

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



FULL HOLIDAY CALENDAR

This month we have several events for the holiday season. On Sunday, December 10, we will be holding our annual Tree Decorating service. There will be a Solstice Ritual on Sunday, December 17. Our annual Soup and Stuff event will also be held December 17. During one of the Sundays prior, you will be given a card with an ingredient to bring to Soup and Stuff. Please bring only what is on your card. Sunday, December 24, we are holding our Candlelight Christmas Service at 7:00 p.m. There will be a potluck after service Sunday, December 31.

In addition to these celebrations, we are also holding two Christmas collections. We are collecting socks, gloves, and hats of all sizes for the Salvation Army. This collection is due by Wednesday, December 13. We are also collecting men's socks, gloves, and hats for St. Benedict's Shelter. This collection is due by Wednesday, December 20. If you have items to donate for either of these collections, just bring them with you to church.



Welcome, mural by Charlot Martin

NEED GIFT IDEAS?

The season of gift giving is approaching. Consider the following great gifts:

- Soup Reservations
- Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, or Chocolate
- Products by UUCO Artists

Meditation Moment/UUA

The Solstice Teaches Us

By David Breeden

The Solstices teach us that darkness comes, that darkness goes.

The Solstices teach us that light comes, that light goes.

The Solstices teach us, calmly, silently, to be calm, silent. Learning.

The Solstices teach us as we circle the sun that everything flies.

The Solstices teach us to remember the dark, to remember the light,

to remember time. The seasons. And love as we circle the sun.

DECEMBER EVENTS

(CON. FROM LATE NOV.)

29 WED	Soup reservations due
02 SAT	Reiki by appt. 8:30 am Soup pickup 11:30 - 1 pm
04 MON	NonViolent O'boro 7 pm
05 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
06 WED	Home Office Hours 2-4 pm Board Meeting 5:30 pm
10 SUN	Tree Decorating Service
12 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
17 SUN	Soup and Stuff Solstice Ritual
19 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
20 WED	NonViolent O'boro Steering Committee 5 pm
24 SUN	Candlelight Christmas 7 pm
31 SUN	Potluck after service

Claudia's Travel Plans

Claudia will be heading home to her mother's house for the holiday, and will be gone December 25-30.

Interfaith Moment

Las Posadas: Will No One Take Them In?

December 16 starts the nine day festival of Las Posadas. This festival is celebrated in many Spanish speaking countries, such as Mexico and Guatemala, and by many Spanish speaking immigrants and citizens in the United States. It is a beautiful festival full of carol singing, re-enactments, feasts, and prayer.

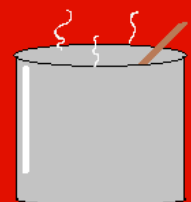
Posadas means shelter. The Las Posada festival commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for shelter as they returned to Joseph's place of birth for the census. It lasts nine nights, which symbolizes nine months of pregnancy. Each night there is a candlelight procession from house to house, complete with re-enactment and singing. Each house the procession knocks at turns them away, until the last house for the evening which says they have no room but welcomes the re-enactors to sleep in the stable. There is usually a feast at this last house, which changes each of the nine nights.

We find the news filled with stories on immigration, refugees, poverty, and homelessness. Perhaps that is why the observance of Las Posadas is so striking. It is one of the few Christmas celebrations that focuses so intently on the journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter. This holiday season, remember those around you who may also seek shelter, and keep in mind that the most beautiful souls can be found in all circumstances, including the most dire.

For more on Las Posadas, here is an article from a few years back by *The Huffington Post*, complete with video: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/24/hispanic-christmas-traditions-celebrating-las-posadas_n_2348407.html

SOUP RESERVATIONS DUE WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29TH

This month's soup is chilli! Meat and vegetarian available. The price is \$8/qt. Place reservations by calling Linda @270-570-0323. Pick up will be Saturday Dec. 2nd, from 11:30 pm to 1:00 pm.



COMING UP THIS MONTH:

Vagina Monologues Auditions

Auditions for the *Vagina Monologues* will be held at Zion UCC December 1st and 2nd, at 6 p.m. This is a production of The Foundation for Healing Through the Arts and V-Day Owensboro.

V-Day is a movement that was started 20 years ago to raise awareness about violence against women and girls (whether assigned or identified as), and to raise money for the organizations that combat this pervasive problem. V-Day groups around the country put on performances and donate the funds raised to local organizations dealing with sexual assault and domestic violence.

V-Day Owensboro has been putting on a local production of the *Vagina Monologues* and *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer* for 10 years. The Foundation for Healing Through the Arts was the recipient of UUCO's This Little Light Grant in 2016. The funds this production raises are donated to New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services, a rape crisis center serving the women, men, and children of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster counties in Kentucky. Services provided are free of charge.

If you would like to audition, but would prefer a private audition, Randi Shamsabadi Howard will be available both days for this purpose. For more information on V-Day, please visit <https://www.vday.org/about.html>. To contact New Beginnings about donations, volunteering, or if you are in need of their services, visit <http://www.nbowensboro.org/>, or call 270-926-7278. Their 24-hour crisis line can be reached at 800-226-7273.

Owensboro Soup Kitchens And Pantries, Filling A Vital Role

The holiday season that is filled with gift-giving and feasts is especially stressful and depressing for those that are struggling to make ends meet. Some families make too much money to qualify for assistance, but after their bills have difficulty affording food and necessities. For these families and individuals, the soup kitchens

and food pantries of Owensboro meet a desperate need.

WBKR recently published a list of these kitchens and pantries on their website. The list includes many churches, senior centers, and other charitable shelters and organizations. Many of these providers are in need of donations and

volunteers. If you feel called to help in any way, or if you are facing food insecurity, you can find this list at: <http://wbkr.com/owensboro-food-pantries-soup-kitchens-help-feed-families-in-need-list/>.

LAST MONTH'S CORNER...



AIDS Walk 2017



Faith Fest Sacred Texts



Prayer Circle