



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA
A Congregation for Everybody

UCN NEWS

November 2022

Our Covenant

We come in peace
To this place of fellowship and love,
Searching for truth and meaning,
Seeking justice and equity through action,
Supporting each other and serving our community,
Acknowledging and preserving the gifts of this world,

UPCOMING SERVICES

November 6 - Remembrance Day Sunday - service presented and led by Jim Glassford

November 13 - The Underbelly of Evil - service presented and led by LesLee Turmel

November 20 - Conspiracy Theory: Part Two via Zoom - presented by Max Kennel; service led by Eva Schwartzentruber

November 27 - UCN History - service presented and led by Doreen Peever

December 4 - Myths We Live By - service presented and led by Karen Stovell

December 11 - Hope - service presented and led by Brian Jones
A Potluck lunch will follow the service.

December 18 - Hanukkah at Home - service presented and led by Penny Blake

December 21 at 7 pm - Winter Solstice Service - service led by Eva
Schwartzentruber

December 24 @ 4:30 pm - Christmas Carol Service - service presented and led
by Karen Stovell and Susan Glassford

December 25 - No Service

The Program Committee is always looking for UCN congregants who want to speak of something important to them or UCN. If you are interested in speaking or leading a service, please contact Karen Stovell, Eva Schwartzentruber or LesLee Turmel.

FALL AND WINTER EVENTS

Until further notice all Circle Dinners are cancelled.
Masks will be required at services. There will be coffee hour after the service,

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUPS

These small guided groups are designed for meaningful discussion, connection and reflection on a variety of topics. They meet virtually once a month.

The classes meet on and Thursday, November 17 and Tuesday, November 22 at 10:30 am.

November's topic will be "What do YOU believe?". Reading material to help you prepare for discussion will be issued at least a week before the class.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, December 11

Noon

This is scheduled for after Sunday's Service on the topic of Hope presented by Brian Jones. The luncheon format will be that of Circle Dinners and will be holiday themed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Matt Virro

Many of you know of Mark DeWolfe, the celebrated UU minister who served the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga until his untimely death 20 years ago. In his selected writings, which Doreen Peever kindly shared with me, he is quoted as saying:

“To be a member of a church means to open yourself to change. It means to take the risk of paying attention to the creative, sustaining and transforming forces which operate in the world. And that will change you.”

I suspect Mary-lyn Hopper was paying attention to those creative and transforming forces when she introduced to UCN the idea of a Pollinator Pathway Project in the fall of 2021. This project has since received funding from the West Foundation affiliated with the Halifax UU, the Niagara Regional Conservation Authority and from the Toronto Dominion Bank. It is nearing completion with signage yet to come, but the physical spadework is done for the year. Congratulations are in order to the worker bees, Mary-lyn, Susan Glassford, Wade Pfaff, Peter Skelton, LesLee and Maurice Turmel, and Karen Walsh as well as other wanna bees who lent hands over many months.

There may not be much to see yet, but the new plantings will soon form a special way station for bees and insects passing through our UCN neighbourhood. It reminded me of a further remark by Mark DeWolfe that a congregation can change society by allowing itself to be open to change and “joining in the conspiracy of increasing the odds of something human happening in the world.”



SOCIAL ACTION

- Beryl Stovell

ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN NIAGARA REGION



Saints Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in St.Catharines has a "storefront" organized for items needed by Ukrainian refugees who continue to arrive in this area. Donations are welcome.

The following is a list of required items:

- Food - flour, sugar, honey, tea, jam, dry cereal and toothpaste
- Household Items - bed sheets for single and queen size beds, pillows, duvets; glasses, cutlery and serving dishes
- Furniture - especially beds.

There is no storage facility for large household items and they must be delivered to the destination where the items are required. You can call 905-646-1275 to coordinate your drop off.

Smaller items can be dropped off at 1 Currie Street, St.Catharines at an old white school building (side door) on the corner of the Service Road entrance to Niagara Street. The facility is open Thursday 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The refugees are finding work, many within the hospitality industry. They are very appreciative of the welcome and assistance they have received in Canada. Given the current situation in Ukraine, it appears they will require help for some time to come. Contribute to these newcomers as you can.

2022 DONATIONS FROM UCN

UCN has recently made our annual 2022 donations to the following ten agencies:

- Child Haven International, Maxville, Ontario
- Gillian's Place, St.Catharines
- Niagara Regional Native Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Nova House, Niagara Falls
- PALS, St.Catharines
- Positive Living, St.Catharines
- RAFT, St.Catharines
- Start Me Up Niagara, St.Catharines
- USC Seed Exchange, Ottawa
- Westview 4 Women, St. Catharines

We have been able to donate to these organizations because of the generous contributions from UCN members and friends. Together, we have made a difference.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



Each year UCN members and friends have generously given to St.Catharines Community Care Christmas initiative for seniors who require support to make their Christmas special.

