



The Hamilton Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton
Established 1889

December 2010
Volume 61, No. 11



Sunday Services

December 5: CROSS CRINGE: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS AND CHRISTIANITY

Speaker: Rev. Victoria Ingram **Service Leader:** Mary Ellen Scanlon
Storyteller: Anna Schaffer

For many, Unitarian Universalism is a faith community found in adulthood, after years of being unchurched or leaving a religious tradition followed by our family of origin that no longer feels like a good fit for our beliefs and convictions. Continuing the search for our own truth and meaning means making peace with, and healing, the past. *All congregants are invited to a Circle Meeting in the Sanctuary following the service for a discussion on the proposed 2010-2011 budget.*

December 12: A COMMON LIGHT (FULLY INTERGEN)

Service Coordinator: Kelly Wolf **Service Leader:** Ginny Megin
Storytellers: Jennifer Reid, Mark Zenchuk, Rev. Victoria Ingram, and Eduardo Cordero

Our children and youth present a service created by members of our congregation that incorporates the stories and music of Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Our children and youth have been exploring several faith traditions this Fall. This service is their offering to the congregation.

December 19: MUSIC FOR IT'S OWN SAKE SUNDAY

Service Leaders/Storytellers: Music Committee

Our annual winter holiday music service where the many talented musicians in our community share their many gifts. Contact our Music Director, Rachel Derry, at rachel@firstunitarianchurch.org by December 12 if you would like to participate. Congregants are encouraged to team up in duets, trios, small ensembles, or family groups to insure as many musicians as possible have an opportunity to take part while still respecting time constraints.

Friday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30pm: FAMILY SERVICE (FULLY INTERGEN) Service Leader/Storyteller: Rev. Victoria Ingram

Using the ancient story of the birth of Jesus, children, youth, and adults will explore the meaning of the Christmas holiday. Candles, carols, and cheer – this service includes music and activities appropriate for all ages.

Please see pg 5 for further service descriptions.

Sunday Services 10:30 AM – all are welcome

Friday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve offerings will go to the Housing Emergency Loan Program.

An informal pot luck with hot cider will take place in the foyer following each service.

5:30pm: FAMILY SERVICE (FULLY INTERGEN)

Service Leader/Storyteller:
Rev. Victoria Ingram

7:00pm: CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Speaker: Rev. Victoria Ingram
Service Leader: Jennifer Kaye

The Church calendar is online at www.firstunitarianhamilton.org
Calendar in newsletter - page 11

**January Newsletter Deadline:
Wed noon, Dec 8**

**Please send submissions to
newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org**

Include the words "January Newsletter" and a short description of the item in the subject line, e.g., January Newsletter, Membership

Contact Information

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PRESIDENT Tim Versteeg
VICE-PRESIDENT: Stephanie Ounpuu
CO-TREASURERS: Mel Webber & Mel Rutherford (Interim)
MEMBERS: Cathy McPherson-Doe, Monica Bennett
SECRETARY: Pat Dickinson
PAST PRESIDENT: Kath McIntyre

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES:

Management Catherine McPherson Doe
Committee on Ministry vacant
Nominating vacant
Volunteer Recruitment: Gail Rappolt
Stewards Tony Marcogliese

THE CLUSTERS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT REPS:

ADMINISTRATION – VACANT

Property/Grounds Committee. Doreen Knol (Interim Chair)
Staff Advisory Committee Lesley Cordero & Marilyn Hunt

FELLOWSHIP – BARBARA WALLACE

Membership Committee Daphne Payne
Greeters Co-ordinators... John Mitchell and Pierrette Cayen
Newcomers' Co-ordinators Ali Steinbergs & Mary Scott
Adult Potluck Group vacant
Book Group Dawn Ludbrook
Fellowship Hour. Joanne Waters
Librarian vacant
Young Adult Social & Spiritual Circle Kate Hicks

OUTREACH – MARGARET MCFADYEN

Denominational Affairs Representative Nora Prosser
Lay Chaplaincy Committee Janet Hillen
Social Justice Bill Johnston & Margaret McFadyen
Fair Trade Task Force Jen Dawson
Grandmothers to Grandmothers Ann Craig Howarth
UU-UN Office Reps Raman Kumar & Todd Fraleigh

