



THE CHALICE

DECEMBER 2017

A Note from The Rev. Peter Boullata

This is a time of year when many people turn their minds toward generosity. Gift-giving is a tradition at the December holidays, and many consider their charitable contributions before the year's end.

Money can be a marker in some ways; it represents a kind of energy in the world, between and among people. Its absence can mean so much.

There are ways of being charitable that have nothing to do with money. Do we consider the possibility that our attitudes toward people can be being miserly or generous?

There can be a generosity of the spirit. For example, in our small congregation, Sunday worship is frequently led by lay people. Members invest time and effort to lead you in worship, to bring you a good word from the pulpit. In what spirit do you receive such offerings? With gratitude?

What about other relationships? Do our hearts and minds expand to include others, or do we contract, shutting others out? Can we offer loving energy from our own hearts outward toward others? Do we withhold?

I believe it is important to examine all the ways in which we can be generous. If we can be generous with our financial resources, supporting the mission of our beloved congregation, for example, and other deserving organizations, let us be generous. We can also cultivate a mind and heart marked by compassion, empathy, and gratitude.

Yours,
Peter Boullata

Sunday Worship Schedule ***10:45 a.m.***

December 3 - First Sunday Pot Luck Brunch
Service Leader: Allan Grose
December theme is "Giving".

Please bring a breakfast food to share.

December 10 - Whole Church Service
- Rev. Peter Boullata & Lori Turner Otte

"The Giving, Compassionate Tree"

Are there limits to our generosity? Is it possible to give too much? Come join us for this Whole Church Service as we explore these questions through story.

December 17 - "The Economy of Grace"
- Rev. Peter Boullata

We tend to think of giving as a zero sum game: the more I give the less I have. In what ways and contexts can giving and generosity mean increasing the abundance of all?

A Carol Sing will follow the service.

December 24 - Christmas Service
Service Leaders - Karen Kidd, Eileen Howay
Christmas refreshments/coffee to follow this short service
(There will be No childcare or RE on this Sunday)

December 31 - no Sunday service

Sunday December 10th

Everyone is invited to come early to enjoy a ***holiday breakfast***. A free will donation will be accepted and the proceeds will go to ***Indspire***, an Indigenous-led registered charity that invests in the education of Indigenous people for their long term benefit and the benefit of their families and communities. It serves First Nations, Inuit and Métis students in remote communities, rural areas and urban centres across Canada.

Correction

The UFL will **not** be closed December 24th as previously posted. Eileen Howay and Karen Kidd will lead a service at the regular time on that day.

Volunteering

"I have been enjoying greeting this November. The second Saturday, I was actually feeling eager to reprise my role at the door. It's such a wonderful opportunity to acquaint oneself with faces, new and known...Namaste. I hope to enthuse other members to embrace these few moments to personally engage with existing members and warmly welcome visitors."

- Kat Proctor

Care Team contact for December

Candas Whitlock

226-224-1834

Friday Frolic

December 1, 2017

6 - 9 p.m.

Where: At the Unitarian Fellowship of London

It's a potluck, so bring a dish to share.

We will trim the tree, play a game or two, and

Perhaps do some fancy dancing to the Nutcracker again.

Everyone is invited. Adults too!

Giving Hope

We'd like to give a huge thank-you to UFL members who attended our fund-raiser breakfast on November 12. Because of your generosity we were able to raise \$205 to support *Plan International Gifts of Hope* program. The gifts we chose were matched by government, foundation, or organizational partners. We gave the following gifts:

Fast Track School for Girls (matched 6x): This gift gives an opportunity for girls who have never been to school or have been forced to drop out to start or continue their education.

Medicine for Mom's and Babies (matched 5x): This gift saves life by providing malaria medications, antibiotics and other important medicines and supplies.

2 Birth Certificates (matched 4x): Every year 51 million are not registered at birth. A birth certificate provides access to essential human right such the right to vote, and protections against child marriage, child trafficking and forces or exploitative labour.

Submitted by Laura Breault on behalf of the UFL Children and Youth

Notes from the Board

We have been so pleased to welcome several new people to our services during November. Be sure to wear your nametag so everyone will get to know your name. This reminder is for old folks as well as new folks! This fall we are all thrilled with the addition of two new baby boys to our congregation: Melanie's son, Elliot and Madeleine's son, Felix.

Contrary to previous posts, there **will** be a service Sunday December 24th at the usual time. Thank-you to Eileen Howay and Karen Kidd for organizing this. If you have friends who are alone this season, this might be a good opportunity to invite them to join us for this holiday service. We will remain closed on December 31st.

