



The Flaming Chalice

January 2025

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario uusarnia.com

A loving community of spiritual explorers who stand on the side of love and justice

January Services

In-person & via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83101536641>

Theme—Radical Inclusion



January 05: “We All Belong!” – Rev. Sayma Oakley

In her presentation, Rev. Oakley will dig deeper into practicing ‘Radical Hospitality’.

January 12: “Respecting Diversity & Embracing Empathy as a Skill” – Katie Freeman

Diversity training within the workplace aims to educate people on how to be more inclusive. Katie will explore how respecting diversity is more important than ever and how empathy is the pathway to connection.

January 19: “Literacy Lambton” – Tracy Pound

Tracy, the Executive Director of Literacy Lambton, will outline the literacy learning opportunities that the organization provides for the residents of Lambton.

January 26: “Prophets of Love: Active Engagement in a Time of Polycrisis” – Reilly Yeo

We’re called in this time of climate crisis not just to change our world, but to transform it. In the process, we will need to transform ourselves.

This will also be ‘Soup Sunday’!

For the theme packet on ‘The Practice of Radical Inclusion’, contact Ann Steadman at asteadman@cogeco.ca .

*We believe faith is a journey
we travel throughout our lives.
A faith understood as a set of
belief statements is fixed. But
when faith means a journey,
beliefs can change; values can
deepen; understanding can
broaden.*

Judith A. Frediani

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More Info for January 5, 2025

Title: We All Belong!
Preacher: Samaya Oakley

Bio: The Rev. Samaya Oakley (she/her) currently serves as the Minister for the Calgary Unitarians. She discovered Unitarian Universalism through the North Shore Unitarian Church, and quickly became active continentally through the Youth Office of the UUA. She holds at the heart of her ministry the importance of relationships and compassion. Rev. Samaya is a strong believer in social justice and believes that our theology calls us to be active agents for love and justice in the world. She holds at the heart of her ministry the importance of relationships and compassion. She is a strong believer in social justice and believes that our theology calls us to be active agents for love and justice in the world.



Rev. Samaya served as Co-Chair of the Canadian Unitarian Council's (CUC) Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guides – five age-appropriate reflection guides for use in Canadian UU congregations. Most recently she helped to coordinate the CUC's Widening the Circle program that invites leaders and aspiring change-makers to engage with the work of finding new ways of being together that challenge our current ways of thinking.



Reflection by President Tracy Jutras

Happy New Year Everyone!

The Winter Solstice is the true New Year's Eve. Our collective ancestors celebrated the seasons and honoured Mother Earth and thankfully, many of us have made our way back to regain that connection to nature.

As we wonder how 2025 will unfold for us, let us also think of our connection to everything and everyone. This month's theme is "Radical Inclusion." There has been a lot of talk in the last number of years about inclusivity, but if we bring it down to our own personal lives on a daily basis, it's really about making "love" our life's work.

We have started a new year, and new beginnings tend to lead us into a labyrinth of self-exploration. Our "Burning Bowl" ritual on December 29th helped us to decide which roots no longer serve us and what new seeds we will plant. Every Sunday, we promise to one another to provide a loving community that nurtures self-discovery and spiritual growth, so you have come to the right place to continue your journey.

I wish you all the best year ever.

In Fellowship, Tracy Jutras



As the earth slowly rotates, time zones starting in the Pacific Ocean and progressing westward around the world will enter this year we call 2025. Truth be told, the "new year" can begin at any time. Our Jewish beloved begin it in the Fall, at Rosh Hashanah, our Chinese and Southeast Asian beloved at the Lunar New Year later this month; our Wiccan beloved start their year on Samhain, and our Persian beloved at Nowruz, on the vernal equinox. Whenever your new year begins, it is a time to set intentions. This year, may all of our intentions be loving. Jan 1, 2025

The Daily Compass, a ministry of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship](https://www.dailycompass.org/), offers words and images to inspire spiritual reflection and encourage the creation of a more loving, inclusive and just world. <https://www.dailycompass.org/>

Quotes on 'Radical Inclusion' To Ponder

All of us need all of us to make it.

Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto

"Tell me", says a rabbi to his students, "when does the night end?" "Does it end when you can see the morning star?" asks one. "No," says the rabbi, "That is not the time". "Is it when you can see all the lines on the palm of your hand?" asks another student. "No," says the rabbi, "that is not the time". "Then when?" asks his students. "When you can look at your neighbour's face and see that it is your own. Then, at last, the long night is over."

Jewish Wisdom Tale

Inclusion is not a matter of political correctness, it is the key to growth.

Jesse Jackson

If you are conditioned not to care, you are conditioned to indifference, and there is a violence to that indifference.

Tanya Talaga, *All Our Relations*

It is the variety of meanings and interpretations that make life truthful. There is not just one universal truth, but multi-versal views. Creating story is a way of expressing complex reality and participating in it. Sharing our history and the many realities it can be made into. **Marjorie Beaucage**

No, autism is not a 'gift'. For most, it is an endless fight against schools, workplaces, and bullies. But, under the right circumstances, given the right adjustments, it CAN be a superpower.

Greta Thunberg

You are a part of me that I do not yet know.

Valerie Kaur

When one of us does something bad, we tend to attribute it to circumstance, but when one of them does the same, we attribute it to essence - Oh, that's just how they are. We think of us as complex and multidimensional; we tend to think of them as simple and one dimensional ... In other words, who we see as one of us determines who we let inside our circle of care and concern.

Valerie Kaur

Resistance to oppression is often based on a love that leads us to value ourselves, and leads us to hope for more than the established cultural system is willing to grant ... such love is far more energizing than guilt, duty, or self-sacrifice. ... Solidarity

does not require self-sacrifice, but an enlargement of the self to include community with others.

Sharon Welch, *The Feminist Ethic of Risk*

Creating more diversity in our country and communities is easy. Creating equal access to belonging takes work and it is the noblest work, for people's sense of belonging determines nothing less than how well they get to live. For doesn't everyone deserve to feel safe in their own skin, to find their place on this mad human journey? To speak truth, to love fiercely, and to cry belonging as our birthright is what a good life is all about.

Our identity always shapes belonging.

Annahid Dashtgard



Fellowship Happenings



Sunday, January 26th is Soup Sunday!

Plan to stay after the service to enjoy a delicious lunch and wonderful conversation.

Suggested donation is \$5 per individual or \$10 per family.

All proceeds to The Inn of the Good Shepherd.

Fellowship Donates to The Inn of the Good Shepherd

As approved by your Executive Team, Vice-President Mary Stearns delivered our cheque for \$1250 to the Inn on December 13th. This reflects the monies received from Soup Sundays and as 'topped up' from our 'Social Justice' budget. We have donated annually after no longer being able to provide a monthly meal at The Inn.



'JANUARY PUB NIGHT'

Your Executive Team met on November 27th, 2024. It was agreed that rather than arranging separate Men's and Women's gatherings for the busy month of December, we would offer a 'Pub Night' in January open to all.

The tentative date is Saturday, January 25, 2025. Stay tuned for details!

Canadian Unitarian Council Update

Upcoming CUC Events:

Information about all the upcoming CUC events can be found on our [events calendar](#) on the [CUC website](#). Clicking on the dates below will give you access to more information and how you can join these on-line events.

Congregational Conversations: Pastoral Care

[Jan. 2](#): 7:30 pm ET

Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour

[Jan. 8](#): 7:30 pm ET

Connect and Deepen

[Jan. 18](#): 4:00 pm ET

Lay Chaplains Chat: Challenging Memorials with Barb Moore

[Jan. 27](#): 7:30 pm ET

Dismantling Barriers

[Jan. 30](#): 7:00 pm ET



Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Statement on Website

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. The values we share include all the following, which we hold as inseparable and deeply interconnected:

- **Interdependence:** We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.
- **Pluralism:** We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- **Justice:** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.
- **Transformation:** We adapt to the changing world.
- **Generosity:** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- **Equity:** We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.



UU Midwinter Retreat—Jan 31—Feb 2, 2025



**“Welcoming the Second Quarter
of the 21st Century”**



34th Unitarian Midwinter Retreat

**@ Cedar Glen,
Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2025**



Keynote Speaker: Dallas Bergen, Music Director at Toronto FirstU

Information: <https://uumidwinterretreat.blogspot.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uumwr>

or Helen Iacovino, Registrar at Midwinter@FirstUnitarianToronto.org

This will be the 34th midwinter retreat, and we are back at the YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre, just north of Toronto. The retreat will run from the evening of Friday, Jan. 31, until after lunch on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

This year’s retreat theme will be “Welcoming the second quarter of the 21st century”. We are delighted to announce that our keynote speaker will be Dallas Bergen, who has been the Director of Congregational Music at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto for over a decade. Workshops will be similar to previous years, with a choice of 3 or 4 workshops in each of 4 time slots, and will include outdoor programs led by Cedar Glen staff as well as things such as yoga, improv, presentations on UU history, and more. A follow-up workshop by Rev. Linda Thomson from last year’s theme of “Becoming Acquainted” will focus on new and emerging practices from our congregations to counter separation and loneliness. A Saturday night cabaret, games and euchre, and a Sunday service with our usual Chocolate Communion will round out the weekend.

You can find more details about the retreat at our website, at <https://uumidwinterretreat.blogspot.com>. The site will be updated as we finalize our schedule. Registration will be open very soon, and details on how to register will be found on our website.

Thanks very much and I hope to see some people from your congregation at the retreat. If you need more information, please email us at midwinter@firstunitariantoronto.org.

Roy Blake, Unitarian Congregation of Niagara. For the Retreat Committee

“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”

– Audre Lord



Vision

***As a spiritual community,
We embrace diversity,
We explore openly,
We stand on the side of love and justice.
Community ... Spirituality ... Service***



Other UU links:

Canadian Unitarian Council <https://cuc.ca/>

Unitarian Universalist Association's UUWorld <http://www.uuworld.org/>

Newsletter Editor: Ann Steadman

To unsubscribe from this newsletter at any time, please send your request by email to:

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