

Sunday, September 11, 2005

**TOLERANCE AND FEAR
IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM:
REFLECTIONS ON THE 4TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11**

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Karina Leppik, service leader

Four years ago, American Culture moved from the 20th century into the 21st century with some dramatic events. Since then, we have been learning how to navigate our new culture that is suspicious of differences. How are religious and cultural heritages celebrated in the context of our diverse communities? How have we changed in the last four years? All are welcome.

SPEAKING OPENLY ABOUT ISLAM

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Fawzia Gilani, guest speaker

Fawzia Gilani, a librarian at the Oberlin Public Library, will describe a short history of Islam. She will address the events on 9/11/01, as well as share her unique view of those events. She also has agreed to speak about the woman's place in the Koran, including both myth and reality. She is looking forward to answering questions from the audience. All are welcome.

**POT-LUCK PICNIC AND SWIM
FRIDAY, SEPT 2nd**

Congregational Picnic at Joan Webster's and Ed Miller's home at 374 West College Street, Oberlin, Ohio. Swimming will begin at 4:30 p.m., picnic will commence at 5:30 until dusk. Please bring a main dish plus a salad or dessert to share. Also bring your own table service. Bring the whole family. Newcomers are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY

The Second Sunday collection for September will go to the Lorain County Free Clinic. To direct a check to LCFC make it out to O.U.U.F. and write "Second Sunday" or "LCFC" on the memo line. Our Treasurer will send along a consolidated check. Checks to O.U.U.F. without a memo note will go to the Fellowship. Loose cash and change will also go to LCFC unless put in an envelope marked for the Fellowship.

**REPORT FROM A SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE OUUF BOARD**

When a professional religious leader, either an ordained minister or a professional religious educator, leaves a congregation a number of things that happen that could ultimately lead to a search for another professional. Upon the advice of Rod Thompson, the Board appointed several persons to meet with him and discuss the process further. Eleanor Helper, John Marshall, and LD Moore were designated by the OUUF Board to do this, and they have been working on some of the other steps that will lead to the Fellowship deciding whether to or whether not to search for a religious professional. A special meeting of the Fellowship will be held on September 18th following the Service. At this special meeting the activities that are currently underway will be explained. Also, the subsequent activities and processes will be outlined, activities where as close to 100% of the membership would be involved. Later in the year, possibly as early as sometime in the middle of the academic year, the Fellowship as a whole will determine what course will be taken in another special meeting. Questions will be welcomed by any of the three members of the special committee.

Sunday, September 18, 2005

SEPTEMBER KENDAL GATHERING

DIVESTING BAGGAGE

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Nancy Boutilier, Dave Burwasser

If you first heard about homosexuality as a teenager in 1955, you headed into the rest of your life with some homophobic baggage. Dave Burwasser will talk about getting rid of baggage, and his developing awareness of how the presence of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders in the UUA has nurtured both him and UUism in general. All are welcome.

BECOMING A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Welcoming Congregation Committee

OOUF is not the first congregation in the area, UU or otherwise, to go through the process of becoming welcoming and open. This Forum will draw on the experience of others, to which will be added the Fellowship's own energy and commitment, as we move into this process. All are welcome.

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Fellowship will be held following the Service to share information on the search process.

Unitarian Universalists' Common Journey

Wednesday, September 21, 4:15 p.m.
Whittier Lounge, Kendal at Oberlin

Barbara Fuchsman, Guest Speaker

"We do not have to think alike, to love alike." This teaching of 16th century Unitarian Francis David was put into practice by the Universalists of the 18th century, who although they were from different Christian backgrounds gathered together in small communities to proclaim that God loves all humankind.

Today, Unitarian Universalism is open to theist and non-theist alike, to people ready to seek for meaning with others, to care for each other, and to work for a better, more just world. Barbara will talk about the challenge of liberal Universalism in this new century and will discuss the Unitarian Universalist Commission on Appraisal's new report, "Engaging Our Theological Diversity."

Barbara, a long-time member of the Oberlin UU Fellowship, is currently in training to become a UU Commissioned Lay Leader. Part of the gathering will also be spent planning for the year to come.

All are welcome.

