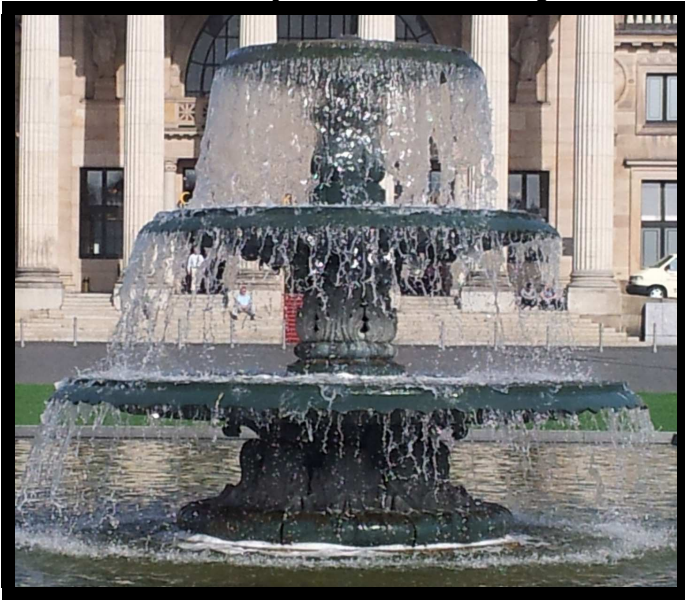


*The Ingathering and  
Return of the Fellowship*



**Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists  
15 September 2013**

**The Seven Principles**

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

*Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists*

**15September2013**

*Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest of truth its sacrament, service its prayer.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn 188**      *Come, Come Whoever You Are*

**Chalice Lighting**      In unison:

*Flame of fire, spark of the universe that warmed our  
ancestral hearth  
Agent of life and death, symbol of truth and freedom.  
We strive to understand ourselves and our earthly home.*

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau

**Opening Reading**      *The Winds of Summer* (729 – read  
responsively)

You and I and all of us blew about with the winds of summer  
*Following the sun in different ways of freedom and play,  
Finding rest in the cool stillness of shadows, and moving to the slow  
heatstruck rhythms which turned the long hours of summer light.  
Now it is time for gathering in. We come together at this time and  
in this place on the bridge of autumn.*  
Summer is fading backward into memory, and winter waits in snowy  
brilliance.  
*We meet with eagerness and delight, needing one another for  
sharing.*  
We have joys and sorrows and hopes to share, questions, things we care  
about and want to help make better,  
*Things that we would like to understand, ideas waiting to be heard.*  
Today we are together in gladness, once more the special community that we  
call our church,  
*A community of all ages that sings its songs, tells its thoughts, asks  
its questions,  
and searches together with courage and love.*

Patricia Shuttee

**Ingathering of Water**

A pitcher of water is passed, and all are invited to pour a little  
into the common vase, and say from where they have come.

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

*We invite you to light a candle at this time as an expression of  
your joy or concern that you'd like to share.*

*"I light this last candle for all joys and concerns left unspoken this day."*

**Story for All Ages**

*The Salamander Room*

by Ann Mazer

Illustrated by Steve Johnson

*"Go now in peace, go now in peace/May the spirit of love surround  
you/  
Everywhere, everywhere/ You may go."*

**Second Reading** *Let us be at peace* (505)

*Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds. Let us return to  
ourselves and become wholly ourselves.  
Let us be aware of the source of being, common to us all and to  
all living things.  
Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our  
hearts with our own compassion- towards ourselves and towards  
all living beings.  
Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to  
each other.  
With humility, with awareness of the existence of life, and of the  
sufferings that are going on around us, let us practice the  
establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.*  
Thich N'hat Hanh

**Meditation**

**Hymn 123**      *Spirit of Life*

**Third Reading**

A History of the Wiesbaden Fellowship *Dudley Strasberg*

**Discussion**

*The Return of the Fellowship: What UU Means*

**Hymn 121**      *We'll Build a Land*

## Benediction

Wisdom, be thou more precious than possessions without end.  
Truth, be thou more sacred than the pleasing of a friend.  
Courage, be thou our strength to gain the distant goal.  
Beauty, send thou a cleansing wonder to our souls.  
Kindness, be thou our guide upon life's way.  
Peace, be thou the benediction of our day. Amen.

~Reverend Don Harrington

## Extinguishing the Chalice In unison:

*"We extinguish this flame, but not the  
light of truth, the warmth of community,  
or the fire of commitment which it here  
symbolizes. These, we carry in our  
hearts until we are together again."*

~~~~~

Please join us for refreshment and conversation after the service. Our next service will be 20 October 2013 at Hainerberg Chapel, beginning at 14:00. The presentation will be on **Jefferson's Bible**.

## Ingathering

The core symbolism of the Water Communion is that we all come from water: as a species on a planet where life began in the ocean, as mammals who float in amniotic fluid as we are readied for birth, as beings whose cells are mostly water. And yet we are separate from each other, and we have been apart—since there tends to be a slowing-down, a different rhythm in the summer months, even in churches that have services and religious education right on through the summer—and now we are reuniting. We are separate and together, the way water scatters into rain and streams and clouds and springs and ponds and puddles and yet flows together again and again, one great planetary ocean.

## Third Reading

Becoming and being a Unitarian-Universalist was and is an important part of my life. I don't think it would have happened without the remarkable woman, human being, Joan Breen. When I came to Wiesbaden, Germany in early January 1957 with my wife, a little two year old boy, expecting another baby son in about seven weeks, we were planning to be here only for one year. Many things changed that, and now it has been fifty three years - how fast they have gone!

...By the mid-sixties I knew Joan was leading weekly Sunday meetings of a group called "The Unitarians" in a large room in the library. I remember one work day in April 1967, when I was in the library talking to Joan about her group. It was quite an experience for me to hear about the Sunday morning meetings, the remarkable variety of programs, about the members, loyally coming every Sunday.

...The group of twenty or twenty-five men and women, really attracted me - the way they looked, reacted, showed themselves as human beings. I felt lifted just being with them, looking at them, experiencing them. From that time