GENERAL REMINDER: Rev. Ramisch will be teaching at OCTC on Tue & Thu mornings 16 August-11 December.
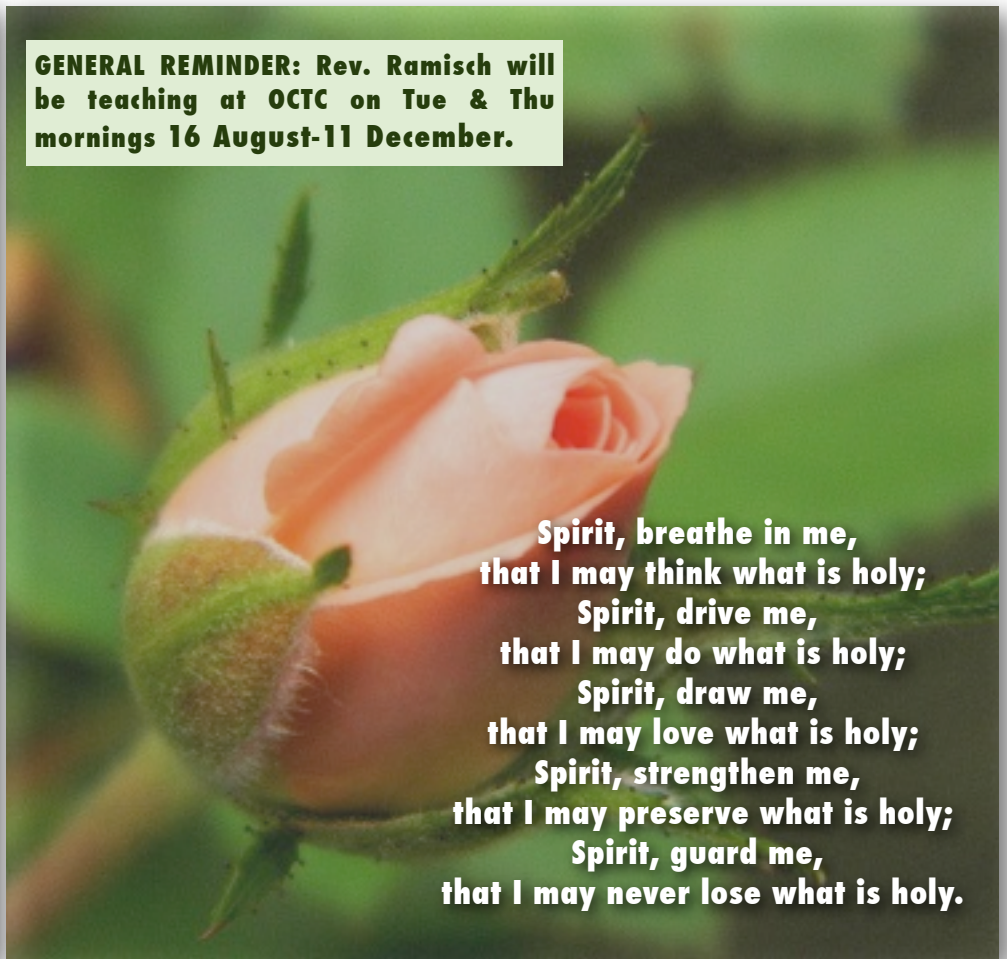
Spirit, breathe in me,
that I may think what is holy;
Spirit, drive me,
that I may do what is holy;
Spirit, draw me,
that I may love what is holy;
Spirit, strengthen me,
that I may preserve what is holy;
Spirit, guard me,
that I may never lose what is holy.

HOT BUTTON ISSUES

I went home to see my Mom for her birthday—as I do most every July. We visited the Toledo Museum of Art as we do frequently. The Museum has a proud history of arts education for the public. Currently the Museum is displaying several gallery tools that teach a visitor how to make the most of your viewing experience. The tools feature elements of art and skills for interpretation. They are part of an ongoing effort at fostering Visual Literacy.

It's true that the ancients relied on images more than words; and yes, every age of humans has been specially moved by the visual. But our age has some unique things go on in the way we're employing, altering, and arranging visual images. Hence the need for a brush-up on Visual Literacy. More on that another time...

For now, I want to draw your attention to a special Museum exhibit for this season entitled, "I Approve This Message: Decoding Political Ads." Specifically, it is an exhibit that reviews ads from previous presidential campaigns using the tools the Museum has been teaching for viewing art in all of it galleries. It is extremely well done and practical. (To get a feel for what it does, follow this link: http://approve.toledomuseum.org The exhibit will be on display in Toledo through Election Day.)