PASTORAL – BILL FULTON

Benevolent Fund Manager Rev Victoria Ingram
Caring Community Comm Don McFadyen, Glen Doe
Joys and Sorrows Co-ordinator Pat Oertel
Shared Ministry Groups Sandy Lubert & Joan Foster

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – JULIE BERGSHEOFF

Adult Rel. Ed. Co-chair Nancy McMartin & Anne Wilson
Children & Youth Rel. Expl .. Kelly Wolf & Mary Anne Forbes
Our Whole Lives (OWL) Pip Heritage & Elizabeth Beckett
Youth Group Leaders Stephen Park & Nancy Gulliver

STEWARDSHIP – ROY DICKINSON

Canvass Committee Co-Chair Paul Hawkins
Festival Committee Dave Adeney
Finance Comm & Capital Funds Bruce MacPherson & Al Sharp

WORSHIP – LEE INKSTER

Choir Director Cindy Carey
Music Committee Cindy Carey
Sound Team Co-ordinators Craig Hanson & Gary Hicks
Ushers Co-ordinator vacant
Worship Assistants Co-ordinator Ann Craig Howarth
Worship Committee Ed Canning & Lyla Miklos

STAFF

MINISTER: Victoria Ingram 905-527-8441 X223
Email victoria@firstunitarianhamilton.org

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Email melina@firstunitarianhamilton.org

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Email cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Rachel 905-527-8441 X224
Email rachel@firstunitarianhamilton.org

INDEX

- 1 Sunday Services
Christmas Eve Services
- 2 Contacts
- 3 Minister's Column
Prayer for December
- 4 Splinters from the Board
- 5 Worship Services & Notices
Giving our Pianos Some TLC
Worship Committee Leadership Succession
Your Worship Committee is Seeking
Projectionists
- 6 Goats May Safely Bleat
Musical Evening with
Rachel Derry House Concert
- 7 Year-End Finances
FUUD
December YA Potluck & Cookie Baking
Church Kitchen Cleanup
- 8 Report on Denominational Affairs
- 9 Food for Thought Book Group
Writers' Circle
Meet Your Library Committee
Interweave Committee
- 10 Blooms for Africa
Submissions for the Order of Service
Need to Book a Space
Cheque requisition forms & supplies
Update Address and Subscription Form
- 11 Calendar
- 12 **Children's & Youth Religious Exploration**

LAY CHAPLAINS: Barbara Jepson 905-304-0559
Mark Zenchuk 905-777-1743

Personnel do change. Please inform the office of any errors, omissions or changes.

Facilitator, Designer and Editor Melina, Office Manager. Assembled by Pat Keefe, Barb Kulcher, Dawn Ludbrook, Sheila McAllister, Ruth Pollard, Doris Wells, and Eleanor Wrigley.

Minister's Column



"Driving home the other afternoon, I got caught up in slow traffic and found myself a bit on the bored side. So, I started pushing the "search" button on my car radio, hoping to find something to entertain me while I waited it out. Imagine my surprise to hear CHRISTMAS music (remember, I'm writing this on November 15th!) Why, don't

they know you don't play Christmas music until after Thanksgiving...UH.OH, that's right! We've already had Thanksgiving in Canada!

Maybe I'm more than just a little bit amazed that we're in December already. Maybe it's just that I don't have all my holiday preparations done yet. Maybe I'm still just a bit overwhelmed with all that there is to do (and obviously not used to new holidays, either.) However, the days march on and we find ourselves surrounded by the winter holidays, ready or not.

So, ready or not, it's the season of cheer! Merry Solstice! Happy Diwali! Blessed Hannukah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy New Year! The very best of the season to each and every one of you!

We're told this is supposed to be a happy time – families, fireplaces, pleasant memories, and goodwill. And, sometimes it is. But there's also the reality of dealing with heightened expectations and emotions. There's the pain of dealing with loss and missing loved ones who are no longer a part of our holiday gatherings. There's the rush to attend parties and performances and make sure we get in all of the "traditions" before the season is over. There's too much sugar, and too much hype, and too much money, and, well, frankly, just too much. The holidays are joyful; and they can be stressful, too.

