



UUUCB News



May, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT of the

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BARTLESVILLE

Our Church exists to provide a liberal religious environment which nurtures the spiritual growth of all its members in an atmosphere of free inquiry, mutual respect, and trust; challenges us to speak and act on our convictions; values the guidance of reason; promotes an attitude of acceptance and tolerance among all people; celebrates the magic and mystery of the universe; honors the uniqueness of every individual and the diversity of life; and creates a caring mutually supportive community with which to share joys and concerns.

Congregational Meeting June 10th

Subject: the 424 Building

Our insurance provider has informed us that they will no longer cover the house we bought three years ago at 424 S Seneca, just north of the sanctuary, in its current condition. We have only been carrying liability coverage for it, but even that will end in August. Leaving it without even liability coverage is not an option, so we have a decision to make: improve it or level it. The board is gathering information on the costs and will present the findings at the meeting.

The congregation voted to acquire the property when the opportunity arose three years ago. There were many ideas for various uses for the structure, but we lacked a cohesive vision and the funds to follow through with any plan. Now we wait no longer. We must make a decision as a congregation on the future of the building. The meeting will be held after services on June 10th, all members have a vote and are encouraged to attend.

Book Sale May 5th

Our annual Book Sale will be held Saturday, May 5th from 9am—2pm at the church. We need books and people to help organize and run the sale. As she has for the past two years, Christa Marteny is in charge of the event, so get in touch with her if you are willing to volunteer your time. We need people to help stack and organize the books as well as help move the books in storage in the 424 building to the main church building. The Book Sale has been a very successful fundraising endeavor so far and we hope to continue that this year. We made about a thousand dollars last year, which was comparable to the annual Yard Sale. With donations down over the past few years of the recession, the extra income from the sale has been extremely helpful to our tight budget. Help us continue this very successful effort!

March Sermons—Kathryn Reese and Friends

The schedule below is subject to change will depend in large part on how Kathryn is feeling in her recovery.

May 6: Flower Communion—led by Dianne Fallis

May 13: Tom Perrine—"Unitarian Universalist Mindfulness"

May 20: Nikki Austin—"Revealed Religion vs Intuited Religion"

May 27: Steve Hine—"U and U; the coming together of Unitarians and Universalists"

Cookout!

We are taking Potluck outside on May 20th, grilling burgers and hot dogs under the tree by the annex. The church will supply the meat and buns, but we still need folks to bring such things as Potato salad, dessert and everyone's favorite: Deviled Eggs.



Church Work Day

Bring some cleaning supplies with you to church on May 6th as we will be cleaning up after the big Book Sale from the day before. We will need people to help remove the books, get everything back in its normal place, and just generally clean the place up.

Discussion Group Topics

May 6 — Steve Hine: "10 Commandments for the 21st Century"

May 13 — Keith Naylor: "Not your father's capitalism"

May 20 — Virgil Reese: "Secrets of a Successful Marriage (bring your suggestions)"

May 27 — TBD

Doors open at 9am for socializing. Discussions start at 10am and last approximately 45 minutes. Church services begin promptly at 11am.



"Isn't it great to see all the religions gathered together in peace, love and understanding."

Farmers Market Opens May 5th

Before heading over to the church to buy books at the book sale, you can load up on fresh vegetables and other locally grown food just a mile or so away. The Bartlesville Farmers Market will begin operations on Saturday May 5th at Frank Phillips park at the corner of Keeler Avenue and Frank Phillips Boulevard in downtown Bartlesville near the old train depot. The market runs from 8:30am to 11:30am every Saturday from May through October (the book sale opens up at 9am). There's also live music and other entertainment. It's a great way to get the freshest food possible; the fruits and vegetables were typically just picked a day or two before. Buying local supports our local economy and, because the produce is only transported from a few miles away, has a lighter carbon footprint than most store-bought produce. Plus, you'll see a lot of your UU friends there. If you have any questions or want to become involved in Bartlesville's Farmers Market, talk to Fran Stallings.



Flower Communion May 6th



Sunday, May 6th, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville invites you to our annual Flower Communion service at 11am. Founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, Norbert Capek initiated the first Flower Communion 83 years ago as a way of unifying congregants in his church of varying religious backgrounds. Using the native beauty of the countryside for elements of a communion, the first Flower Communion was held in Prague June 4, 1923. When the Nazis took control of Prague in 1940, they found Dr. Capek's gospel of the inherent worth and beauty of every human being to be "...too dangerous to the Reich [for him] to be allowed to live." Dr. Capek was sent to Dachau, where he was killed the next year during a Nazi "medical experiment." This gentle man suffered a cruel death, but his message of human hope and decency lives on through his Flower Communion, which is widely celebrated today. Just before he was put to death in Dachau, Dr. Capek wrote this prayer, reflecting on his own life and the state of his spirit:

It is worthwhile to live and fight courageously for sacred ideals.