The other day I received notice of the Annual Spirituality Expo to be held this year on January 7th from 10 am to 5 pm. Perhaps we could have a table at this event to help spread the word about Unitarian Universalism in London. Can you spend a few hours to help do some outreach? Tell a board member what you think. Here is the link : <http://www.thesocialbeehive.com/spirituality-expo/>

Earlier this month we sent our annual donation to our partner church in Hungary. We have moved the framed embroidery the Hungarian church gave us last year to the north wall of the meeting room.

The theme this month is ***Giving***. It is hard not to think about giving during the Christmas season. It is a time when we are bombarded with commercial advertisements urging us to spend. It can be a wonderful time to reconnect with family and friends, but it is also a time when many of us are made more acutely aware of the inequalities, poverty and isolation in our wider community. So thank-you to everyone who will put money into a Salvation Army kettle at the grocery store this month. Thank-you to everyone who will make an extra donation to the food bank. Thank-you to everyone who will buy a toy for a child you don't know. Thank-you to everyone who will dig a little deeper to help someone else this December.

On December 10, everyone is invited to come early for a holiday breakfast. A free will donation will be accepted and the proceeds will go to **Indspire**, an Indigenous led charity which raises money for scholarships for indigenous students across Canada. This is in keeping with our aspirations towards Reconciliation with all peoples.

Preparations are underway for our annual Services Auction on January 27th. It will be a great party. Save the date!

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season,

Judith

News from RE

Some of the highlights from November

- RE breakfast to fundraise for Plan Canada. We made \$205.00 to purchase education for girls, birth certificates etc.
- We have been talking about “Confidence” as part of the themed monthly worship topic. We are working on improving our public speaking for services as part of this
- The Whole Church Service was adapted from a sermon given by UU Minister, Rev. Dr. Kendall Gibbons and was entitled the 5 C’s of Confidence
- Chemistry is difficult to change, it's the way we are made - our set point;
- Competence is how prepared we are to meet challenges; Young people have not encountered as many difficult situations as adults, and don’t always have a frame of reference when they hit a roadblock.
- Conscience - how doing what you believe is the “right” thing gives you strength;
- Community - how being cared for by a loving, supportive group can help with self assurance;

The final C was Cosmic Control, and Dr. Gibbons humanist perspective was discussed as one way to see the world. She feels the world is random and not predestined and this gives her freedom to be daring and carve out her piece of the world as she wants it to be.

Our program for December will be:

Dec 1 - Friday Frolic - tree trimming party is planned for December 1st from 6-9.

1st Sunday - Pot Luck and Practice for Holiday Service Dec 17

2nd Sunday- Practice for Holiday Service Dec 17

3rd Sunday - Whole Church Service on Giving with Rev. Peter and the Religious

Exploration Class members

4th Sunday - Closed

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted

Lori Otte

In Memory

David Smith, 1916 - 2017; a distinguished and dedicated UU

Members and friends of the UFL are aware that a long-time member, David Smith, died peacefully on July 6, 2017 in Toronto.

Reprinted here is an article about David that appeared in a recent edition of the newsletter of the Unitarian Service Committee :

Long-time USC Canada champion, David Smith, celebrated a century of well-lived life on December 6, 2016. David volunteered with USC Canada for decades : packing up clothes to send to people living in post-war and disaster zones overseas through the 1950s and 60s, serving on the Board of Directors, organizing annual fundraising garage sales in the 60s and 70s and even picking up leftover soap from motels in and around London, Ont., to ship to those in need. David's dedication earned him an award from the government of Greece and made USC Canada a stronger, more caring organization. Most importantly, he inspired others to follow his example. " We [his children] have done a lot of volunteering because that's obviously clearly the way you're supposed to live," said Stephanie Bryant, his daughter. "He was a very dedicated volunteer for a long time... we were a Unitarian Service Committee family."

David is pictured holding a certificate of appreciation presented to him by the USC, thanking him "for a lifetime of loyal service to making the world a better, kinder place for all." We here at the UFL are also very appreciative of David's loyalty to this congregation and his wonderful generosity. Our older members may also remember David making some very penetrating observations or posing a question during the discussion period following the service in our old building on Victoria Street.

Please make a note that a celebration of David's life will be held at the UFL on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 11:00 am, to be followed by a lunch hosted by his family.

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.

Humanist Association

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m.

Sapiens: A brief History of
Humankind

Don Hatch, editor of our mini-journal *The Enlightenment*, will present a summary of the book "*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*", by Yuval Noah Harari. This is a fascinating overview of the rise of homo sapiens over the past 70,000 years. Before Don's talk we will have our **Annual General Meeting**, with reports from the HALA board and election of executive officers for 2018.

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
TreasurerAlastair 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...

Telephone (519) 451-0424

Email ufl@execulink.com

www.unitarianfellowshipoflondon.org

Office Hours

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