I give you three words for this holiday season: Stop –

Breathe – Relax

STOP making yourself crazy by trying to make everything "perfect." If you usually make 12 different kinds of cookies, this year make 3. If you spend every evening in the workshop, finishing up projects, choose simpler projects. Be selective about how many events, performances, parties, and activities you try to cram into a day or week and choose only a reasonable number to avoid holiday burnout. Unfortunately, much of our holiday stress is self-imposed, as we try to do it all. STOP – you simply can't do it all, but you can ruin your holiday spirit by trying to.

BREATHE deeply, regularly, and slowly. And, as you practice breathing, notice the simple joys around you. Clouds and trees, winter scenes and decorations, cozy socks and warm cups of cider – see what special wonders you can find around you to be grateful for every day. Breathe the chilly air and notice the scents of the holidays – spices and candles and special treats, trees and berries and favorite meals. The sounds of the holidays include special music, bells, singing, and laughter. BREATHE deeply and allow your senses to welcome the season.

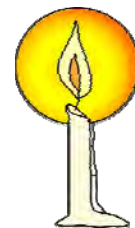
RELAX – do only what you need to do, and then don't do any more. Give yourself permission to get off of the treadmill and find some space and time. Take it easy and let someone else do it for you. Remember to take time for yourself, allowing yourself to enjoy what you like, that which renews your spirit and makes you feel special. RELAX with your friends or family or by yourself. Reconnect with what has heart and meaning for you.

With wishes for peace and joy, love and light,

~Victoria

Prayer for December

Spirit of Life, hear our prayers in this holiday season, be with us in sorrow and joy, loss and love, despair and hope. Hear us as we ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. Open a place for the spirit of compassion, happiness, and serenity to enter our hearts and minds. Help us remember to love ourselves and one another, now and in all the days ahead. Blessed be.





Splinters from the Board:

This Report covers Board Meetings held on Oct. 13th and 27th. Minutes from the most recent Board meetings are posted on the Bulletin Board outside the kitchen window. The Board will meet only once a month, the last Wed. of each month, beginning November 24th (the Dec. Board meeting will be held on Dec. 15th.)

Our activities in October have focused primarily on developing working relationships and future directions with Rev. Ingram and working through budget and financial details for the 2010-2011 year.

- value and appreciate each other's contributions, demonstrating mutual respect by listening and seeking to understand different viewpoints.
- ensure check in and process debrief at each meeting, including Green Lens.
- show our interest in each other's ideas, as well as utilizing our unique resources and experience to expand on those ideas.
- allow ourselves to be appropriately vulnerable.
- are reliable and prepared.
- remember to keep the needs of the church foremost.
- gain energy, synergy, and excitement from our shared vision and purpose.
- value our sense of humour, especially in recognizing our humanness in order to keep our perspective when we feel anxious.
- are honest and straight-forward with one another.
- are committed to see issues through and not back away from conflict, but rather take issues on directly and find out what's real and true.
- are transparent about our agenda and committed to moving forward together.
- are there for each other, but also remember that each of us is responsible for our own personal care during meetings.

Rev. Ingram reviewed her priorities for the coming year as well as future potential directions for 2011-12 and 2012-13 for discussion at the Oct. Board meetings as well as the Oct. 23rd CUC Start Up Workshop, led by Art Brewer. This workshop provided direction to Board members, Management Committee, Nominating Committee and Committee on Ministry on how best to work with our new Settled Minister. The Minister's priorities, plus the goals for the church that were generated at the Start Up Workshop, will be circulated to all church members.

Bruce MacPherson and Leslie Cordero, Co-Chairs of the Finance and Staff Advisory Committees, respectively, provided details of a proposed Staff Compensation Policy. Bruce proposed recommendations for financial instruments that would streamline financial processes for congregants and staff. An update was also received from the Canvass Committee. This information was reviewed at a Circle Meeting after church on Oct. 24th. Bruce MacPherson and Allan Sharp will present a proposed 2010-2011 budget to

At our Oct. 13th meeting, Rev. Ingram led us through a process to develop a new Board Covenant. We all appreciated the very inclusive and comprehensive way that this process resulted in the following covenant for 2010-11:

We are the Board of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. In order to create trust, remain in right relationship, and keep our focus on the spiritual work of this church, we want to be honest with one another, even about our issues, assume good intent, and bring our best selves to our work in order to fully commit to moving forward together. In order to make this happen, we:

the Board at the Nov. 24th meeting and will review this budget at a Circle meeting after church on Dec. 5th. The Board continues to value the very thorough work that has been done in regard to church financial matters over the past few months.

The Board agreed to strike a Safe Steps Task Force to develop and advise on implementation of a Safe Steps Policy for the church. The Task Force will consist of Board members, Monica Bennett and Mel Rutherford, Rev. Ingram, and a representative from the Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee (CYRE).

Melanie Parish was appointed Chair of the Arts and Aesthetics Committee.

Board members thoroughly enjoyed the Installation Ceremony held for Rev. Ingram on Sunday, November 7th, along with members and friends of the congregation, representation of the local ministry, Unitarian ministers from across Ontario and Rev. Ingram's friends and family members.

~Pat Dickinson, on behalf of the Board.

Worship
Committee

Services & Notices

worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org*Service Descriptions continued from front page***Friday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

7:00pm: CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Speaker: Rev. Victoria Ingram

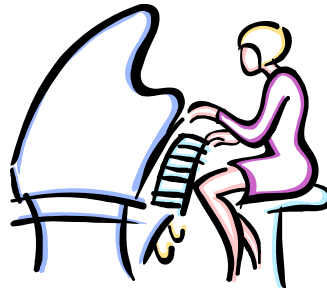
Service Leader: Jennifer Kaye

Traditional carols, readings, stories, and candle-lighting create a sacred space for reflection and contemplation at this time of year honored in many religious traditions. We will close this service by singing "Silent Night" and lighting candles.

Giving Our Pianos Some TLC

The upright and grand pianos in our Sanctuary both have beautiful piano covers. If you are rehearsing in the Sanctuary, a Music Minister for a Sunday Worship Service, or using either piano for a rental or special event at the church, please make sure to cover the pianos once you are finished using them.

Our grand piano has a humidifier, which is plugged into the wall. If you decide to move the piano away from the wall, please make sure that you unplug the humidifier cord from the wall before you move it. When you are finished performing please push the piano back against the wall and plug the humidifier cord back in to the electrical outlet.



Our grand piano also has a lock. Please make sure to lock the piano when you finish using it and place the key for the lock back in its place in the music room.

Thoughtful "tender loving care" will help to ensure that we continue to enjoy both of these amazing instruments for many years to come.

Worship Committee Leadership Succession

Lyla Miklos and Ed Canning have been honoured to serve the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton since May 7, 2008 as the Co-Chairs of your Worship Committee (formerly know as the Church Services Committee). Their terms as Co-Chairs must end on December 31, 2010 as both Ed and Lyla have already served beyond their two-year term due to the many dramatic (and positive!) changes that have taken place at our congregation since Spring 2008. Ed and Lyla are looking forward to mentoring congregants who want to join the Worship Committee before they step down at the end of the year. If this sounds like an opportunity you would like to pursue please e-mail worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org to find out more. Ed and Lyla would love to share their skills and knowledge with you.

Your Worship Committee Is Seeking Projectionists

Having lyrics and readings projected on to the wall has helped to make our worship services more accessible for everyone in our congregation. If you would like to take on the role of Projectionist for a Sunday Worship Service you will need to know how to use a lap top, Power Point or similar presentation software, internet, and e-mail.

If this sounds like a role you would be interested in taking on for the 2010/2011 church year please contact your Worship Committee at worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Goats May Safely Bleat

Did Cindy Carey's inspiration come from J.S. Bach ("Sheep May Safely Graze") or was it perhaps P.T. Barnum? Who knows. At any rate, "goats" did beautifully, or more accurately, bleatingly sing on stage during our Sound of Music Singalong and Costume Party on Sat. Nov. 13, much to the delight of the amazed and amused crowd singing and laughing along with the horned yet curiously anthropomorphic beasts.

