

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

TOM HICKS, PRESIDENT

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER

Discernment Process Continues

It is both a troubling and exciting time within religious organizations. There is a general downturn in membership in all voluntary organizations--churches, civic clubs, and all kinds of service groups. (The troubling side.) And yet, the need for social engagement hasn't gone down in the least; if anything, it's greater! (The exciting side.)

So as UUCO has been discerning the next step in its work and revising its mission statement, we have chosen to try to think even bigger. What form of organizational life would we like to shape for our future? How do we want to extend our reach and ministry in our changing world?

The discernment process began with discussions with the Board, moved to 3 Sunday sermons including

Thought Experiments on different styles of congregational life, and is now engaged in 4 Sunday morning discussions using *Live Boldly* by Mary Anne Radmacher. Our considerations take in issues of worship, ministry, community involvement, programming, partnerships, governance, and relationships to the UUA.

On Sunday, 23 July, the service will be dedicated to naming what themes have emerged from all the preliminary work.

At the August Board Meeting, the Board will consider our budget for 2017-18 (per schedule by bylaw) and a new mission statement articulating our direction. Please be as involved as you are able; the more thought and inspiration, the better!

Claudia

YARD SALE SEASON

What gems and junk do you need to clear out of your basements and attics? We want it! We Want it!

We're having our annual Yard Sale on Friday and Saturday, 14-15 July. Happily, (at least for us,) Rebecca is in charge and will bring order out of chaos

while adding to the congregation's coffers. We are also contacting our neighbors in hopes we can all do a yard sale on the same weekend--and increase traffic to the block!

We need good stuff, help sorting and pricing, and staff for sale days. Sign up for staffing in the Sanctuary; Contact Rebecca for all other info!

JULY ACTIVITIES

SAT, 01	Reiki by Appt., 8:30 am Soup Day, 11:30 am
SUN, 02	Discernment, 9 am
MON, 03	NonViolent Owensboro, 7 pm
WED, 05	Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
SUN, 09	Discernment, 9 am
MON, 10	Yard Sale Drop-Off, 4 pm
TUE, 11	Yard Sale Drop-Off, 4 pm Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
WED, 12	Yard Sale Drop-Off, 4 pm
THU, 13	Yard Sale Set-Up, 5 pm
FRI, 14	Yard Sale, 7 am
SAT, 15	Yard Sale, 7 am
TUE, 18	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
WED, 19	Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
SAT, 22	Foundation for Healing Through the Arts: Show & Tell Talent, 7 pm
SUN, 23	Discernment Conversation @ Service
TUE, 25	NonViolent Owensboro, Film Festival 6:30 pm
WED, 26	NonViolent Owensboro, Film Festival 6:30 pm
THU, 27	NonViolent Owensboro, Film Festival 6:30 pm
SUN, 30	Potluck after Service

DROP-OFF: M-W, 10-12 July

4- 7 pm in the Basement
Use back entrance

SET-UP: Thursday, 13 July
5 pm-?

YARD SALE: 14- 15 July
Friday-Saturday: 7 am-12 n

AUGUST SOUP

Summer Vegetable Medley

Reservations due:
Wednesday, 2 August
Linda @ 270-570-0323



Pick-up:
\$8/ quart
Saturday, 5 August
11:30 am-1 pm

MULTIPLE HAPPENINGS, MANY THANKS!



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6- PRIDE PICNIC @ English Park
7- REVISING THE SIGN @ UUO
8- REV. PETER CONNOLLY'S RETIREMENT @ UUBG
9- FR. PAT CONNELL'S RETIREMENT @ Trinity
10- IFTAR @ Islamic Center



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DENOUNCE TORTURE EVENTS:
1- Rebecca, Tom, & Maude read the Litany of Countries
2- Rev. Randy Jones, Guest Preacher
3- Rachael reads the Tutu text
4- Rev. Randy & Claud read the Litany for Healing
5- Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph offers the Lecture on the Relationship of Torture to the Treatment of Black Americans
Not pictured: Peggy reading Amnesty's 12-Point Plan



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Friends- I will be on vacation 17-21 July and 24 July-1 August. Beginning 24 July, I will be at home for my Mom's 89th birthday. Please call Tom or Peggy if you need help; they will either connect you with immediate assistance or contact me. Have a good couple weeks, Claudia



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INTERFAITH MOMENT: FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT, 11 JULY

In a recent book entitled, *The Benedict Option*, Rod Dreher of The American Conservative argues that our age shares many characteristics with Benedict's age--and that a return to his way of life may save us.

The Benedict of which he speaks is St. Benedict, a Roman Catholic saint. However, Benedict's monastic practice is now exercised in several kinds of Christianity: Roman, Orthodox, Anglican, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and United Methodist and Wesleyan. It is practiced in ecumenical Christian foundations, too.

Benedictine practice also exists in a variety of forms: active communities doing ministry in the world, cloistered communities whose members do not leave the grounds for work, hermit groups, groups that include married folks and families. Benedictines are often engaged in interfaith work as well.

Christianity Today says this: "The first monks who tried to live under Benedict's direction hated his regimen, so much so they plotted to kill their abbot. They put poison in a glass of wine and [it broke before he could drink it.] He called his monks together, said he forgave them, reminded them that he doubted from the beginning whether he was a suitable abbot for them, and concluded, 'Go your ways, and seek some other father suitable to your own conditions, for I intend not now to stay any longer amongst you.'

"We don't know if Benedict was overly strict or if his first monks were simply obstinate. But years later, when Benedict wrote a rule of life for another group of monks, it turned out to be a

model of monastic moderation and one reason monasticism blossomed in the West."

Benedict is reported to have been born in 480 CE in Nursia (region of Umbria, Italy) as the Roman Empire was disintegrating. As a young man, he moved to Rome, but was disgusted by rampant immorality and retired to a cave for solitude. Unfortunately, his reputation for holiness attracted attention and followers. His life became an ongoing struggle between engagement and retreat, establishment of monasteries and hermiting.

Again from Christianity Today: "Taking ideas from a number of earlier monastic writings (and likely from his own experience), Benedict wrote a Rule for his monks, one that is today praised for its balanced approach to monastic life. Besides the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, it stressed communal living, physical labor, common meals, and the avoidance of unnecessary conversation.

At the same time, Benedict made allowances for differences of age, capabilities, dispositions, needs, and spiritual stature. There is a frank allowance for weaknesses and failure, as well as compassion for the physically weak. 'In drawing up these regulations,' he said, 'we hope to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome... The good of all concerned, however, may prompt us to a little strictness in order to amend faults and to safeguard love.'"

Benedict died in 547 CE but his Rule and pragmatic spirituality appeals to many in our day and also crosses many religious boundaries. Many adaptations are thriving today!

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/moversandshakers/benedict-of-nursia.html>

boldness ('böldnäs/)

noun

1. willingness to take risks and act innovatively; confidence or courage.
2. the quality of having a strong, vivid, or clear appearance.

PRAYER

By Rev. Joseph M. Cherry

If we have any hope
of transforming the world
and changing ourselves,
we must be bold enough
to step into our discomfort,
brave enough
to be clumsy there,
loving enough to forgive
ourselves
and others.
May we,
as a people of faith,
be granted the strength to be
so bold,
so brave,
and so loving.

