

Spirit that glows in the darkness, expand our vision with faith so we may always remember the unending circle of life and death and love reborn that surrounds us with kindness and compassion. Spirit that glistens in the light, bless this community that shares so generously with their hands and their hearts. Keep us ever mindful of the powerful possibilities of love as we walk through all the seasons of our lives. Amen.

Nancee Campbell

Extinguishing the Chalice: #692

Postlude

Dates to Remember...

September 2015

- Sept 20** **Newsletter Submission Deadline**
– riseingcarol@gmail.com
- Sept 27** **Introduction to New Hymnbooks**
– Karen Johnson-Hosein and Penny Blake
- Sept 27** **Choir - "Singing the Journey"**

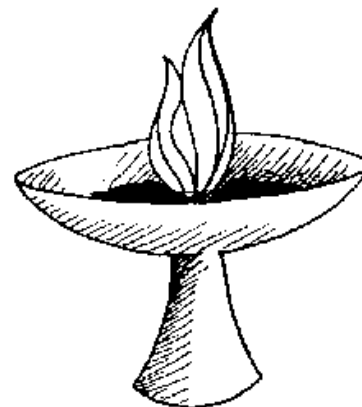
October 2015

- Oct 4** **Grace and Forgiveness** – Karen Johnson-Hosein
- Oct 11** **Thanksgiving Circle** – Maria Hekkert and
Julianne Momirov
- Oct 18** **Fr. Paul MacNeil** – Topic to be advised
- Oct 25** **The Silent Generation and the Search for Higher Truths** – Jim Glassford

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.

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara



Community Building

– *Maria Hekkert*

September 20, 2015

223 Church St., St. Catharines, Ontario
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org 905-687-8433

Lay Chaplain: **905-687-8433**

laychaplainsucn@gmail.com

Karen Johnson-Hosein

Order of Service

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Speaker/Service Leader: Maria Hekkert

Musician: Theresa Pothier

Prelude:

Welcome

Announcements

Chalice Lighting:

At this hour, in small towns and big cities, in single rooms and ornate sanctuaries, many of our sister Unitarian Universalist congregations are also lighting a flaming chalice.

As we light our chalice today, let us remember that we are part of a great community of faith.

May this dancing flame inspire us to fill our lives with the Unitarian Universalist ideals of love, justice and truth.

Judith L. Quarles

Opening Words: We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been—a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.

Community.

Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats.

Somewhere a circle of hands

will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter,
voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

Community means strength
that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.
Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing.

A circle of friends.

Someplace where we can be free.

Starkhawk, from *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex, and Politics* (Beacon Press)

Hymn: #346 **Come, Sing a Song with Me**

Offertory and Musical Interlude

Joys and Concerns

Address: **Community Building**

Discussion and Questions

Responsive Reading and a Moment of Reflection: #440

Hymn: #131 **Love Will Guide Us**

Closing Words:

Spirit of kindness and compassion, we come from different places to this sacred ground of communal caring. We are enriched by the company of each other, and are drawn closer to the heart of love in this time of service. Touch this gathering with tenderness so that we may be refreshed anew by the grace that encompasses this morning.

Spirit of mercy, we are human and fragile and often frightened. We pray for the blessing of compassion as we face our frustration and pain. We pray for the blessing of courage to help us live with the fear of losing and the sorrow of loss. We especially pray for all those among us who need to feel the warmth of love in their lives.

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