



MINISTER'S SLANT - The Chalice, then and now

The Ardagh Chalice, created in the eighth century by monks at Ardagh, in Limerick County, who buried it hastily underground — presumably to conceal it from the Viking raiders who had little respect for art. Discovered by two boys digging for potatoes in the nineteenth century, it now resides in the National Museum of Ireland and is regarded as one of Ireland's foremost artistic treasures.

The Flaming Chalice that we light every Sunday morning has a long history — its origin arising with the rise of stories of the Celtic gods. Cerridwen, Bran the Blessed, and the Dagda all owned Cauldrons with magical powers to regenerate life, to provide everyone's favorite food, and to bestow wisdom. Over many years, these old aboriginal stories blended with newer Christian tales of the Chalice used by Jesus and the disciples at the last supper, and thus we come to the legend of the Holy Grail, the focus of many of the stories about King Arthur and the Knights of the Roundtable.

A few Sundays ago, I told the story of Cerridwen's cauldron, how the Goddess brewed the potion of wisdom for her child, employing a simple village boy, Gwion, to stir the mixture for a year and a day. When a few drops bubbled up onto Gwion's thumb, he received the wisdom and also the wrath of the goddess, who chased him through several transformations, and well, you know the story. His last transformation was into a grain of wheat, and Cerridwen changed into a black-crested hen and ate him! Nine months later, she gave birth to Taliesin, the greatest of the Welsh poets.

"Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope." — uua.org

Yes, we sometimes say those words, but the Chalice is more complex and interesting than that. As people hear new stories, they inevitably interpret them by referring to stories they already know. Over time, the old magic Cauldrons, the Grail, and the Chalice began to reflect one another and suggest one another, and this process enriched all the stories and deepened them. I see our Flaming Chalice as a latter day reincarnation of the Grail and the Cauldrons and it brings us their promise to provide the right spiritual food, to regenerate our lives, despite all the messes we create, and to grant us wisdom.

Blessings,
Armida

News From The Board Of Trustees

The Italian Dinner was a huge success with a profit of approximately \$2300. There are many people to thank with special thanks to chef Michael Staver for preparing the meal and menu. Doug and Laura Dufford for donating the money to cover Jim Mantey's performance. Laurie Wurster who was an excellent hostess. The two separate seatings worked nicely. There may be another dinner fundraiser in the future!

Thanks to everyone who sold brats at Sullivan's on the 19th. There will be another brat sale July 14th for those that missed this one.

On Saturday, June 23rd we will be selling chocolate treats at the Corkless of Galena event. The fund raising committee has been hard at work organizing these fun and profitable events.

If you brought a print or picture that's hanging in the sanctuary please remove it and take it home by the end of May. We will be displaying Roger Dorneden's photography pictures during the summer months. He will donate 10% of any item sold back to the Church.

The Touchstone groups will be taking a break through August, starting up again in September. Thanks to Sally Fischer and Ted Davenport for hosting the Stockton Nursing Home birthday party.

The board was very pleased with the turnout at the Freeport Satellite Service and are now exploring hosting one in Galena in the fall. We realize that our religion is unique and we're a regional Church in a location that can expand if we reach out to the surrounding communities.

Church Vacation

The board of trustees have decided that the Church will be on vacation during the month of July. A concern that the board has is collecting money for the July service partner and filling the baskets for the FACC . There will be no Church picnic this summer but are planning a welcome back breakfast before the service on August 5th. We will continue with the Board of Trustee meetings the second Monday of the month but will start at 4:00 pm instead of 5:00 for June, July, and August.

Chocolate Lovers Alert!

Your Fund-Raising Committee is having a booth this year at Corkless in Galena on June 23, Noon to 7pm at the Depot Parking Lot along the Galena River. We will be selling chocolate desserts and a few other sweet goodies to the expected 2000 visitors.



"Welcome new members, Tim and Dianne Freeze"

Tables for Sale \$\$

At the annual meeting in January it was discussed to purchase 6 ft. round tables for the Patterson room . Everyone agreed that seating around round tables is more conducive to conversations after Church service and would be ideal for fundraisers. Because of space limitations the Board decided to sell the older rectangular tables. Over the years, members and friends have borrowed the sturdy, (and heavy) tables for garage sales, graduations, and picnics. Now is your chance to own 1 or more. We are offering them to anyone for \$25.00, first come first serve. There are 4 - 8 foot tables left. If you have bought a table or 2 please pick them up. Contact Ted Davenport (815-238-8781)

Touchstones on Summer Break-

WHAT!? A WHOLE MONTH??

Looking ahead, we will recess during July (no Sunday services) and resume services in August. There will, however, be some informal meetings for those of us who can't go an entire month without church and people! To begin, save Wednesday, July 18 on your calendar and come to Patterson Room for a great breakfast (Michael Staver style) and scintillating conversation. Friday Dispatches will inform you of other times/places/topics.

Worship Committee Report - June Services Promise to be Inspirational

This month your Worship Committee is once again bringing us services that we hope will add to your spiritual growth. We hope you'll be with us.

June 3. Rev. Jade Angelica will be with us. Her sermon entitled "Encountering Kinship with the Homeless," will share with us her experiences and reflections of her many years of work in social justice.

June 10. Rev. Armida will present a special service featuring the music and poetry of Leonard Cohen.

June 17. Members of our congregation will share stories of their fathers during this special Father Day service.

June 24. During this "Flower Communion" service we will also be retiring the buttons of those beloved members who have left us this past year.

June is always a special month. The services we will be celebrating together make this June even more special. We know you won't want to miss any of them.

CALENDAR- June 2018

Sunday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. "Encountering Kinship with the Homeless," Rev. Jade Angelica

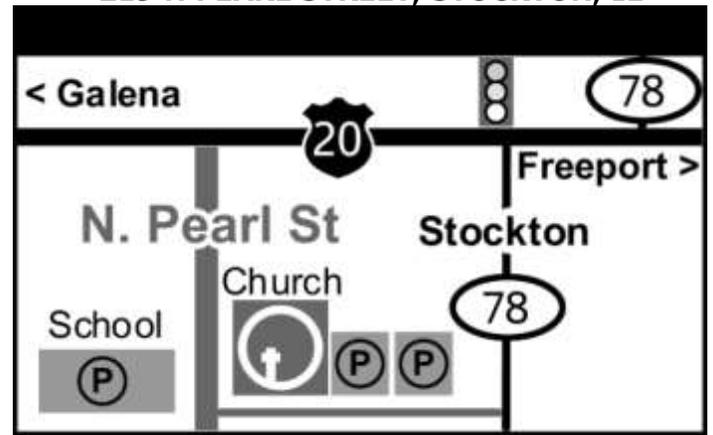
Sunday, June 10, 10:30 a.m. *Hallelujah!* featuring the words and music of Leonard Cohen, including the song from "Shrek." Mel Heidenreich will rehearse the choir to help us celebrate this great poet/songwriter. Rev. Armida will offer some remarks.

Sunday, June 17, 10:30 a.m. Special Father's Day Service.

Sunday, June 24, 10:30 a.m. Annual Flower Communion Sunday! Bring a flower or green branch from your yard or a friend's yard for our shared bouquet. This tradition comes to us from Norbert Capek, minister of the then largest Unitarian Church in the world — in Prague. He was martyred during World War II because of his outspoken opposition to the Third Reich.

CHURCH INFORMATION

219 N PEARL STREET, STOCKTON, IL



Wheel chair parking and elevator access is available from the rear parking lot.

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

Rev. Armida Alexander

UUChurchOfStockton.org

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