Numerous other antic outbursts, including creatively crazed donning and doffing of both male and female garb by a well-known local lawyer, who might prefer to remain anonymous since this newsletter is published on the Internet, caused various and sundry sides to split. I shall name Ed Canning nonetheless, shameless ham that he is.

Thousand-decibel-on-the-applause-meter thanks to Cindy Carey and Rachel Derry for sharing with the congregation that evening (and throughout the years!) their glorious musical talents, huge hearts, and brilliantly warm way of helping our community grow and flower.

Thanks also to additional on-stage performers Beverly Horton, Joanne Dear as well as students courtesy of Susan Gudgeon, to Gary Hicks and Brian Carey for the excellent sound (without which any show could be close to a no-show), to the dozens of people who donated to and purchased at the silent and live auctions, to the many, many other volunteers who pitched in on tasks throughout the church, and to fellow Festival Committee members Diane Hinshelwood, Linda Layton, Floriana Seccombe and Catherine Schuler for their yeolady service lo these many months.

Counting and further collecting of coin continue apace; watch this space for a financial report within the shortest possible period. Bravo and encore, everyone!

- Dave Adeney for the Festival Committee



"Bid lively or I'll bean you with my cane!"
Festival Committee Chair Dave Adeney brought along a formidable prop for his role as auctioneer during intermission at the Sound of Music Singalong and Costume Party (a church fundraiser) on Nov 13.

"Musical Evening with Rachel Derry" House Concert and Party on March 5

Don't miss this exceptional offering in the current "Wonderful Meals and Terrific Times with Church Friends" catalogue from the Festival Committee. Hear pianist and chanteuse extraordinaire Rachel Derry (yes, that's "our Rachel") play and sing at Ed Canning & Julie Bergsheoff's new digs in what has to be the most interesting "renaissance" neighbourhood in Hamilton, near the beautifully designed Bayfront Park. \$45 ticket includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, sterling company.

Tickets for this and other interesting themed meals and outings available at the Festival Committee desk in the foyer – an ongoing fundraising activity for the church.

Do take advantage of this wonderful way to deepen your connections with fellow congregants.

-Your Festival Committee

Year-End Finances

- Please ensure that all expense claims for the 2010 expenditures are submitted to the office before December 31.
- Please make any contributions to fulfill your 2010 pledge before the end of the year
- If you wish to make your 2011 pledge now, you can do so. Just identify it on the collection envelope or cheque memo line as a 2011 contribution
- Please note that all contributions received in the office by December 31st 2010 will result in a 2010 tax receipt whether or not the contribution is to be recorded against a 2010 or 2011 pledge
- Please remember to identify your contributions as 2010 or 2011 pledges on the memo line of your cheque or on your enclosing envelope



Unitarian Universalists and Our Relationships with Food

This group will meet on an ongoing basis throughout 2011 as an Adult Religion Education Program so that individuals can achieve their own weight management goals in relationship to the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. We will create a safe and supportive setting for individuals to explore their relationships with food. We will hold one another within a covenant of mutual accountability. The scope of this group will not include medical or psychological guidance or advise nor utilize scales or measuring tapes as a means of measuring success. Our measure of success will be how we feel about ourselves in relationship to food. We will meet every Saturday from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Group members should commit to attend at least two Saturdays each month and new members may join the group at any time. For more information contact Paul Hawkins by email at pwhawkins@aol.com or phone at 905.541.5833.

December Young Adult Potluck and Cookie Baking

If you are in your 20s or 30s please join the Young Adult Group for a potluck on **Saturday, December 11th** from **6-9pm** in the Fellowship Hall area of the church. Following dinner we will be baking cookies together. Contact Kate Hicks at hatekicks@gmail.com for more information or with your favourite cookie recipes. Please take special notice that the event is not at the regular time or day. Hope to see you there!



Church Kitchen Cleanup



As you probably know, I have taken on the job of the "Kitchen Fairy. I am trying to tidy, eliminate extra dishes, cups, pans etc and generally, keep the kitchen clean and ready for use, both on Sundays and during the week when groups may be using it during meetings etc.

If you use the kitchen, especially if you have eaten off the dishes, please wash the food off these dishes, put them in the sterilizer and pull the plug out of the bottom to let out the dirty water before turning off the sterilizer. Recently, I came in to the church for my regular volunteer day to find dirty water in the sterilizer, dishes with food caked on - also in the sterilizer, which I had to scrub with a scrubber to get clean and then rewash them.

