



**PARTICIPATION  
IN OUR CONGREGATION  
AND SERVICE IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY**

**TO BECOME A MEMBER**

If you embrace the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, our Covenant, and Mission, you are invited to consider membership. New members attend an Orientation Program (4 sessions) and are approved by the Board. Ask a board member or the minister to help you make this commitment.

**PLEDGE COMMITMENTS**

Our annual canvass asks participants in the congregation to make a pledge whether they are members or friends. Annual pledges are required of voting members. Pledges can be made in the form of money, goods, volunteer services, and participation in activities. A packet is available at the church or by email.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**WORSHIP** Sunday Service is at 10:30 a.m. (Coffee is usually available in the Chalice Center beforehand.) Our minister preaches on three Sundays of each month. A member preaches on our Principles or Sources of Inspiration on the other Sundays. UU churches practice freedom of the pulpit meaning that the preacher is wholly responsible for the content of the sermon as well as choosing topics.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Special workshops for **ADULTS** are offered once a month. Information is posted on the website and bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Registration is generally required.

**Children's Sunday** is often offered during Service. The program uses a children's story of a Unitarian/Universalist hero as the focus.

**MIDWEEK OFFERINGS**

**Tai Chi** is offered on Thursday at 6 pm. It is taught by Vivian Partridge. Vivian is a very encouraging teacher certified to teach groups that include students with limited mobility.

**Meditation** is offered on Thursday at 6:30 pm. The group is comprised of meditators with different practices. The week's leader determines the content of the program. A leader sign-up is posted in the sanctuary.

**THIS LITTLE LIGHT COMMUNITY MINI-GRANT**

**\$500 OFFERED ANNUALLY FOR AN OWENSBORO PROJECT ADDRESSING:**

**Domestic Violence, Homelessness, Hunger, or Literacy**

Details and Applications available @ [www.uuowensboro.org](http://www.uuowensboro.org)



**ABOUT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

The Unitarian Universalist movement in the United States traces its roots to the time of the pilgrims and their need for religious freedom. However, Unitarian Universalism is a relatively new association of two older traditions that were known as "free" or "liberal religions." More information is available at: [uua.org](http://uua.org)

**UNITARIANISM** actually began in the earliest Christian Church. It emphasized the Oneness of God. The formulation of the Nicene Creed in 325 CE established the Trinity as Christian dogma and made Unitarianism heretical. It resurfaced in the Anti-Trinitarian movement of the Protestant Reformation. In 1568, King John Sigismund, the only Unitarian king ever, issued an edict of religious toleration in Transylvania. Unitarianism reached its height in Rakow, Poland in the early 1600's where a theological school and annual synod flourished. Social acceptance of Unitarianism waned with the reassertion of dogmatic traditions, but continued to live in England and then moved to America. The American Unitarian Association was formed in 1825.

**UNIVERSALISM** also began in the earliest church. It emphasized the belief that God intended salvation to be universal. It resurfaced as a response to elements of the Protestant Reformation that emphasized predestination and theories of eternal punishment. It spread across Europe to England and then to America where it was officially organized in 1793.

In America the two traditions thrived as influential minorities. Many educators, social reformers, justice activists, politicians, and humanitarians that shaped our heritage were associated with either the Unitarians or Universalists. In 1961, the two communities decided they could be a stronger liberal voice if they joined together. The Unitarian Universalist Association was formed and non-Christians joined us. Today we are vibrant interfaith congregations.

**TODAY** Unitarian Universalism continues the tradition of free and liberal religion by embracing the loftiest ideals of all World religions. Instead of a creed it uses these seven principles to define itself:

- The inherent worth & dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another & encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth & meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



**From the ancient and largely unnamed traditions to the modern scientific and rational orders,  
And all the paths discovered between...  
From our founders separate voices to the congregation's voice united in Covenant,  
We unite our spirits and voices in worship every Sunday,  
We work together for the common good, and we play together to renew our energy.  
Come join us, Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch**