

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro

www.uuowensboro.org

Corner of Cedar & Parrish, Owensboro KY

June 2017 Newsletter



Reading of the Litany of Countries
as part of the 2016 vial

13th Annual Denounce Torture Events

Every year, we hope that we won't need to have our Denounce Torture events. We dream of and long for the day when people will no longer hurt and degrade each other for sport or punishment—but it's not yet here. So we continue to draw attention to it and speak against it by offering a lecture and Prayer Vigil in our Sanctuary.

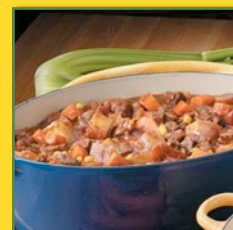
This year we will have the Prayer Vigil on Thursday, 22 June @ 6:30 pm. Rev. Randy Jones, president of the Owensboro-Daviess County Ministerial Association and pastor at Woodlawn United Methodist, will be our guest preacher. The service includes several roles for members; please check sign-up central if you would like to help.

Our lecture will be on Monday, 26 June @ 6:30 pm. Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph, president of the local branch of the NAACP and pastor at Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Church, will be our presenter. In fact, 26 June is the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment being entered into force. The entire Convention can be read @ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx> Please join us for both events!

Father's Day Prayer by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Ground of all being, Great Nurturing Spirit,
We give thanks for beautiful days right in between spring and summer,
For flowers and green trees and freshly cut grass and lazy lakeside afternoons,
For the sound and sight and heart-swell of being together
in this place made holy by our presence and church years gone well,
For ice cream and all manner of frozen treats on warm summer days,
And for all who father.
For all who have warm and loving relationships with their fathers and children,
we give thanks.

For those who for whatever reason did not know their fathers,
we will try to remember that this can be an uncomfortable day for you and others.
And for those whose relationships with their fathers or children
is painful or complicated, we support you.
This Father's Day, we lift up our gratitude for all kinds of fathers,
and for the amazing ways fatherly love transcends
blood lines and legal categories.



June Soup: Chuckwagon

Orders due by noon
on 1 Jun to Linda @
270-570-0323

Pick up on Sat, 3 Jun
11:30-1 pm

@ Chalice Center \$8/qt



Pride Picnic

Sun, 11 Jun @ English
Park 12-6 pm

We will have a UUO
information table &
we'll be helping to grill
(@ 1:30.)

Sign-up in the Sanctuary
to help but
come any time to enjoy!





JUNE ACTIVITIES	
03, SAT	Reiki by Appt, 8:30 am Soup Saturday, 11:30 am
05, MON	NonViolent Owensboro, 7 pm
06, TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
07, WED	Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
11, SUN	Pride Picnic @ English Park, 12n
12, MON	AAUW: Notable Women of Owensboro @ DCPL, 6 pm
13, TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
20, TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
22, THU	Denounce Torture Prayer Vigil, 6:30 pm
26, MON	Denounce Torture Lecture, 6:30 pm
27, TUE	Women Clergy, 12:30 pm Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm

**INTERFAITH MOMENT: LITHA, Pagan Festival
Summer Solstice @ 11:24 pm, 20 June 2017**
From www.thewhitegoddess.co.uk

Incense: Sage, mint, basil, Saint John's Wort, sunflower, Lavender
Decorations: Dried herbs, potpourri, seashells, summer flowers, and fruits.
Colors: blue, green, and yellow

Midsummer or the Summer Solstice is the most powerful day of the year for the Sun God. Because this Sabbat glorifies the Sun God and the Sun, fire plays a very prominent role in the festival. The element of Fire is the most easily seen and immediately felt element of transformation; it can burn, consume, cook, shed light or purify. Most cultures of the Northern Hemisphere mark Midsummer in some ritualized manner and from time immemorial people have acknowledged the rising of the sun on this day. At Stonehenge, the heelstone marks the midsummer sunrise as seen from the center of the stone circle.

In ancient times, Summer Solstice was a fire-festival of great importance when the burning of balefires ritually strengthened the sun. It was often marked with torchlight processions, by flaming tar barrels or by wheels bound with straw, which were set alight and rolled down steep hillsides. The Norse especially loved lengthy processions and would gather together their animals, families and lighted torches and parade through the countryside to the celebration site. Fires, as well as providing magical aid to the sun, were also believed to drive out evil and to bring fertility and prosperity to people, crops and herds. Blazing gorse or furze was carried around cattle to prevent disease and misfortune. People would dance around the balefires or leap through the flames as a purifying or strengthening rite. The Celts would light balefires all over their lands from sunset the night before Midsummer until sunset the next day. The festivities would take place around these flames. In Cornwall up to the mid 18th century the number and appearance of fires seen from any given point was used as a form of divination and used to read the future.

Astronomically, it is the longest day of the year, representing the God at full power. Although the hottest days of summer still lie ahead, from this point onward we enter the waning year, and each day the Sun will recede from the skies a little earlier, until Yule, when the days begin to become longer again. Agriculturally, crops are in full growth. They are reaching the pinnacles of maturity and coming closer to harvest time. Most wild herbs are fully mature by Midsummer and this is the traditional time for gathering magickal and medicinal plants to dry and store for winter use. In Wales, Midsummer is called Gathering Day in honor of this practice.

UUA News: More details available @ uua.org

General Assembly will be in New Orleans, 21-25 June. This year is particularly important to the denomination for many reasons: We are electing a new President, our first woman. We are focusing on racial issues—within the city and nation and within the denomination. We are considering a Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality.

Although we will not be sending delegates to New Orleans, we have participated in the preparations: We contributed to the consultations on the Statement of Conscience in February. We listened to a presentation on the Presidential candidates and decided how to cast our two votes at our Annual Meeting in April. And we submitted the information from our Bystander Training to the Region as participation in the denomination-wide Teach-In on White Supremacy as preparation for GA.

In April, our president, Rev. Peter Morales resigned over hiring practices seen to privilege white male ministers. Just a few days ago, our moderator, Jim Keys resigned due to serious health issues. We are in a time of great transition and potential. I encourage you to watch the proceedings online so that we can stay abreast of developments and include their deliberations in our discernment.

Claudia

