



THE CHALICE

APRIL 2018

A Note from The Rev. Peter Boullata

There's a certain feeling in the air the first few weeks of warmer weather after a bitterly cold and stormy winter. Do you feel it?

I find that there is more of a bounce in my step, as I spend more time outdoors. Getting out the door takes half as much time without all the layers, the boots, shoveling a path from the front door...

Just as there are seasons in the year, there are seasons in a life, and in a community's life. The circle of birth, growth, decay, death, and regeneration is natural. It is the way things are on our precious planet. Life seems to continue onward, though it changes form. Decay and death are actually what feeds new birth, new growth.

What does such re-birth and growth look like in an individual life? What does regeneration look like in community?

For individuals, it can mean a sense of peace and wholeness, connection and self-possession after a time of conflict or illness or isolation. We have more energy. There's more laughter in our lives. We have a sense that things are working out after all.

It is much the same in communities. For a community like ours, I think it looks like newer people coming to Sunday services more often. It looks like newer and younger members stepping up to serve—as volunteers, as leaders, as people who reach out. More younger adults finding a home among us, more children in the Religious Explorations programme, our lay chaplains providing more rites of passage for non-members, more social activities, more ways we become known in the wider community. It can look like an increase in membership, attendance, and giving.

This month, we are welcoming the spring weather and all that it brings. Maybe we can see a shift of mood in our lives—in our selves and families, and maybe even in our congregation. Let's be open to the changes a new season brings and celebrate the new life we see all around us!

Yours in hope,
Peter Boullata

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:45 a.m.

April 1 - First Sunday Potluck

Theme for April is “**Regeneration**”.
Service Leader is Bill Ratcliffe.

The many complexities and paradoxes of rejuvenation will be explored. Paradoxically, rejuvenation may come from a place of peace or from a place of crisis. Rejuvenation is interconnected with other perspectives of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Rejuvenation may occur at an individual or a system level.

April 8 - BIG DIFFICULT WORDS: BORN AGAIN

Guest Speaker - Rev. Stephen Atkinson
Service Leader - Bob Harrington

Some religious terms are so difficult for Unitarian Universalists to identify with that we ignore them. But, boy, are we missing something when we do that! We look today at the experience of awakening—transformation, breakthrough, new awareness, enlightenment—that can lead to Regeneration. Being ‘born again’ is an uplifting experience open to all whatever we believe.

Bio: Rev. Stephen Atkinson is in early retirement after 2.25 careers. The .25 was in Spiritual Care at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton for 2 years. The second was as minister of North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver, BC for 8 years. But first, he was a psychiatrist in Toronto for twenty years. He’s glad to have his first opportunity to speak at the Unitarian Fellowship of London.

April 22 -
Worship Leader - Rev. Peter Boullata

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:45 a.m. continued

April 15 - Whole Church Service

Service Leaders - Lori Turner Otte and
Children and Youth of RE

April 22 - “Natural Resources”

Worship Leader - Rev. Peter Boullata

On this Earth Day, let’s explore the virtues that shape our response to the environmental crisis: hope, patience, courage. What can we learn about these and rebirth from observing the natural world?

New Member Ceremony
Child Dedications

April 29 - The Greening of Death Care

Service Leader - Allan Grose

“After the moment of death .. We should get the hell out of the way, with our bodies decently planted in the earth to nourish other forms of life — weeds, flowers, shrubs, trees, which support other forms of life, which support the ongoing human pageant - the lives of our children. That seems good enough to me.”

- *Edward Abbey, author and environmentalist, who was buried in his sleeping bag under a pile of rocks in the Arizona desert in March, 1988.*

Notes from the Board

The theme for the month of April is Regeneration. As we wait eagerly for the tulips and other spring flowers, it seems fitting that we are also getting ready to welcome new members to the UFL on **April 22**.

Plans are underway for a vegetable garden at the UFL. Several people are organizing a garage sale to help with the costs of a day camp this summer.

It is wonderful to feel such positive energy in our congregation.

We have also begun to prepare for a new congregational year. We spent the better part of the last board meeting discussing the budget. There will be a special town hall meeting after the service on **April 22** to present the proposed budget to members of the congregation. Please plan to attend.

As well, the nominating committee is beginning to approach people about being on the board. Board and committee work may seem daunting to some. However, it can be an enriching and rewarding experience. It is a way to give back to this community which is so important to each of us. In our pot luck service in January we focussed on the qualities of leaders and followers. Interestingly, most groups found that the qualities of a good leader were much the same as the qualities of a good follower. In our congregation, we are all called to lead. Please say yes to the nominating committee. You don't even have to wait for them. If you are interested in being on the board see Ann Klinck or Maryanne Birch.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday **May 27**, after the service.

