



Sunday Services for March and April

Services start at 10:30am We have Spiritual Development programs for children 4 and older, and childcare for younger children.

March 6 (Pod 1) IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION REPORT

Just and equitable living: At the end of Vol. I of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission there is a call for a new way of thinking. It was a particular kind of thinking that undergirded the residential school system. John Butters as a retired United Church minister is part of one of the denominations that had residential schools. He will share a bit of how he was blind to the absolute destructive reality of the system, explore a bit of his own blindness and then ask the following question: What might we be blind to that later generations will ask, "How could they have been so misguided in their policies? Could they not see how wrong-headed it all was?" **Speaker: John Butters**

March 13 (Pod 2) BRIDGE TO GUELPH: COMMUNITY AND UNITARIAN REFUGEE GROUP

Please join us for personal stories of participating in bringing a refugee family to Guelph. The service will hear from members of the organizing group talking about why they chose to get involved, what they have done to bring the family and how that has shaped their understanding of themselves and their world. Panel members: organizer of the broader Guelph response, organizer of our settlement plan and the writer of the application.
Speaker: Panel

March 20 (Pod 3) GREAT POETRY: THE JOY OF ITS SIMPLICITY

"To be, or not to be, that is the question." Shakespeare. Poetry expresses so much more than that which is stated by the words alone. What are the real subjects behind the words? Can poetry impact our way of thinking and living? London Green will share brief examples from a variety of poets from Shakespeare to Dylan Thomas, as he looks at the relationship between great poetry, our humanity, and some of the issues we hold dear as Unitarians.
Speaker: London Green

March 27 (Pod 4) THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES AND JUST AND DELIBERATE LIVING

Join us for a participatory discussion about how we can incorporate the seven principles into our daily lives as a means to living a just and deliberate life. What principles resonate most strongly with us at this point on our journey? Why? How do they influence our thinking and guide our decision making in practical ways? What principles challenge us at this point on our journey? In what ways do we want to grow? Come share and glean wisdom from our sacred circle of friends and mentors as we contemplate just and deliberate living in the context of living our principles.
Speaker: Drew Verrall

April 3 (Pod 1) LIFE WITHIN L'ARCHE

L'Arche is a global movement developing community with people who have intellectual disabilities. Members with and without intellectual disabilities live together in small homes and learn from each other's unique gifts. The goal of L'Arche is to build relationship, understanding, and belonging. Claudia, a volunteer, and Robert, a core member, will each share their experiences of living in a L'Arche community.
Speaker: Claudia Garcia Gutierrez and Robert Gray

April 10 (Pod 2) THE WORDS WE DON'T SAY: AN HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE AND WHITE PRIVILEGE

Despite our best efforts and intentions, the social construct of race still defines how our world is structured, who holds power, and how we form relationships with each other. Talking about race, and especially white privilege, can be hard because it means acknowledging that some of us hold power that is unearned but still gives us certain advantages. In this service, we'll explore it together, in safe space, through reflection and exercises that will help us examine ways that race affects us all and our work for "justice, equity and compassion in human relations".
Speaker: Asha Philar

April 17 (Pod 3) A Life of Purpose

When we deliberately choose to live a life of justice, we may discover a new sense of purpose and meaning. Yet our efforts may seem difficult at times and we may encounter unexpected challenges. How can we find strength and wisdom to be our best selves? Along with an inspirational talk, Rev. Lynn will bring music for the journey.
Speaker: UU Reverend Lynn Harrison

April 27 (Pod 4) AN INUIT PERSPECTIVE

Peter Ittinuar was the first Inuk in Canada to be elected as an MP, and he is an advocate of Inuit rights. Join us as Peter shares his perspectives on Just and Deliberate Living.
Speaker: Peter Ittinuar

In March and April we explore Just & Deliberate Living: what it is, where it is to be found, where it is lacking, why it is a religious imperative, and what we each can do to contribute to it's presence on this earth. Here's one way to think about it:

Unitarian Universalism recognizes each individual life as part of an intricate web of existence. The practice of contemplating how and why that web might have come to be is considered secondary to our obligation to strengthen it. Justice exists when each strand is equally rooted to those around it, imparting beauty and purpose to the whole. Furthering this metaphor, justice-work (activism) is a matter of tending simultaneously to the individual strands (local level) and to the web itself (global level).