This kitchen belongs to all the members of the church. Please use it responsibly!

Thanks Joanne Waters, the Kitchen Fairy



Report on Denominational Affairs

Nora Prosser, Denominational Rep

"Making Connections", the Central Region Fall Gathering.

On November 13, this was hosted by the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo in their beautiful church in Kitchener. Our congregation was represented by our minister, Rev. Victoria Ingram, Kate Hicks, Paul Hawkins, Beryl Pegg and myself. Linda Thomson was there in her role as Director of Congregational Services, together with new CUC staff members Ariel Hunt-Bronswin, Youth/Young Adult Programmer, Helen Armstrong, our Central Region congregational Services Programmer and Ben Wolfe, Director of Communications, all of whom led workshops.

Workshops: All were interesting and useful and we attended several between us, including:

- **"Celebrating Diversity"**, which addressed our 'Open Door' policies and why they may not be working as well as we'd like. A new credentialing process has been developed by the CUC to recognize member congregations who wish to improve their openness to diversity. Details about the complete program can be found at www.cuc.ca/social-responsibility/diversity.htm.
- **"Communications Connections"** was a lively interactive session, to identify problems and suggest solutions. Ben Wolfe has some very encouraging plans, including major changes in the CUC website.
- **"Youth and Adult Connections"** focused on the components of a balanced Youth Group and the bridging support needed.

This was a well-organized event, opening with a Worship Service expanding on the gathering's theme of 'Making Connections'. We all enjoyed a day charged with energy and goodwill. In a warm and friendly atmosphere. It was very good to meet with friends and other UU's, from many different congregations. There was a pervading sense of motivation and enthusiasm for our Faith and for our church in Canada; of a genuine desire to reach outside the walls of our own congregations into the wider community. We returned well-satisfied and gladder than ever to be UU's.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Midwinter Unitarian Retreat:** will be held February 4 – 6, 2011 at the Cedar Glen YMCA in the beautiful forested countryside at Bolton. An easy drive from here, this is always a delightful and informal weekend gathering of UU's from around Toronto. The theme this weekend is **'Service is our Prayer'** and the keynote speaker will be Kate Green of the Unitarian Service Committee. It fills up quickly and is an excellent choice of 'first-time' UU weekend. See Nora for a brochure and details.
- **Annual Conference and Meeting** will be held in Toronto May 21 – 23, 2011. This is the **50th Anniversary Meeting** of the Canadian Unitarian Council and promises to be a really special occasion. Put the date in your 2011 calendar and start thinking about taking the whole family. There will be excellent programs and workshops for all ages, plus child care and, of course, *a YOUTH CON*. Massed choirs are planned for the Sunday Service, with choral workshops throughout the weekend.

Nora will have the Denom. Affairs Information table up in the foyer after service on December 19th (Music Sunday), with all kinds of information and books to buy or borrow.

Nora Prosser 905 628 9601. Email: noraruby@gmail.com

Food for Thought Book Group. Mon Dec 13th, 7:30 p.m. (Library)



Set against a backdrop of the blitz on Coventry on November 14th 1940, Helen Humphreys's novel Coventry, traces the paths of two women and how they deal with the resulting chaos and destruction. The Ottawa Citizen calls it "a small jewel of a book. Humphreys utilizes her superb poet's eye to turn all the twisted metal, broken buildings and wrecked lives into literary art".

If you would like to participate in the discussion please join us in the library at 7:30 pm on December 13th. Note: we are meeting on the 2nd Monday this month because of the Christmas holidays. Any questions call Dawn Ludrook 905-627-4896.



Writers Circle

Wed Dec 1,
9:30 am - Library

The Writers' Circle meets once a month and welcomes anyone interested in the craft. For further information contact Valerie Nielsen at 905.643.5425 or email at valerie01@sympatico.ca

Meet Your Library Committee

A Library Committee was formed on October 28, 2010 for the purpose of maintaining and revitalizing the church library.

The Committee is currently gathering information from individuals and other church libraries with a view to formulating a mission statement and a collection development policy.

