



The UUCO News

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

August 2009

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SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

Aug. 2--Here We Have Gathered. The What, Why and How of Worship for Unitarian Universalists. In the words of Rev. E. Arlen Goff, for Unitarian Universalists, the how and why questions may be more important than the "what" question of worship. The "why" can be addressed if we look closely at the word "worship" itself. It comes from two Old English root words meaning "to shape, form or create something of worth.... In this sense, worship becomes a creative experiment in making tangible what I hold to be sacred, or divine, or holy. Or, to put in another way, worship is a way for me the make my values visible."



August 9--What is liberal religion? James Luther Adams is widely considered to be the most important Unitarian theologian of the 20th century. Adams writes of the 5 smooth stones that guideposts for Unitarian Universalists. Come explore these revolutionary ideas!

August 16--Ingathering Water Ceremony and Potluck immediately following the service. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September). At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford, we have long celebrated the start of our year in just this way. Members and friends bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them, perhaps a place they have visited during the summer. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. Please bring small vials of water this Sunday, from your special places or water that symbolically represents these special places.

August 23--Building the Beloved Community. What does it mean that we are part of a beloved community, and that it is ours to build?! Religious Education Classes start this week!

August 30--"This Place.. and all that it is..." Service and Open House! Bring a friend!! "Find your place on the planet, dig in, and take responsibility

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from there," Gary Snyder. As we do once each year, we take time to reflect on this place on the map. What does it mean to be here? What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist here in Oxford, Mississippi in 2009?!! What are our opportunities to build a just and loving community?!

Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m. Child care is provided. We would love to have you stay for coffee and snacks after the service.

Come join us!! It won't be the same without you.



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

All of our youngsters have been traveling to and from Oxford this summer while on summer break. Sophie Quinn visited Chicago and Washington. This young lady is quite the traveler! The 'travel' game is one of her favorite games to play on Sunday mornings! Max and Mollie Flaschka (twins) are becoming more and more confident each time they visit on Sundays, and their big sister Audrey brought along her new hermit crab to show us all this July! Both Chuck Sleeper and Casey Quinn have been a tremendous help with the children on Sundays! Thank-you! We are

looking forward to seeing some of the faces that have been absent and hearing the stories brought back to Oxford! Anyone up for show and tell?

Wish List: Puzzles, play-dough, balloons, small 'safe' scissors, plastic Easter eggs. Snacks: Cheese nips, cookies, box drinks, raisins, peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks.

Thank You from Pat and Gail

A great big "thank you" from Pat Miller and Gail Stratton to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford!!

On June 6, we traveled to Hartford, Connecticut to get married. Due to the unfortunate passing of Proposition 8 in CA and after 18 years of being partnered, it was time! We were thankful that there was a place we could go where it is legal for same-sex partners to marry, where there is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation (The Unitarian Society of Hartford), and where there is a terrific southern UU minister, the Rev. Barb Jamestone. It was a deeply moving ceremony and we are so happy to be married.

To our surprise, on Sunday, June 14, the Sunday Worship Service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford was a celebration in our honor. We have never felt such a strong sense of "family" in this UU community, and we would not have married had our congregation not been standing with us all these years. We were so touched when the congregation sang the song, "Don't let anyone ever tell you" and we were so surprised to receive the gift of a wire and wood sculpture of a spider web!! The web is a wonderful reminder of how we are all



connected. Thank you all so much.

Unitarian Universalists have been leaders in gay rights and have worked for full equality of all people for many years. During the service on June 14, \$590 was collected during a special offertory for the UUA President's Freedom to Marry Fund to further this work! To quote Rev. Terry Sweetser of the UUA: "As you know, Unitarian Universalism has a long-standing and deeply held religious commitment to support full equality for all people. This particular issue is about tolerance, equal protection under the law, basic human dignity and civil rights. The struggle to support same-sex marriage has given us a unique opportunity to spread the values of our faith."

We thank all of our family at UUCO for choosing to "Stand on the Side of Love." Our work is not over. While there are 6 states that allow marriage between same-sex couples, there are 44 that do not. Please look at these links: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/> and <http://equalityacrossamerica.org/>

We are humbled by your support and touched by your love. Pat and Gail

Peter Morales Elected Eighth President of UUA

In June, Rev. Peter Morales, senior minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado, has been elected as the eighth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) at the Association's General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

Speaking of his aspirations for Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Morales said, "I want to grow our faith, to reach all those people who are looking for non-dogmatic, liberal religious community. I look forward to working with partners in many other progressive and justice-seeking religious groups. There are tremendous issues that we'll be facing in the coming years and we're going to need one another."

Rev. Morales, the first Latino leader of the UUA, was installed in a ceremony which concluded the General Assembly on June 28. Rev. Morales will succeed Rev. William G. Sinkford who has served two four-year terms as President of the UUA.

See <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/144235.shtml> for the complete story on Morales' election. For uuworld.org's coverage of the Morales election, see http://uuworld.org/news/ga_

Upcoming Events

WHAT: A Candlelight Memorial for the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (Please bring your candles and some to share)

MISSIONS: 1) to acknowledge the use of nuclear bombs on two Japanese cities in 1945 and memorialize those that lost their lives and those whose lives were ruined, 2) to encourage our government to decrease nuclear threats of all kinds, 3) to encourage our government to support disarmament & non-proliferation.

WHEN: Thursday, August 6th, 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Lafayette County Courthouse

Sponsored by the newly formed Oxford Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions. If you have questions, please call Ann Phillippi at 662-236-1456, Mary Queyja at 662-234-4334, or Jordan Bankhead at 662-801-1735.

Directions to UU Hall

1. Travel on College Hill Road towards Clear Creek.
- 2.. At the intersection with Old Sardis Road, go past the stop sign and continue straight on CR 314 for 3.5 miles.
3. Turn right onto CR 198 (you should see a white sign saying "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford").
4. Go .2 miles. UU Hall, a light-colored building with a mobile home next to it, is on your left immediately past CR145.

TUPELO GROUP: The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tupelo welcomes visitors. They meet the first, second, third and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. in Temple B'Nai Israel, 1301 Marshall Street. Website: www.UUTupelo.org.

Contact Information

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Please reply to: uuoxford@uuoxford.com

Newsletter submissions are due by the 25th of the month and may be emailed to Linda Cox at the above address or to lindakcox@ms.metrocast.net.

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