What I particularly liked about this exhibit is the nonpartisan way it explored the shared work of political ads from all sides, namely, manipulating our emotions. I suspect that some of the best political work we can do is helping others with the decoding process. While neuroscience teaches that emotion is essential in good decision-making, unfettered and un-selfaware emotion shuts down the other elements necessary for good decision-making. Two of those elements are reason and dialogue!

When you have a chance, help the political process along by helping someone else—maybe a young person—decode how their emotional life is being influenced by the bombardment of ads and images. ~Claudia

18th Annual Multicultural Festival, 20 August 2016, 11 am-5 pm @ First Presbyterian Church on Griffith Ave.

We will have a Fair Trade Coffee booth again this year.
Plan to spend time visiting other tables & spend time together at our table.
[Sign up now in the Sanctuary for a shift at the UUCO table.]

1221 Cedar St./ Corner of Cedar & Parrish/ Owensboro KY 42301

www.uuowensboro.org

Interfaith Moment: Tisha b'Av (13-14 Aug)

The 9th of Av (5th month of liturgical year) is the day the Jewish community memorializes the many historical catastrophes it has experienced on this date:

- The 1st setback trying to enter the Promised Land
- The destruction of the First (423 BCE) and Second (69 CE) Temples
- The massacre at Bar Kochba [revolt against Rome] (133 CE)
- Expulsion from England (1290 CE)
- Expulsion from Spain (1492 CE)
- Germany's declaration of war (1914 CE)

Tish b'Av completes a period of intense mourning that is called the Three Weeks. The practices include fasting, not cutting one's hair or purchasing new clothes, and not listening to music. The most extreme practices, including abstaining from most pleasurable activities, are reserved for the 9 days of Av. On the 9th, observers at synagogue will not greet each other, will see an undecorated sanctuary, will sit on low stools or the floor, and will hear the Book of Lamentations chanted to a mournful tune. Once midday has passed (on the 9th), the tone of observances begins to shift and the texts focus on repentance, return, and G-d's forgiveness.

LOTS OF BUSINESS

Board Updates

According to our bylaws:
- The Board considers/approves a new budget in August.
- The budget and pledge packet are prepared for distribution to the Congregation on the 1st Sunday of Sept.
- The new fiscal year begins 1 Oct.

Our annual Stewardship Celebration and Circle Blessing are on the 2nd Sunday of October. (This coincides with our Coming Out Day festivities again this year.)

Things you should know about the budget process this year:
- Our financial condition is **very** precarious.
- The Board is considering new insurance for the property.

The Board continues to work with the input you provided at April's Appreciative Inquiry. These are the positive core we prioritized:
- UUCO is committed to helping others, making a difference in the community
- UUCO is about connecting—with individuals and the community
- UUCO has meaningful events (inter/intra-community) that provide opportunities for self-growth, group appreciation, and connection

The language is not in final form, but these statements have helped us begin the Dreaming Phase.

Thank you for all the work and fun in July! Rebecca made the Rummage Sale a success and Peggy engaged us in great play!

We are also grateful for the work that got done back on Spring Clean-Up day—despite the rain! Several jobs are still pending so another work day will be scheduled—probably in September. Stay tuned!

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

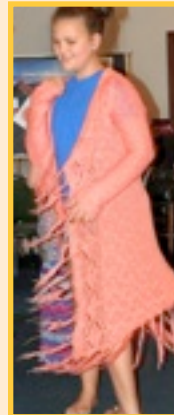| Date	Activity
02 TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
03 WED	Home Office, 12-3 pm
06 SAT	Reiki by Appointment
07 SUN	Student & Educator Blessing
09 TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
10 WED	Home Office, 12-3 pm Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
16 TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
20 SAT	Multicultural Festival @ 1st Pres Committee on Ministry, 10 am
22 MON	Interfaith Potluck, Islamic Ctr, 6pm
23 TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
25 THU	ODCMA @ OHRH, 9 am
30 TUE	Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm

Rebecca & girls working together to make the Rummage Sale a success; thank you all!

Two of the creative cakes at the Auction: A new take on FRUITcake & a Mashterpiece!

Violet & Richard entertain us at the annual Talent Extravaganza MC'd by Peggy. Thank you Peggy AND participants for a fun night!