The Committee would like to express its appreciation to Sheila Brockest for her role in setting up and operating the library for the past decade.

The Committee invites your comments and suggestions:

- Lynn Ablard
- Linda Layton
- Connie Bryce-McKinlay
- Don McFadyen



Interweave Committee and the Welcoming Congregation Task force:

Our directory defines this venture as the response to our desire to be a congregation that is welcoming to gays, lesbians, transgendered and bi-sexual people. Our status as an official "Welcoming Congregation" was the result of hard work and effort by the Interweave Committee and the congregation.

In the last few years, while we have been welcoming in general, these 2 groups have been inactive. Is there interest in exploring the actions that we might take to further our commitment as a Welcoming Congregation? If this topic speaks to you and you might be interested in fostering ways to revive this work, please contact either Barb Wallace, Fellowship Cluster Rep. (905 526 6154, barbwallace@sympatico.ca) or Margaret McFadyen, Outreach Cluster Rep. (905-627-1034, margaret.mcfadyen@bell.net)

Blooms for Africa

The Blooms for Africa committee want to thank all who supported the events this year which helped raise much needed funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Our efforts help contribute to the support of African Grandmothers and orphan grandchildren in their care, and those infected with HIV Aids in Africa through grassroots organizations. We have been established since 2006, and we are one of two hundred and forty Grandmother Groups from across Canada, many who are part this congregation as well. To date the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign has raised ten million dollars, and Blooms for Africa has raised nearly sixty thousand dollars since its inception.



Blooms for Africa has been an arm of the Social Justice Committee since its onset and we are encouraged by the support we receive from the congregation and the community at large. We are proud of this affiliation and throughout Canada, we stand with other Unitarians Congregations who have included this Campaign as part of their Social Justice work. It is truly part of living our faith as Unitarians.

This year we were saddened by the death of Leslie Kaye who was one of our founding members. Leslie was instrumental in designing our logo, posters, passports and other promotional material. Her professional abilities added much to the sometimes novice abilities of some of us. We will always keep Leslie in our hearts as we proceed with the work of Blooms for Africa, the work she gave so much to.

We welcome your support again for the upcoming year and we promise to have events of interest for everyone

Submissions for the Order of Service

- deadline every Wednesday morning at 9:00 am
- email to oot@firstunitarianhamilton.org
- need help with your service script, please visit www.firstunitarianhamilton.org/worship/worshipdocs.htm

Need to Book a space

Check the online calendar then email your room and date request to:

bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Please cancel bookings that are no longer required.

The Library is now permanently open. Please remember to sign out all books

Cheque requisition forms & supplies



For persons requiring cheque requisition forms, they are located in the foyer mailboxes across the washrooms under "cheque requisitions." Please place your completed requisition forms in the office manager's mailbox located in the foyer for reimbursement.

Looking for supplies when doing volunteer work - a general supply box is located in mailbox unit in the foyer. When you use it, please return all supplies to the box for the next person's use as we cannot be continually replacing these items.



- Please send me the monthly newsletter for a trial period of three months.
- I would like to subscribe to the monthly newsletter for one year. I am enclosing a \$20
- cheque payable to First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.
- Please note my change of address or telephone number below.

The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton
170 Dundurn Street S.,
Hamilton, ON L8P 4K3

Name:

Address:

.....Postal code:

Telephone:Email.....