Oh blow ye evil winds into my body's fire; my soul you'll never unravel.

*Even though disappointed a thousand times or fallen in the fight and everything would worthless seem,
I have lived amidst eternity.*

Be grateful, my soul,

My life was worth living.

He who was pressed from all sides but remained victorious in spirit is welcomed into the choir of heroes.

He who overcame the fetters giving wing to the mind is entering into the golden age of the victorious.

If you would like to join us in our celebration, you are welcome to bring a flower or sprig of green to the "communion vase." Or you may choose to just enjoy the colors of spring as we devote this special Sunday to celebrating both earth's beauty and humanity's oneness.

UUUs Lead Pro-Choice Rally at Oklahoma State Capital

Hundreds of protesters marched from the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City to the steps of the Oklahoma State Capital to protest lawmakers efforts to curb abortion rights in the state.

UniteWomen.org organized "United Against the War on Women" marches and rallies across the nation Saturday in response to legislation around the country that it perceives as attacking women's rights, "from reproductive rights to voting rights to human rights," according to its website.

Carrying signs such as "My body is not a battleground" and "I have a brain and I'm not afraid to use it," the demonstrators characterized Oklahoma lawmakers' laser focus on anti-abortion measures as frustrating and insulting.

Women and men in attendance said measures such as the personhood act, also known as Senate Bill 1433, take away a woman's control over her own body. The bill would declare that life begins at conception.

"That's not progress," Droke said. "That's not even status quo backward."

Oklahoma lawmakers have approved more than 30 anti-abortion measures since the GOP gained control of the House after 2004.

Droke and others who attended said they wished lawmakers would turn their focus on issues such as education and health care, which could help improve the quality of the lives of children already born in Oklahoma.

Ashley Skinnel, an organizer of the Oklahoma rally, said the event is not just about the anti-abortion legislation in Oklahoma, like the personhood bill.

She said laws across the nation are targeting women, and she'd like people to know more about these measures.

"Topeka proposed legislation that decriminalizes domestic violence in order to balance their budget," Skinnel said. "There's a lot going on. There's over 1,000 pieces of legislation that not everyone has heard about."

The demonstration began at noon Saturday with a march from the First Unitarian Church to the Capitol for a 1 p.m. rally. Speakers hailed from groups such as the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice, Trust Women and the League of Women Voters.

Senate Bill 1433 did not get a hearing Thursday before the GOP-controlled House of Representatives adjourned. The Senate passed the measure in February.

While dead for the year, the bill left plenty of controversy in its wake.

Sen. Constance Johnson, D-Oklahoma City, tried to get an amendment into the measure that said it was an act against unborn children for men to waste sperm, which drew national attention.

May 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Book Sale 9-2pm Farmers Market 8:30-11:30
6 Service 11am Discussion 10am Church Work Day	7	8 Meditation 7pm	9	10	11	12 Farmers Market 8:30-11:30
13 Service 11am Discussion 10am	14	15 Board Meeting 7pm	16	17	18	19 Farmers Market 8:30-11:30
20 Service 11am Discussion 10am Potluck "COOKOUT"	21	22 Meditation 7pm	23	24	25	26 Farmers Market 8:30-11:30
27 Service 11am Discussion 10am	28 Memorial Day	29 Folk Dancing 7pm	30	31		

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville

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Over 50 Years of
Liberal Faith in
Bartlesville

**On the web at
www.uubville.org**



What do UUs believe?

What Do You Say When Someone Asks You . . .

"So What Do Unitarian Universalists Believe In . . . ?"

Sometimes new Unitarian Universalists are unsure about how to explain their new religion to friends, relatives or coworkers. Here is a response to consider:

Rather than saying, "I'm a Unitarian Universalist because I can believe anything I want . . ."

. . . it's better to say that Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition (or religion) which encourages each individual to develop a personal faith. It draws from many different religions, in the belief that no one religion has all the answers and that most have something to teach us. From Christianity we take the teachings of Christ. From Buddhism we take the power of meditation. From Judaism we take the belief that working together we can achieve peace and justice. From Native American and other earth-centered traditions we take respect for the earth and reverence for natural cycles.

For other excellent response ideas, go to <http://www.uua.org/interconnections/membership/believe.html>.

from UUA InterConnections