Our embedded-ness within the web means that we are never alone in this work; that each person's efforts make a difference! The fact of our embedded-ness is inextricably linked with our responsibility and empowerment to participate in healing that which is broken.

Recognizing and responding to this dynamic is at the heart of Unitarian Universalist spirituality and identity. It is also an essential component of many of the world's wisdom traditions, whose prophets draw attention to changes needed in order to be in alignment with the Creator's will.

Religious communities have long been recognized as having an important role in Justice-making through: social service (charity), social education (consciousness raising), social witness (speaking "truth to power"), and social action (organized efforts on behalf of institutional/policy change).

While all are important, Unitarian Universalist activist Richard Gilbert calls social witness the "prophetic imperative" to which our religious communities are called and uniquely suited.

What do you think?

Just and Deliberate Living

TAKING IT HOME

Exploring our Theme in Books, Film and in our Community

Books with Justice Theme

“Night”
Elie Wiesel

“The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World”

“Long Walk to Freedom”
Nelson Mandela

“To Kill a Mockingbird”
Harper Lee

“The Kite Runner”
Khaled Hosseini

“The Help”
Kathryn Stockett

Movies with Justice Themes

- Gandhi
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- 12 Angry Men
- Boys Don't Cry
- Philadelphia
- City of God



Books and Movies for Children

“A is for Activist”
Innosanto Nagara

“We Are All Born Free: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures

“Malala Yousafzai, Warrior with Words”
Karen Leggett Abouraya

“Seven Sacred Teachings”
David Bouchard and Dr. Joseph Martin

The Incredibles

Antz

You must be the change
you wish to see in the
world.

Mohatmas Ghandi

I am not interested in picking up crumbs of Compassion thrown from the table of someone Who considers himself my master. I want the full Menu of rights.

Bishop Desmond Tutu

JUSTICE JOURNALING

- What definitions for “Justice” can you think of? Which one do you feel drawn to, and why?
- Where and how is Justice made evident?
- Is Justice subjective or objective?
- Where is Justice lacking (in your life, in your community, in the world)?
- What are the contributing factors to those injustices?
- How is social justice different from or related to social service?
- The sixth Principle mentions the goal of “justice for all”. What would that look like?
- How do your values help you stay attuned to (and contribute to) that goal?

FROM OUR SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Sunday Services Committee March/April 2016

The theme for March and April, ***Just and Deliberate Living***, is an extremely important one for us as Unitarian Universalists. Through our 7 principles, we affirm and promote justice, democracy, integrity, acceptance, as well as caring and connected living. It is up to us, as individuals and as a community to “talk the talk” and “walk the walk”. To truly LIVE our lives consciously and deliberately. We are excited by the services for this theme, which will explore important topics such as the Truth and Reconciliation Report and sponsoring refugees in our community.

As you are likely aware, **Christopher Wulff**’s last Sunday with us was in January as he accepted a position with the UUA. We benefitted so much from Chris’ great talks during the year and half he was with us. We will miss his anecdotes, intelligence and humour, as well as his experience and knowledge as a lifelong Unitarian Universalist.

We are happy to announce that we have booked **Reverend Lynn Harrison** to speak in Chris’ place this April. Lynn was recently ordained and is currently a minister-at-large, serving a variety of UU congregations in Southern Ontario.

Please watch for the **Sunday Service Committee Survey** that will be conducted in late April. We really value your input and we like to gather feedback from the congregation prior to our **annual retreat in May**. It is at our retreat that we step back, reflect, and begin planning for the year ahead. Please consider joining us for this day, on **Saturday, May 14th, 10-3:30** (location TBD).

For information, questions or concerns, and to share ideas for services or speakers, please contact Margie Johnson at margiejjohnson@yahoo.ca or 519-836-7589.