The Annual Meeting and Canadian Unitarian Conference will be held **May 18th-21.st**. If you would like to attend there is some funding to help with costs.

~In Community, Judith

Honouring our Founding Members

Nearly 65 years ago five families attended the first organizational meeting of what is now the Unitarian Fellowship of London. We would like to recognize the UFL's five founding families by dedicating an area of our building in their honour. On May 27, after the UFL Annual Congregational Meeting, we will take time officially dedicate our front sitting area and library as the **Founders Reading Room**.

The Shared Pulpit

With part time professional ministry, our congregation relies on hearing from its members to speak a good word from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. This is an opportunity not only for members to share their own reflections on the monthly spiritual theme, but for members and friends to appreciate and listen with gratitude. Would you like to sharpen your skills at preparing and delivering a sermon? This three-session adult RE offering with the Rev. Peter Boullata will equip you to do so skillfully. Please note: participants will be asked to deliver their sermons from this workshop in a Sunday service in the 2018-19 programme year! The expectation is to come to all three sessions: Saturday mornings from 9am to noon April 28, May 5, May 12. To sign up, email Peter at rev.peter.boullata@gmail.com

Movie License

At our March board meeting we welcomed some UFL members with great ideas. One person proposed a fundraiser idea that involved a series of evenings featuring dinner and a movie from a specific part of the world. Another group proposed having movie nights at the UFL as a way for UFLers and others to connect. (By the time you read this they will have had their first movie night.)

Great ideas but it isn't as easy as you might think. Any public showing of a movie requires a license. Almost any place outside of your home, including churches, is considered "public". (Go to <http://presbyterian.ca/2014/03/19/copyright-and-churches/> if you want to learn more.) The board made a decision to acquire a movie license from Criterion Pictures. The license allows us to do the following for the next year.

- We can show any movie from their extensive home release list which includes a large variety of films from a number of major producers. We can use any "legally obtained" copy of the film (from a member, the library).
- We can advertise the movie BUT only on our Facebook page, our website and in our building. We can advertise a movie night on other social media and direct people to more information.
- We can choose to offer movies for free, or charge people to see them. If any money is earned above the cost of the license, it is split 65/35 between the UFL and the licensing company. We don't have to share money raised through snack sales.

Maybe you have an idea. A family movie night? A teen movie night? Outreach? Fundraiser? Please bring any ideas or questions to the Board.

Garage Sale Fundraiser

Saturday May 12, 8 am to noon, at the UFL, rain or shine.

We are planning a Garage sale to help fund the UFL's summer day camp. Here's some ways you can help:

- Rent a table for \$20. We will take care of the advertising and have your table ready. Help our camp and make a little cash for yourself. This is an open event so your neighbours and friends are welcome to buy a table. To reserve your table please contact Jane Cameron at jgristey@yahoo.com.
- Donate your gently used items or baked goods to the RE tables at the sale. Please bring items to the UFL on any Sunday morning before the sale and drop them off in the RE Area. (You can also drop off items and baked goods on Friday, May 11, from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- Bring your friends to the sale and shop!

Note: If anyone would like to make a monetary donation to the UFL Day Camp and receive a tax receipt, please contact Lori Turner-Otte at lorisotte@gmail.com .

To Reach Rev. Boullata

I am available to meet and visit with you primarily on Sundays that I am at the UFL, (generally, but not always, the second and fourth Sunday of the month) between 3 and 6 p.m. It is best to email or call ahead, and to arrange with me in advance if you'd like to make an appointment or have me visit with you during those times. I am sometimes available at other times, so check with me.

Email: rev.peter.boullata@gmail.com

Telephone: 519-451-0424, press 2.

Allergy Alert

Please be reminded that the

UFL is a peanut free zone.

No cookies or squares with

Peanuts or Peanut Butter

can be served at any time.

The Unitarian Fellowship of London

557 Clarke Road, London, ON, N5V 2E1

Minister: The Reverend Peter Boullata

Sunday Services 10:45am

The Board

President.....Judith Warren
Vice President & Congregational Health
TrusteeKathleen Proctor
Past PresidentAnn Klinck
Treasurer Alastair Henry
Living Tradition Trustee.....Allan Grose
Secretary.....Vacant
Youth Rep..... Vacant

Lay Chaplains

Christine McKinlay-Smith
and Joyce Orchard

Director Children's Religious Exploration

Lori Turner-Otte

Child Care Provider

Melissa Phillips

Office Manager

Patricia Daly

Pianist

Eric Charbonneau and Alex Chen

Contact us...

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Office Hours

Please telephone the Office Manager
(519-451-0424)
to arrange a time to accommodate you.