

*The Divine Feminine  
&  
Flower Communion*



**Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists**

**May 18, 2014**

**Hainerberg Chapel**

*Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists*

**18May2014**

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

**Centering Thought:**

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2)

**Welcome**

**Prelude** Hymn #1038 (Singing the Journey)

*The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: Dedicated to My Mother* Bobby  
McFerrin

**The Flowers Come to the Chalice**

**Opening Reading**

#723 (Singing the Living tradition)

*Flower Communion* Norbert F. Capek

**Hymn #123** (Singing the Living Tradition) *Spirit of Life*

**Chalice Lighting #445** *The Womb of Stars* (read responsively)

**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."

**Second Reading** *Phenomenal Woman* Maya Angelou

**Children's Affirmation:** *We are Unitarian Universalists, a people of open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.*

**Story For All Ages**

*Quick as a Cricket* Audrey & Don Wood

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

**Meditation Reading**

*"She is so bright and glorious that you cannot look at her face or her garments for the splendor with which she shines. For she is terrible with the terror of the avenging lightning, and gentle with the goodness of the bright sun; and both her terror and her gentleness are incomprehensible to humans... But she is with everyone and in everyone, and so beautiful is her secret that no person can know the sweetness with which she sustains people, and spares them in inscrutable mercy."*

Hildegard of Bingen

**Meditation** *Antiphon: o quam mirabilis est* Hildegard of Bingen

**Service Theme: *The Divine Feminine***

Terri Michos & Darrel  
Moellendorf

**Hymn # 1069** (Singing the Journey) *Ancient Mother*

**Presentation of the Membership Book**

**Benediction #691** Mary Sarton

**The Flower Communion**

**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."*

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**Please join us for refreshments after the service**

**Coming Events**

**1 June 14:00**

**Discussion Group, Hainerberg Chapel**

Pretty women wonder where my  
secret lies.  
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion  
model's size  
But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.  
I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms  
The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.  
I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please,  
And to a man,  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me,  
A hive of honey bees.  
I say,  
It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.  
Men themselves have wondered

What they see in me.  
They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them  
They say they still can't see.  
I say,  
It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.  
Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing  
It ought to make you proud.  
I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need of my care,  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

~~Maya Angelou

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The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on 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 person to be-as Nazi court records show-- "...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.

People bring a flower of their choice. When they arrive at church a large vase is waiting, attended by two young members of the Church. Each person places their own flower in the vase. This signifies that it is by their own free will they joined with the others. The vase that contains all the flowers is a symbol of the united church fellowship.

At the end of the service each person returns to the vase and takes a flower other than the one that they had brought. As no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our Search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us. Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else - thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community. This communion of sharing is essential to a free people of a free religion.

**7 June (Saturday)**

**Spring Field Trip Series**

**[#4- Labyrinth Höhenhof, Holzbach](#)**

**15 June 14:00**

**Sunday Service, Hainerberg Chapel Summer Solstice**