WHAT'S NEW THIS MARCH / APRIL

YOUTH GROUP

This group is for youth ages 11-15 and meets alternate Friday evenings from 7pm-9pm.

To get involved or for more information, contact Drew at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

YOUTH COUNCIL

Our YOUTH COUNCIL will meet every other month to plan Sunday morning youth activities, youth group events and special events and projects that encourage and enhance youth participation in the life and work of the congregation. Want to serve on the 2015-2016 Youth Council? Contact Drew at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

STONE SOUP

This mid-week group for adults meets bi-weekly on Wednesday afternoons. It's an opportunity to share life's challenges and celebrations with one another and to explore spiritual practices related to our monthly themes.

SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Sunday Service Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 3rd from 7-9 p.m. at UCG to plan the services for May and June.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding past services or ideas relating to topics or speakers for the coming themes: Nature (May) and Community (June), please contact Margie Johnson by Wednesday, March 2nd at margiejjohnson@yahoo.ca or 519-836-7589.

UCG'S...

Coming Events

Events Calendar

- Mar 3 - Sunday Service Meeting 7:00pm
- Mar 4 - Youth Group 7:00pm
- Mar 6 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- Mar 6 - Mindfulness Community of Guelph 3:00pm
- Mar 13 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- Mar 18 - Youth Group 7:00pm
- Mar 20 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- Mar 20 - Mindfulness Community of Guelph 3:00pm
- Mar 27 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- April 1 - Youth Group 7:00pm
- April 3 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- April 3 - Mindfulness Community of Guelph 3:00pm
- April 10 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- April 17 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- April 17 - Mindfulness Community of Guelph 3:00pm
- April 24 - Sunday Service 10:30am
- April 29 - Youth Group 7:00pm

All events take place at UCG, 122 Harris St, Guelph, unless otherwise stated.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE UCG



MINDFULNESS COMMUNITY OF GUELPH

Mindfulness is the energy of being aware and awake to the present moment. It is the continuous practice of touching life deeply in every moment of daily life. To be mindful is to be truly alive, present and at one with those around you and with what you are doing.

We begin with a guided sitting meditation, walking meditation and silent meditation. We will then share a teaching from Thich Nhat Hanh and listen deeply to one another as we share what is on our hearts. This is a community practice that strengthens not only our formal meditation practice but also our ability to live in awareness and joy day by day.

*First and Third Sunday at
3:00pm at UCG*



CHANT CLUB

The Guelph Unitarians are pleased to provide a home for the Guelph Chant Club. It meets the

first Wednesday of every month at 7:45pm and goes through an eclectic mix of chants from all the worlds spiritual traditions---with a "world beat" groove. For more information, contact Dennis Gaumond:

dgomo@golden.net

*First Wednesday of the month,
7:45pm at UCG*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday services happen every Sunday morning from September to June at 122 Harris Street in Guelph.



For a complete list of both future and past services, visit our calendar on our website at www.guelph-unitarians.com

We offer nursery care for children up to age 4 / eligible for J/K, Children's programming for children ages 4 - 9, and a Junior Youth program for children ages 9 - 13, during our Sunday service time.

At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer

COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Member and Friend Committee serves the Congregation by doing the following:

- Arranging for greeters to meet people at the door with the order of service and a smile
- Training and staffing the Welcome Desk. Offering newcomer orientation; explaining how our lay led congregation works; handing out UU literature and signing up newcomers who would like to receive our emails
- Helping newcomers find ways to connect and find their place within our community
- Updating and publishing the UCG directory every year
- Hosting the new UU course
- Facilitating the New Member Service and Celebration every June

Our meetings are always open and we ENCOURAGE you join us. If you are interested please contact Drew at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

This newly formed Committee is a gathering of individuals with a passion for “being the change we want to see in the world.” This group will identify and explore ways our congregation can participate in social justice initiatives in our community and in the world.

