



# THE CHALICE

## DECEMBER 2018

### ***A Note from The Rev. Peter Boullata***

I think it's fair to say that most of us aspire to be happy. We all want to be content in our lives, safe in our homes, and secure in our sense of the future. Happiness arises in that experience of wellbeing and security.

Joy is happiness of a whole other order! Joy is happiness multiplied and intensified, an exuberance and enthusiastic excitement. While perfectly pleasant an experience, do we really aspire to having joy in our lives?

Our theme in the month of December is joy and I encourage you to consider where you experience joy in your life. Does it come to us unexpectedly? Is joy something we can cultivate in our daily lives?

Often, we are overjoyed at good news that comes to us as a surprise. We are suddenly flooded with an intense delight. And yet small, daily pleasures can also bring us a kind of quiet joy. Do we take the time to enjoy a meal with others, to savour time with a loved one, to take pleasure in a good book or film? I think it's possible that we make more room for more joy in our lives as we open ourselves to more quotidian forms of enjoyment.

The December holidays are a time when the culture around us exhorts us to be joyful and jolly. Many of us are enchanted by the season with its festivities and traditions. Yet some find it a difficult time, and the exhortations to be happy rub the wrong way. Can we find a way to light a simple lamp of quiet joy while tuning out the holiday noisemaking around us?

My hope for us all as another calendar year comes to a close is that we recognize sources of pleasure in our lives and find ways to include them intentionally in all that we do.

My hope is also that you will include our beloved congregation in your plans for December and the New Year. Our fellowship is strengthened and expanded by your participation. Can you find a way to reach out to others here and make a new or renewed connection? Will you have some fun with friends from the UFL?

Yours truly,  
Peter Boullata

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

### **December 2- First Sunday Potluck Service**

#### **The Joy of Unitarian Universalism**

Service Leader - Bill Ratcliffe

The role of joy within our Unitarian Universalist faith is complex. Our faith and the resulting joy is based on uncertainty and paradox. Joy is not pursued but is a by-product of daring to be Unitarian Universalist. The difference between joy and happiness will be explored. Balance, so important to our hybrid faith, relates to joy as well. Because joy is not pursued for its own sake, we must be mindful of its existence when we answer the calls of love and justice.

### **December 9 - The Joy of Giving and Getting**

UFL lay chaplain-in-training Brian Keith will focus on ways of keeping the holiday season joyful, in a Sunday morning exploration of happiness, how to find it and how to keep it.

### **December 16 - Whole Church Service**

Service Leader - Lori Turner Otte

### **December 23 - “Enlightened Laughter”**

Worship Leader - Rev. Peter Boullata

What place does joy and hilarity have in our spiritual lives? How does humour reflect our worldview and relationship with life? In this darkest time of the year, we create and celebrate traditions of festivity; let's explore the role festivity plays in a robust spiritual life.

### **December 30 - an Evensong Service**

Leader - Alison Konrad

## ***UPCOMING***

### **Friday, December 7**

Potluck and Tree trimming followed by a movie - “Elf”

Everyone is welcome. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, December 15**

UFL Free Movie Night

“A Christmas Story”

- also known as

“In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash”

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Free Popcorn and snacks.

Donations welcome, but not necessary.

### **Sunday, December 23**

Join us for a Christmas Carol Sing following the morning service.

## ***From the President***

It was a wonderful gathering last month at our annual services auction. We raised over \$6,000! Many thanks to Kat Proctor and Linda Lincoln for taking the lead on the event and thank-you to everyone else who helped out. We are always looking for ways to improve this event. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Kat Proctor at [woodfieldkat@rogers.com](mailto:woodfieldkat@rogers.com). All comments are welcome.

The construction of the fence along the north side of our property has begun. Our tenant Dave is helping Allan with this project. We are excited by this improvement to our outdoor space.

On Sunday November 25, we held a townhall meeting. The purpose of townhall meetings is to help improve the lines of communication between the board and the rest of the congregation.

We asked for feedback on worship at the UFL and a thoughtful discussion took place. It should be noted that the worship team is always happy to hear ideas of how things might be better. Rev. Peter and Lori Turner-Otte co-chair this team.

We communicated the need for someone to take the leadership role in the Stewardship campaign. We also identified the need for the entire congregation to start thinking about Board recruitment for next year.

Our theme for December is “joy”. One of the great joys in my life is this congregation. I have good friends here. I feel supported, steadied and nourished here.

There will be services every Sunday in December and there will be a Christmas Carol Sing after the service on December 23. Please join us.

~ Judith

## ***UFL MONTHLY FREE MOVIE NIGHT***

Three Grumpy Old Men and A Gal invite you to come celebrate the holiday season as we enjoy

A CHRISTMAS STORY, *also known as,*

**“In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash.”**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 6:30 PM**

(the third, NOT the last Saturday of the month)

Unitarian Fellowship of London  
557 Clarke Road London, Ontario N5V 2E1  
519-451-0424

*Released in 1983*, A Christmas Story stars Melinda Dillion, Darren McGavin and Peter Billingsley as Ralphie. With a running time of 1 hour and 33 minutes and a PG rating, this film is recommended for children ages 10 and older and has become a must-see holiday classic for all ages.

### **Summary:**

In the 1940's, in the town of Hammond, 9-year-old Ralphie wants one thing and one thing only for Christmas -- an official Red Ryder BB rifle. When he asks his mother for the BB gun for Christmas, she says, "No, you'll shoot your eye out". When he writes an essay about it at school his teacher gives him a C+ with a note saying "You'll shoot your eye out."

Next, he asks Santa for the gun, Santa's response is familiar, he says, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid." Ralphie fears that he'll never get the BB gun for Christmas. But there may be a surprise in store for him.

A Christmas Story is the perfect Christmas movie, it captures what it's like to be a child with one toy in mind for Christmas. How that one toy consumes them and becomes their obsession. It also shows very dysfunctional people in a very functional loving family.

This witty, insightful, hugely enjoyable movie comes packed with glorious home truths and a merciful lack of saccharin. It is a well-crafted delightfully intelligent film with iconic scenes and a Middle America charm that you will remember long after its' end credits have faded.

This is a movie to be passed down and enjoyed generation after generation.

If you don't watch it at least once each Christmas, then I gotta ask: Why the hell not!?  
Without this movie on Christmas, “you might shoot your eye out.”

The movie is closed captions for the hearing impaired.

Donations not necessary, but appreciated.

## **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](mailto:rev.peter.boullata@gmail.com)

Telephone: 519-451-0424, press 2.

## **Care Team Contact For December**

**Bob Harrington**

**519-472-3066**

## **2019 UU Midwinter Retreat**

**February 1 - 3**

**YMCA Cedar Glen Centre**

**in Bolton**

**See flyer posted on bulletin board.**

## **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  
Trustee ..... Vacant  
Past President .....Linda Lincoln  
Treasurer .....Alastair Henry  
Living Tradition Trustee.....Allan Grose  
Secretary.....Erica Graham  
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**

Melanie Cancade and Eric Charbonneau

### **Contact us...**

Telephone (519) 451-0424

Email [ufl@execulink.com](mailto:ufl@execulink.com)

[www.unitarianfellowshipoflondon.org](http://www.unitarianfellowshipoflondon.org)

### **Office Hours**

Please telephone the Office Manager  
(519-451-0424)

to arrange a time to accommodate you.