

Hymn: #131 "Love Will Guide Us"

Closing Words: #705

Extinguishing the Chalice: #456

Postlude:

(Please remain seated for the piano selection
then join us for coffee and conversation.)

Dates to Remember...

December 2012

Dec 16 Heirloom Vegetables - Saving from our
Past for our Future - *Linda Crago*

Dec 16 ** Newsletter Deadline **

Dec 16 Fair Trade Sunday

Dec 21 PFLAG Winter Solstice Celebration
- 7:00 p.m. @ UCN

Dec 23 A Unitarian Universalist View of the
Christmas Story - *Jim Glassford*

Dec 30 Report on Budget and Giving - *Roy Blake*

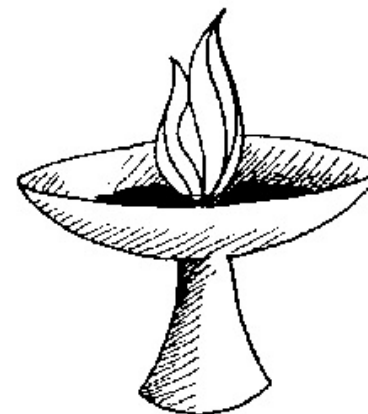
January 2013

Jan 4 Out of the Cold - @ Knox Presbyterian Church

Jan 20 AGM Committee Reports to John Northover

Jan 22 Book Club - @ the home of Penny & Roy Blake

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara



Getting to the Heart of It

- Susan Van Dreser

December 9, 2012

FRAGRANCE-FREE POLICY

The Unitarian Congregation of Niagara is a fragrance-free zone. Fragrance may be distressful and threaten the well-being of those around you. In order to make this a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes here, we ask that you refrain from wearing fragrances. Your understanding and co-operation is appreciated.

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ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com

Ed Gilbert Karen Johnson-Hosein

Order of Service
Sunday, December 9, 2012

Service Leader: Karen Johnson-Hosein
Musician: Theresa Pothier

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Opening Words:

He sat in his armchair and nodded gravely at intervals as the animals told their story; and he did not seem surprised or shocked at anything, and he never said, "I told you so," or, "Just what I always said," or remarked that they ought to have done so-and-so, or ought not to have done something else.

From Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

Chalice Lighting:

This light originated in the brilliant spark that created our universe 15 billion years ago.

Later, our ancestors treasured the light of their campfires --even before we were fully human.

Today, may it illuminate our spirits as we gather to share its warmth with our congregation.

– Candace Lindquist and Richard Sonnenfeld

Hymn: **#123 “*Spirit of Life*”**

Joys and Concerns

Offering

Three Part Reading:

A: We live lives.

B: We do not live creeds or theologies or even values.

A: We are engaged with real events and people and we are related and torn and isolated and together.

B: We are at odds and we are sometimes very close.

C: The spiritual centre of our lives is not to be found in a faith, no matter how cherished or revered. It comes, rather, out of the openness and honest engagement and courage and pain and love we experience with one another.

A: Sometimes that openness is searching and doubting,

B: confused or serene,

A: ambivalent or empowered.

B: But it is an openness nonetheless.

All: And out of it comes a vision of a world made new by the reality of our lives, lived in the service of love and justice and gentle goodness, and forgiveness too. Not simply as wished for - but as lived out - however imperfectly.

C: I want to say something about a sustainingness within which we are wrapped and from which we can gain sufficient strength when it is no longer to be found anywhere else. Religion begins in the willingness to reach out and accept the invitation to whatever this nurturance is or may become.

A: Is it the livingness of Life itself?

B: Or the great Goddess or the Lord God?

C: I do not know, and you don't either. But it is there, in quiet and busy moments, on lonely walks and in the midst of a crowd.

All: It may be found anywhere, but most surely in our hearts and the movement between us as we reach out, sometimes in fear and sometimes in desperation, sometimes with false or sometimes with true confidence, to and for one another.

Adapted from Rev. Robert Karnan

Getting to the Heart of It by Susan Van Dreser

– an address given at the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting
May 18, 2003

Rev. Susan L. Van Dreser recently retired from First Unitarian
Universalist Church of Winnipeg, Manitoba

Discussion and comments