL PEACE VIGIL



On the 15th Anniversary of 9/11, we will have our 10th Annual Peace Vigil at 6:30 pm. The structure is very simple: Approximately every 10 minutes, a member offers a prayer, song, poem, or personal reflection that bespeaks peace

to him or her. The space between those offerings is filled with silence. So there's more silence than anything else and generally, as the silence deepens through the service, the peace becomes palpable. Please sign-up in the Sanctuary to join us that evening.

STUFF (The Technical Term)

Friends,

We've had a pretty good run lately. I am so pleased that the Board has been working together well and hard. I appreciate the extra time the Committee on Ministry has given to making recommendations to the Board and reviewing my Letter of Ministry. Tom has represented us to a couple of meetings that I've had to miss. I have enjoyed the events we've had—and I am grateful that everyone has been volunteering and following-through on their commitments. Thank you; y'all are awesome!

We have some important work in the offing as the Board continues setting direction and reworking our 5-year plan. I am excited about our possibilities!

We also have some significant needs in the plant.

- The basement has 'flooded' several times this summer and the carpet in the library space is ruined. It is beginning to mold and needs to be removed quickly.
- The sink in the sanctuary has leaked significantly this summer and needs to be repaired.
- The sign over the front door has continued to deteriorate and needs to be repaired and repainted. The paint was graciously donated in the spring; it just needs a painter!

It pains me to have to admit my physical limitations keep me from doing what I'd like about these matters. But there it is: We need to work on some things really soon and I can't do what I used to be able to do.

As always, thank you for helping any way you can,

Claudia



Denice, Gracie, Richard & Tom welcoming the guests!



THANK YOU!
Multicultural Festival Team
Photos by our Event Manager,
Linda Craig



INTERFAITH MOMENT: Eid al-Adha, 11 or 12 September
Excerpted from www.about.com by Huda

At the end of the Hajj (annual pilgrimage to Makkah), Muslims throughout the world celebrate the holiday of Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) which lasts for three days.

What does Eid al-Adha commemorate?

During the Hajj, Muslims remember and commemorate the trials and triumphs of the Prophet Abraham. The Qur'an describes Abraham as follows:

"Surely Abraham was an example, obedient to Allah, by nature upright, and he was not of the polytheists. He was grateful for Our bounties. We chose him and guided him unto a right path. We gave him good in this world, and in the next he will most surely be among the righteous." (Qur'an 16:120-121)

One of Abraham's main trials was to face the command of Allah to kill his only son. Upon hearing this command, he prepared to submit to Allah's will. When he was prepared, Allah revealed to him that his "sacrifice" had already been fulfilled. Abraham had shown that his love for God superseded all others, that he'd lay down his own life or the lives of those dear to him in order to submit to God.

Why do Muslims sacrifice an animal on this day?

During the celebration of Eid al-Adha, Muslims commemorate and remember Abraham's trials, by themselves slaughtering an animal such as a sheep, camel, or goat. This is very often misunderstood by those outside the faith. Allah has given us power over animals and allowed us to eat meat, but only if we pronounce His name at the solemn act of taking life. By saying the name of Allah at the time of every slaughter, we're reminded that life is sacred.

The meat from the sacrifice of Eid al-Adha is mostly given away to others. One-third is eaten by immediate family and relatives, one-third is given away to friends, and one-third is donated to the poor. The act symbolizes our willingness to give up things that are of benefit to us or close to our hearts, in order to follow Allah's commands. It also symbolizes our willingness to give up some of our own bounties, in order to strengthen ties of friendship and help those who are in need. We recognize that all blessings come from Allah, and we should open our hearts and share with others.

It is very important to understand that the sacrifice itself, as practiced by Muslims, has nothing to do with atoning for our sins: "It is not their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah; it is your piety that reaches Him" (Qur'an 22:37).

The symbolism is in the attitude- a willingness to make sacrifices in our lives in order to stay on the Straight Path. Each of us makes small sacrifices, giving up things that are fun or important to us. A true Muslim, one who submits completely to the Lord, is willing to follow Allah's commands completely and obediently. It is this strength of heart, purity in faith, and willing obedience that our Lord desires from us.

UUCO OPERATING BUDGET 2016-17	
MINISTER	
Salary & Housing	18240
Disability	480
GA/HUUMA	360
subtotal	19080
FACILITY	
Mowing- Graciously donated!	
Loan Repayment	3000
OMU	3000
Atmos	1320
AT&T	972
Cleaning	1590
Insurance	2520
Workers' Comp	396
Pest Control	365
Maintenance	300
subtotal	13463
PROGRAMMING	
Child Care:	180
Background Checks	
subtotal	180
UU MEMBERSHIP	
UUA	108
Mid-America	108
subtotal	216
ANNUAL TOTAL	32939
Monthly budget	2745