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Advent 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth Loft Rm 11 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM C to C Sanct Rm1	29 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH	30 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Interval House FH, 9, 11	1 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Writer's Grp Rm3 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Seniors Mtg-FH 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Capital Funds-Rm7 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM PropertyRm9	2 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir Sanct	3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming - FH	4
5 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship - Music for Its Own Sake-Sanc. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Circle Mtg-Sanc 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth Loft Rm 11 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	6 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Shared Ministry(SMLT)-Lib.	7 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Interval House-FH,Rm11,Rm9 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Social Justice-Rm7	8 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Management Rm 9 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Shared Ministry-Lib.	9 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices Sup. Grp.-Rm.7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Min.-Lib 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM CanvassRm 3 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir Sanct	10 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM UN - Rm7 7:00 PM Drumming - F H	11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Holiday play set-up-Sanc. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Young Adult Potluck FH
12 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Holiday for All Ages - Sanct. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth Loft Rm 11 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change Sanct Rm1	13 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Finance Com. Rm 9 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Membership Rm 7 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH 7:30 PM Book Discussion Grp. -Library	14 6:30 PM - 9:20 PM Blooms for Africa - Foyer 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM CYRE RM 7 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Canvass Com.-Lib	15 7:00 PM Board - Rm7 7:00 PM Finance Com. Rm 9	16 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Newsletter Assembly Rm 9 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Library Committee Rm 9 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir-Sanc.	17 3:30 PM - 10:00 PM Rental-FH Kit 7:00 PM Drumming - foyer	18
19 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth Loft Rm 11 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	20 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bruce Trail FH 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi- foyer 7:30 PM Shared Ministry-Lib.	21 First Day of Winter	22 7:00 PM Shared MinistryLib.	23 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices Sup. Grp.-Rm.7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Min.-Lib 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir Sanct	24 7:00 PM Worship - Christmas Eve -Sanc.	25 Christmas Day
26 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship - Fire Communion - Sanc. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth Loft Rm 11 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	27 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Caring Community - Rm7 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH	28	29	30 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir Sanct	31	1



News From the— Children's & Youth Religious Exploration Committee

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Happy Holidays – we are looking forward to sharing our Holiday Service – a Celebration of A Common Light with all of you on Dec 12. Here is a bit of what we have been exploring over the past two months:

Hanukkah - Each December, Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. The eight-day festival is also known as the Festival of Lights, the Feast of Dedication or the Feast of the Maccabees. The celebration of Hanukkah began in 165 B.C., when the Jews, under a leader called Judas Maccabee, took back the Temple of Jerusalem from the Syrians. About three years earlier, the King of Syria had



taken over the temple and dedicated it to the worship of the god Zeus. The Syrians did not allow the Jewish people to practice their religion. According to the Talmud, only a one day supply of nondesecrated oil was found in the Temple when the Maccabees prepared it for rededication by removing all Syrian idols. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days until oil that was fit for use in the temple could be obtained.

wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The birth of Jesus Christ, described in this passage from the Gospel of Saint Luke in the New Testament, has been celebrated by Christians for more than 1600 years. Christmas (from Old English *Cristes maesse* or "Mass of Christ") is observed annually on December 25 although the exact date of Christ's birth is not known.



Kwanzaa - Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural festival beginning on December 26 and ending on January 1. The festival was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga. Dr. Karenga's goal was to establish a holiday that would facilitate African-American goals of building a strong

family, learning about African-American history, and developing unity.

Before the Kwanzaa celebration begins, a straw mat (*Mkeka*) is placed on a table. A *Kinara* (seven-candle candle holder) and *Mshumaa* (the seven candles) are placed on the *Mkeka* along with *Muhindi* (ears of corn) and the *Kikombe Cha Umoja* (unity cup). The seven candles include three red ones placed on the right, three green ones placed on the left, and a black one placed in the center. The black candle represents the African-American people, the red candles represent their struggles, and the green ones represent their vision for the future.

What people are celebrating in December:

- Dec 6 – St Nicholas Day
- Dec 8 – Bodhi Day – Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist)
- Dec 1– 9 Hanukah (Jewish)
- Dec 7 – Al Hijra – Muslim New Year
- Dec 12 – Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
- Dec 13 – Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)
- Dec 16 – Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)
- Dec 16-25 – Las Posadas (Mexico)
- Dec 21 – Winter Solstice
- Dec 25 – Christmas
- Dec 26 – Jan 1 Kwanzaa

Winter Solstice - The Winter Solstice is the day when the distance between the Tropic of Capricorn and the sun is the shortest. Because of the earth's tilt, the Winter Solstice is the shortest day in the Northern Hemisphere where it marks the beginning of winter.



Because ancient cultures were unaware of the changes in the Earth's position, they feared that the sunlight would never return. To bring it back, they engaged in many celebrations and ceremonies. In fact, there are more ceremonies and "rituals" associated with the winter solstice than any other time of year.



Christmas - *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe*