To the Congregation:

Even though we have not had weekly services during this summer, many people have continued to meet and work. The program committee has been organizing the program, the search process committee has had several meetings over the summer, the parties and fun group has encouraged people to meet to enjoy concerts in Oberlin and Mill Hollow. Seventeen people went to the Cleveland Science Museum to participate in a tour of the human body exhibit; tour leader was our own Karina Lippik. The membership team and the social action team met this summer. The covenant and drumming groups met. Eleanor Helper and Karina Lippik were our representatives to the General Assembly in Texas this summer. Several members attended Summer Institute.

Last, but not least, the board and some of the committee members had a retreat at the Metro Parks Carlisle Reservation on August 1st. The facilitator was Rev. Elaine Strawn from Wooster. We got to learn a little about each other's style of working through a Myers-Briggs exercise. We also reviewed the big projects such as the two social action choices for the year; the welcoming congregation project and the green building certification. We also realized that the search process will take congregational energy this year. We did some brainstorming and found that getting more members, fund raising for the endowment fund, religious education, and a space of our own are priorities that the board sees as crucial for this year.

Everyone will be asked to participate in various projects. Please feel free to join a committee and get involved. We can look forward to an exciting year. Our first event will be our annual picnic at the home of Joan Webster and Ed Miller on September 2nd. (See announcement) Mark your calendar!!

Jo Huber
Board Chair

Board of Trustees Meeting will meet at 7:00 p.m. at The Boys and Girls Club on Thursday, September 15, 2005.

Agenda for Meeting

Opening Words
Setting time limits
Minutes of June and July meetings
Treasurer's report
Communication committee report re: publishing and delivering the Chalice by David Burwasser
Approval of DRE's Contract for the year.
Meeting Kate Greenfield, Small congregation liaison

Committee Reports:

Social Responsibility
Membership
Search process committee

HOW TO FIND THE OBERLIN U.U. FELLOWSHIP

OOUF meets in the Oberlin Early Childhood Center (OECC) at 317 East College Street, marked by a large abstract statue of a parent and child. Service and Forum space is barrier-free. Parking in the front and to the east.

MISSION

The Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship mission is to promote religious freedom with responsibility, to support each other with compassion, and to serve peace with justice.

COVENANT

We the members and friends of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship covenant to live together in our quest for truth, love, social justice, and environmental responsibility. In this spirit of caring fellowship, we offer our combined gifts and resources.

PROGRAMS FROM THE PEWS

A large and important part of the Sunday morning program is provided by us, the members and friends of OOUF. Do you harbor a potential topic for a sermon or forum? Let's try to realize it! Hymns, readings, music, etc. can be furnished by the Program Committee. Contact Barbara Fuchsman, <bafuchsman.oberlin.net> or 774-1804.

REFRESHMENTS

If you would enjoy sometimes bringing refreshments on Sunday morning please see Margaret Medina or sign up on the Refreshment Sheet. Likewise if you can help Margaret set up or wash up, please sign the Team Poster. Margaret, because of her work schedule, can only do the actual setup every other week.

Sunday, September 25, 2005

CARING COMMITTEE

**WHEN CENSORSHIP FAILS,
WISDOM PREVAILS**

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Kerry Langan, Service Leader

This service will honor banned and challenged authors as well as those teachers, librarians, parents, students and citizens who stand up to the threat of censorship. Readings will include selections from repeatedly challenged or banned books. All are welcome.

**BANNED BOOKS WEEK:
CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM TO READ**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Kerry Langan, Discussion Leader

Banned Books Week has been observed during the last week of September since 1982. The American Library Association notes that this annual event celebrates the "freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular." Banned Books Week also stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. All are welcome.

The OUUF Caring Committee has been revived.

Members seek to offer limited pastoral care to OUUF members and Kendal UUs, such as visits to UUs in nearby hospitals, and occasional visits to UU shut-ins, including those residing in the Stephens Care Center at Kendal.

We ask your help in making us aware of those who might appreciate such visits.

Limited assistance in offering rides for medical appointments also is offered. The Caring Committee observes birthdays in each issue of the Chalice and sends cards to OUUF members & friends in cases of illness, births, sympathy or other important life events.

If you need help or know of someone in OUUF needing help, please call the OUUF phone number, 440+371-1345, and a member of the Caring Committee will return your call. Members of the committee include Eleanor Helper, LD Moore, Darlene Krato, John Marshall and Joan Webster.

OUUF

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