# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro











Tom Hicks, President

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

## COME JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNDAY: 27 MARCH

Egg Hunt @ 10 am Service with Flower Communion @ 10:30 am Potluck following Service Bring a flower to share at Service & a dish to share at Meal! Invite a friend!



# LOOKING AHEAD

Last June, the UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff team convened a Summit on the Sustainability of Ministries in St. Louis. The report of their proceedings was issued in October and is available at <a href="http://www.uua.org/careers/summit-economic-sustainability-ministries">http://www.uua.org/careers/summit-economic-sustainability-ministries</a>

Basically, the Summit considered financial problems facing both individuals in the work force (not just ministry professionals) and congregations. The issues are ones with which we are very familiar:

- The religious landscape has changed
- The congregational model is a mixed-bag
- · Assets (like buildings) are a mixed bag
- Ministry is happening in new ways
- The middle class is disappearing
- Talking about money and giving makes us uneasy

Participants said that one immediate strategy for renewing our efforts is simply changing the frame of reference: The sky is opening not falling!

The Summit was just a beginning; the conversation is continuing. Some of the strategies under consideration will not be applicable to us. For example, we don't have an endowment to

leverage! However, we are not exempt from the issues and do need to think carefully about our hopes, dreams, and plans.

Generosity, dedication, and grace have kept us going for many years--and will certainly be part of our life going forward. As always, we begin our planning for our future with gratitude for and to all of you that sustain us. Thank you!

Now we need to be serious about the work of looking ahead and discerning:

- Who we want to be
- What we want to do
- How we'll contribute to a good life in and for Owensboro
- And how we are going to get there.

Please stay engaged in the discernment! Claudia







Let us be, like that first hint of green, renewed by the warm of the sun's rays

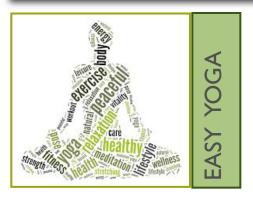
And ready to emerge with a new energy, ready to face the day.

Jennifer McGlothin

# Interfaith Potluck

The Potluck will be back at UUCO on Monday, 28 March--but it's actually being hosted by Temple Adath Israel. The problem is the synagogue doesn't have space to seat  $\pm$  25 people for dinner. It's nice to be able to return the hospitality they offered to us when we were in our early days!

So please plan to help set-up about 5:30. pm Guests will arrive about 6 pm. Sandy Bugay and Stu Spindel will present the program on the Synagogue and the history of the Jewish Community in Owensboro.



### **NEW OFFERING**

We are fortunate to have Linda Lindsey-Stephens offer another healthy practice to our community, Easy Yoga. Linda is interested in helping you learn to stretch in safe and helpful ways--and meditate with your mind and body. She is certified to teach Basic Yoga but hasn't had the chance to put it to work until now.

Sessions begin on Tuesday, I March @ 6 pm and will include about 30 minutes of stretching and breathing exercises followed by about 15 minutes of meditation. Welcome & thank you, Linda!

As with Drum Circle, this is a hosted program so the Board asks for a donation for utilities. We suggest \$2.50/session or \$10/month. As always, we accept a lower amount if your budget dictates that. No attendance will be taken; please just leave it in the plate!

#### INTERFAITH MOMENT

Every once in a while, religious calendars align to create a "power week" of observances. We have 8 days of important celebrations at the end of March:

- 20 Mar: Ostara, Spring Equinox for Pagans in the Northern hemisphere.
- 21 Mar: Nawruz/ Norooz, New Year's for Baha'i & Zoroastrians
- **23 Mar:** Holi, the Spring festival for Hindus & Magha Puja for Burmese Buddhists marking the Buddha's teaching in the bamboo grove
- **24 Mar:** Purim, the Jewish feast of salvation from King Haman and Hola Mohalla, a Sikh festival of mock battles and martial art competitions as soldier saints
- 24-27 Mar: The Triduum for liturgical Christians (non-
  - Orthodox) commemorating the last week of Jesus' life
- 27 Mar: Easter, for all Christians (except Orthodox)
- **28 Mar:** Khordad Sal, the birth of Zarathustra for Zoroastrians

May you be blessed by the celebrations of the season-and the rich opportunities to draw from so many wells to enrich your own practices!



Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch will be visiting family 7-12 March. Rev. Lori Keller-Schroeder (Zion UCC) and Rev. Jane Rothman (Faith Lutheran) will be covering hospital emergencies. Tom & Peggy will have contact information.

MA	RCH EVENTS
TUE, 01	Yoga/ Meditation, 6 pm
WED, 02	Home Office, 9-12 n Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
THU, 03	New Member Class, 4 pm Grant Committee, 5:15 pm TaiChi/ Meditation, 6 pm
SAT, 05	Life Is Sacramental, 9 am
TUE, 08	Yoga/ Meditation, 6 pm Interfaith Study, 7 pm
THU, 10	Tai Chi/Meditation, 6 pm
SAT, 12	Reiki by appointment
TUE, 15	Women Clergy, 11:30 am Yoga/ Meditation, 6 pm
THU, 17	ODCMA, 5 pm Tai Chi/ Meditation, 6 pm
FRI, 18	Drum Circle, 6:30 pm
TUE, 22	Yoga/ Meditation, 6 pm
THU, 24	Tai Chi/Meditation, 6 pm
SAT, 26	Christian Holy Saturday, 2 pm
SUN, 27 EASTER	Egg Hunt, 10 am Service, 10:30 am Potluck after Service
MON, 28	Interfaith Potluck, 5:30 pm
TUE, 29	Yoga/ Meditation, 6 pm
THU, 31	Tai Chi/Meditation, 6 pm

#### BOARD UPDATES

- The Board unanimously approved a Resolution of Support for Islamic Communities to be placed on the MidAmerica Regional Meeting Agenda for April 2016. The Resolution was drafted by the UU Church of East Liberty (MI) and required four other supporters to be placed on the agenda. The Resolution reflected our present relationship and practice with the local Islamic Center so it was easy to affirm it!
- Elections are the last Sunday in April. If you would like to make a nomination or you are interested in serving on the Board, please tell Tom so he can enter your name into consideration.