For more information on how you can get involved, contact Drew at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee is a gathering for individuals interested in planning content for our Sunday morning programs for Children & Youth, our mid-week groups for adults, and Intergenerational Community; Family events and activities. For more information about this Committee and how to be involved, contact Drew at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee is an important part of our community. There are times we are not aware that someone at UCG is experiencing illness, loneliness, grief, or a special celebration. If you would like someone to acknowledge your, or a friend’s joys or concerns on a Sunday morning, please let a member of the committee know and the service leader will place a stone into the water for you. This simple act will allow people to keep you in their thoughts, or contact you if you wish.

MARCH AND APRIL

Kids Korner

Nursery Program

Children ages infant - preschool are invited to join our nursery teacher for our nursery program, where they will explore through play, songs, crafts and stories.

Primary Children’s Program

Children ages JK - Grade 2 will be exploring the theme of Justice this month through drama, literature and song! We will be working on our own song, and we will welcome the congregation to enjoy our performance at the end of April.

Youth Program

Children ages Grade 4 + will be exploring the theme of justice and deliberate living, with guest speakers from the congregation, projects, discussions and more!

Youth Program

We have many new programs for youth at UCG!

Our Youth Group meets regularly on Friday nights. Email Drew at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com for more information or to get involved!

We also have Youth programs on Sunday mornings during service. We will be exploring the theme of gratitude this month.

COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Thank you for using the collection envelopes – we send tax receipts to everyone who, over the year, makes a contribution to the UCG greater than \$10. There is no need to fill out your complete address if you are already on our list – all we need is a name on the envelope.

BRING YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS

The Welcome-in Drop-in Centre on Gordon Street is a haven and a caring community for homeless persons, those suffering from mental illness, isolation and economic marginalization. Please help us give back to our community by bringing a contribution for the Centre. Non-perishable food is easiest and coats and blankets are also appreciated. They will also use your Zehrs tapes and cheques are always welcome. Your old glasses and cell phones also are donated to a good cause.

DONATE ONLINE...

Just a reminder that your pledged donation can be made online at www.guelph-unitarians.com by clicking on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations.

PARKING ON SUNDAYS

Please note that Ferra Flooring is happy to allow us to use their parking lot on Sundays. Perhaps the earlier arrivals or physically able could use the Ferra lot, leaving the church lot for those less able? Thank you!

BUILDING RENTALS

Interested in renting UCG for your event or as a meeting space? UCG is available for both short and long term rentals in the day and evening. We currently have some openings for regular evening rentals, and openings for event rentals. For more information, or to book a rental, please contact Jane at admin@guelph-unitarians.com

EMAIL LIST

Want to know what is going on at UCG? Want to stay in the know about all the great programming, including programming for children, youth, and adults? Want to read about UCG's various committees, social justice projects, solar panel project and more?

Look no further than our website and weekly email!

Our website contains a calendar with all UCGs programming, as well as pages for committees, Children, Junior Youth and Youth programming and information on all our adult programming.

Go to www.guelph-unitarians.com for all the info!

We also have a weekly email to keep you up to date on what's happening each week in our community and what's up and coming! To get on our email list to receive weekly emails about what is going on in the UCG community, email a request

to Jane at admin@guelph-unitarians.com or fill out an information form at the welcome table.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Have an item to add to our next newsletter or to a weekly email or order of service announcement page? Email Jane at admin@guelph-unitarians.com to submit an item or for more information

WE ARE THE STEWARDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

WHAT DOES STEWARDSHIP MEAN?

- We inherited this community from past members.
- We support this community as our commitment to each other in the present.
- We hold this community as a trust for the future.

WHAT ARE OUR DUTIES AS STEWARDS?

- We support the community with our time, our talents, and our financial resources as we are able
- We draw on this community when we are in need.
- We create the vision for the future, and marshal the resources to reach to that future.

Our various contributions keep us functioning but more importantly let us imagine and plan even more for ourselves, for our city, and for the wider world we inhabit. What do you dream for us and with us?

All of our contributions – of time, talent and money – sustain us. We celebrate our collective resources. What level of contribution – weekly, through fun'draising, through monthly pledges – fits for your family?