

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER



FLOWER COMMUNION

Sunday, April 21 we will be holding the Flower Communion ceremony during service. Each member is asked to bring a flower with them. Flower Communion is a ceremony that occupies a special place in the history of the Unitarian Church.

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. The format had to be one that would not

alienate any who had forsaken other religious traditions. The traditional Christian communion service with bread and wine was unacceptable to the members of his congregation because of their strong reaction against the Catholic faith. So he turned to the native beauty of their countryside for elements of a communion which would be genuine to them. This simple service was the result.

To read the full document the above excerpt was taken from, visit <https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/zottolireginald/flowercommunion.pdf>.

Norbert Capek's wife Maya

Capek, herself ordained, brought the ceremony to the United States. Sadly, he would die in a concentration camp. The beauty of the ceremony lies in its simplicity, its poignancy, and its universality.

Here at IUU, we hold Flower Communion annually on what is Easter Sunday for the Christian faith. It is a perfect way to celebrate both our diversity of traditions and our unified covenant during the time of the year when the planet feels reborn.

Meditation Moment/UUA

Excerpt From: "It is That Time and Place"

By Qiyamah Rahman

Have you not seen the greatness and power of the Creative Energy in the Universe called God that moves and has its being through human agency?

Have you not seen God in your neighbors' faces? In the homeless? In the battered woman? The trafficked child? The undocumented worker?

The dispossessed? It is that time and that place to know that it is our turn, that we must leave a legacy for our children. And all the children.

It is that time and that place. We are the ones we've been waiting for! For that, let us be eternally grateful. Amen and Blessed Be.

APRIL EVENTS

01 MON	NonVlt O'boro 6:30pm
04 THU	Yoga & Meditation 6pm New Member Class 7pm
07 SUN	Bag Lunch
11 THU	Yoga & Meditation 6pm New Member Class 7pm
13 SAT	Reiki by Appt 8:30am Gamers 6-10pm
14 SUN	Bag Lunch Comm. on Ministry RSVP for Christian Easter due today
15 MON	Conversation on Race @ DCPL 6:30pm
18 THU	NonVlt O'boro Strng Com. 5pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Yoga & Meditation 6pm
19 FRI	Church Decorating For Easter 1pm
20 SAT	Christian Easter w/ Footwashing & Communion 2pm
21 SUN	Egg Hunt 9:45 am Flower Communion @ Service Potluck
23 TUE	Women Clergy 12:30- 2pm
25 THU	ODCMA @ OHRH 9am Yoga & Meditation 6pm
28 SUN	ANNUAL MEETING 11:45am Bag Lunch

Interfaith Moment

Mahavira Jayanti, April 9

Mahavira Jayanti is the Jain festival that celebrates the birth of the Mahavira, the 6th century BCE prince who forsook his wealth to live as an ascetic and seek enlightenment.

When Prince Vardhamana reached thirty years of age, not long after the death of both his parents, he left the royal palace to live the life of an ascetic, or a sadhana (one who renounces all worldly pleasures and comforts).

He spent twelve and a half years subjecting himself to extremely long, arduous periods of fasting and meditation.

Eventually his efforts bore fruit, and Vardhamana attained Kevalnayan, enlightenment, and therefore was later called Mahavira (the name is from maha, great, and vira, hero).

To read more about the Mahavira, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/jainism/history/mahavira.shtml>.

As we navigate our lives in this society filled with materialism and this time of strife, Jainism has lessons for us on the value of living simply, and in such a way as to be mindful of the world around us and cause no harm. To learn more about Jainism, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/jainism/ataglance/glance.shtml>, and <https://jainworld.com/>.

CONSCIENTIOUS SHOPPER?

Consider the following great gifts:

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, or Chocolate
Products by UUCO Artists

COMING UP THIS MONTH:

COMMUNITY CHARITY EVENTS

Saturday April 6, Western Kentucky Botanical Gardens will be holding their monthly 1st Weekend Wonders Volunteer Session. Volunteers will work in the Gardens from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, and then be served a light lunch. For more information, visit <https://www.wkbg.org/2019-calendar.html>.

The Grant G. Talbot Memorial 5K Road Race is a fundraiser held in memory of Grant Talbot, a longtime counselor at Owensboro Community and Technical College. This race raises money for scholarships and needy students at OCTC. It will take start at OCTC's main

campus, on April 13 at 9:00 am. To learn more, visit https://owensboro.kctcs.edu/giving/grant_g_talbott_memorial_5k_road_race/.

For a charity event that is a fun night on the town, consider Bark in Style, held at O.Z. Tyler Distillery, on April 13. Bark in Style is a silent auction, fashion show, and dinner to benefit Saving Paws Animal Rescue of Kentucky. SparKy is a non-profit organization that rescues animals through a network of foster homes. For more information on the event,

view it here on Owensboro's calendar https://visitowensboro.com/event/bark-in-style-fashion-show/?instance_id=113776,

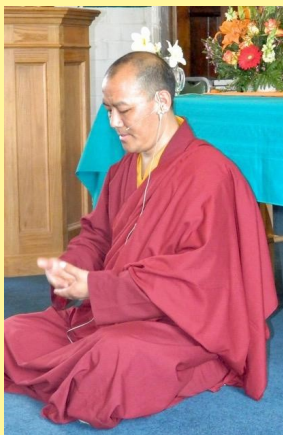
March for Babies will be held April 27, at Smothers Park. This event is a 2-mile walk to benefit March of Dimes. For more information, visit <https://www.marchforbabies.org/EventInfo?EventID=20121>.

SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS

Parents looking for inexpensive activities to do with their children over spring break, that don't require preregistration, are in luck. The Owensboro Museum of Science and History is having a host of special activities Tuesday, April 2 through Friday, April 5. From live animals, to storytell-

ing, to cooking with your child, there is something for everyone. If you would like more information, visit <http://www.owensboromuseum.org/calendar>.

LAST MONTH'S CORNER...



Ven. Tsering Phuntsok



What's so funny?



The flame