Since Covid we were restricted to giving money only. This year Community Care is reverting to the previous method of giving, either with money or the following necessary items:

- bathrobes, pyjamas, socks, slippers
- outdoor clothing such as warm hats, scarves, mitts, gloves
- mugs or throws
- boxed cookies, hard candy, nuts

NOTE: All donated item are to be new and unused.

Money collected will be used to purchase the above items not supplied by our congregation and to purchase canvas grocery buggies which assist the recipients in toting their groceries and other purchases.

Items donated can be placed at the rear of our sanctuary in a box marked 'Christmas for Seniors.' If you prefer to give money, please pass on your donation to LesLee or Maurice Turmel. The deadline for contributions is November 28, 2022.

These special gifts will be gratefully received by the seniors of this community. They will know they are cared about and remembered this holiday season.

FOOD DRIVE

Just a reminder that we continue to collect non-perishable food items to be donated to various food banks across Niagara Region. We ask that UCN congregants contribute one item each Sunday. This way we have a substantial collection of food to donate within a week or two.

You will find a box at the rear of the sanctuary where you can drop off your contributions. Let's help feed those who cannot adequately feed themselves.



IN WAR

- by LesLee Turmel

“In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.” – Jose Narosky

Remembrance Day has not gone unmarked by me since I was a child. It was easy as a child to know the good guys from the bad guys. I rightly recognized the sacrifices made by Canadians during the Great War as well as the too many sacrifices made in later wars when Canadians had been deployed. It was also a recognition of my grandfathers who each served, but not as Canadians.

Two grandfathers. One British. One Ukrainian.

My British grandfather, Gramps, served in the squalor of rat infested, blood soaked trenches and upon the uncertain battlefield. He returned home physically unscathed but with a wounded soul. My grandmother referred to him as one of the war's many 'living dead'. Gramps only spoke of the war when he was at the Legion with fellow servicemen, sharing beer to numb the pain of a shared history. He died when I was ten years old. He died from depression and alcoholism. I only saw him sober and kind. He was fun. I loved him. He loved me. I was sheltered from the depressed alcoholic and I was too young to see or understand the pain he sought to mask. I cried miserably when he died. He is always in my heart.

My Ukrainian grandfather, Gida, did not serve with Canada or with the allies during WW1. Ukraine was divided between the Russian Empire and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, leaving my grandfather pitted against his own countrymen. It was an untenable situation. Between the years of the Great War and the Russian Revolution he took a circuitous route to Canada. He was a quiet man with whom I enjoyed spending quiet time. As he approached death, I left my university classes and my family behind so I could spend time with the man I so admired and loved. We talked and we laughed. He shared the joys of his life. And he shared the horrors of his war: what he saw, who he lost, how he mourned those he loved and lost, how he was afraid and those he wounded out of his fear. And he had killed a man, probably one of his countrymen. His blue eyes welled with tears. We wept together. When he died I felt deep sorrow. He is always in my heart.

There are no personalized tributes or medals of bravery for my grandfathers. They were, as most who served, young men who were compelled, through force or allegiance, to serve their country. In the world of war where bad guys are easily identified as the other, we lose sight of their humanity. And we lose sight of our own. Maybe it's not our behaviour during war which defines us as a good guy or bad guy; rather, it is our conduct during peace that best defines who we are.

Let the legacy of those who served be our commitment to walk in peace.



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

223 Church St.
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8
905-687-8433

unitarian-stcatharines.org
ucn.communications@gmail.com

Board of Directors

President: Matt Virro
Vice-president: Mary-lyn Hopper
Past-president: Penny Blake
Secretary: Connie Scott
Treasurer: Brian Jones
Member-at-large: Eva Schwartzenruber
Program: Karen Stovell
Social Action: Beryl Stovell

Lay Chaplains: Contact
laychaplainsucn@gmail.com
Beryl Stovell, Karen Stovell

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education: Karen Stovell
Music: Penny Blake, Karen Stovell
Communications: Roy Blake
Denominational Affairs: Connie Scott
Lay Chaplaincy: Doreen Peever
Membership: Doreen Peever
Newsletter: LesLee Turmel, Penny Blake
Pastoral Care: Doreen Peever
Property: Peter Skelton
Rental: Doreen Peever
Social: Susan Glassford, Jim Glassford,
Karen Stovell, Abu Hosein
Social Action: Beryl Stovell,
Erdwin Huenikan

Trustees

Jim Glassford, Erdwin Hueniken,
Doreen Peever

For the Fallen

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them....

Lawrence Binyon



Deadline for Nov. Newsletter:

Nov. 18, 2022

