



# The Flaming Chalice

May 2025

## Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario [uusarnia.com](http://uusarnia.com)

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

### May Services

In-person & via Zoom

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

### Theme:

'Choosing Hope'

#### May 4: "From Complacent to Committed" – Micheline Steele

Micheline describes herself as "just an ordinary person." Born in Hamilton, she has lived in Sarnia for the past 42 years. Retired since 2017 she never imagined herself becoming a vocal advocate for any cause, especially one as fraught with emotion and misunderstanding as that of the Palestinian people.

#### May 11: "Choosing Hope" – Rev. Wayne Walder

In the bottom of Pandora's box was hope. It was what saved her and Prometheus from all the challenges life throws at us. Hope allows us to dream, to plan and to imagine a future we might never be part of.

#### May 18: "Get Lost in the Beat"- Joyful Noise Drummers

We are Sarnia Lambton's "[Joyful Noise Drummers](#)". Our motto is to "Share Joy and Love". We do this through the healing power of drums, community and oneness.

#### May 25: "Forgiveness" – Rev. Linda Thomson

What is our relationship with forgiveness? Is it, as some suggested, a spiritual practice? Or is it merely pragmatic? During these days of divisive and hurtful political dialogue, we might usefully ask ourselves where forgiveness fits into our lives.

**May 25th will also be 'Soup Sunday'.**



"Choosing hope" often refers to making a conscious decision to focus on positivity and potential good outcomes, even in the face of adversity. It can be seen as a way of actively managing one's outlook and resilience, and a deliberate choice to look for opportunities and solutions rather than dwelling on negativity.

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## More May Service Info

### May 11: “Choosing Hope” - Rev. Wayne Wilder A ‘Roots of Resilience’ Service

**Bio:** Rev. Wayne (Wayne) is recently retired from the Neighbourhood congregation in Toronto. He helped start that congregation, and initiated many interesting programs. Rev. Wayne cleared the land to build a family home, and now lives there 4 months of the year with his wife Joan. They have 3 grown children and no pets.



## AGM & Executive Team for 2025-26

Our AGM was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Executive Team members for 2025-2026 are as follows:

Position	Elected
<b>President</b>	Tracy Jutras
<b>Past-President</b>	Mark Woolston
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mary Stearns
<b>Secretary</b>	Joanne Alexander
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chuck MacKenzie (Bookkeeper – Dan Danner)
<b>Membership</b>	Don Greaves
<b>Program</b>	Ann Steadman
<b>Religious Exploration</b>	Crystal Theriault
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Dick Felton
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Erin Gudmundson

Thank you to all who attended in-house and online and a warm welcome to our two newest board members, Crystal and Erin. Also, thank you to Brad Gray who served on the board last year. Brad has stepped down from the Executive Team but will be joining our Program Team for 2025-26.

*Respectfully Submitted, Tracy Jutras*

## Report & Reflection by President Tracy Jutras

### Executive Team Report: April 2025 Highlights

- Our Financial auditors for this year will be Helen Curtis and Maria Beauchamp. Thank you to Beth Gray for serving as an auditor for many years.
- Satisfaction Survey: An action team is being formed to plan and carry out suggestions put forth in the survey.
- Sandwich Sunday was held on the last Sunday in April at our AGM. Some \$285.00 was raised for the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Thank you everyone.
- Sunday May 25th has been set for the Death Café at the Backhome Coffee Roastery . More info is included in this newsletter.

### Reflection:

May is upon us and I want to wish all mothers an early Happy Mother`s Day on May 11th. May is also recognized as a time to raise awareness about several different types of cancer. Our theme for this month is "Choosing Hope." I can't help but think of Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope. Terry stated that **"I've said to people before that I'm going to do my very best to make it, I'm not going to give up. But I might not make it... if I don't, the Marathon of Hope better continue."** To this day, Terry Fox Day takes place every year in September inspiring Canadians to raise money by running . This is just one amazing example of what "choosing hope" can accomplish.

Here are two links for more information:

<https://www.marathonofhopecancercentres.ca/>

<https://terryfox.org/>

*In Fellowship, Tracy Jutras*



For the theme package on 'Choosing Hope' contact Ann Steadman  
519-542-9708 or [ann.e.steadman53@gmail.com](mailto:ann.e.steadman53@gmail.com)

## Fellowship Happenings



### Sunday, May 25th 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.

### Death Café

**Date:** Sunday, May 25th

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 pm

**Place:** Backhome Coffee Roastery  
112 Christina Street South, Sarnia  
(beside the Library)

**Let your family and friends know!**

**For more info, or if willing to help in any way, contact Allan McKeown.**

[allanmck@protonmail.com](mailto:allanmck@protonmail.com)

# Death Cafe

*Talking about death won't kill you.*



### Happy 99th to Jessie Rabbit!



Jessie, one of our 'Honorary Life Members', originally joined us as the RE teacher and has continued to be connected with us throughout many decades. She has opened her studio for various Fellowship events and her 'porch' for gatherings when we were not holding summer services. Great thanks for all that Jessie has done to enrich our Fellowship community! To learn more about Jessie, click on this link <https://www.thesarniajournal.ca/top-story/91-tear-old-artist-staging-solo-show-7966525>.

## Quotes on 'Choosing Hope' To Ponder

There are also times in life when a person has to rush off in pursuit of hopefulness.

### Jean Giono

Love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world.

### Jack Layton

The future is uncertain... but this uncertainty is at the very heart of human creativity.

### Ilya Prigogine

Hope fills us with the strength to stay present, to abide in the flow of the Mercy no matter what outer storms assail us. It is entered always and only through surrender; that is, through the willingness to let go of everything we are presently clinging to.

### Cynthia Bourgeault

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.

### Barbara Kingsolver

Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency. Hope should shove you out the door, because it will take everything you have to steer the future away from endless war, from the annihilation of the earth's treasures and the grinding down of the poor and marginal... To hope is to give yourself to the future - and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable.

**Rebecca Solnit, from *Hope in the Dark***

Hope has to be seen to be believed. It has to be made visible. It has to be something we can feel and touch. We are called to be persons who embody hope for one another. We have to be each other's partners in hope. Paul Wadell Sometimes hope is a radical act, sometimes a quietly merciful response, sometimes a second wind, or just an increased awareness of goodness and beauty.

### Anne Lamott

To have hope is to know that we are connected, even as things change. We remain part of the whole and as such still have choices, even if those choices have



narrowed. Hope says, as Benedictine monks say in their vows: *adsum*. I am here. In being here, even in the midst of terrible times, we still have options, we can choose how to react; to live according to our values, our love,

and do what feels like the next right thing, regardless of outcome. Hope helps us to see that even in the midst of crisis there is beauty, kindness, choice. We belong to the terrible, wonderful whole of life.

**Lyanda Lynn Haupt** P. 34 *Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit* (2021)

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### Paul Wadell

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### Anne Lamott

## Lay Chaplaincy... Something to Consider?

**Perhaps become a Lay Chaplain?** If you feel aligned with our Principles, enjoy connecting with others, want to serve, and are comfortable with public speaking, please consider becoming a Lay Chaplain!

**Role:** The role of a Lay Chaplain is to provide quality rites of passage services while adhering to various guidelines and Unitarian and Universalist values. UU Lay Chaplains are not counsellors or therapists, do not provide bereavement support and are not wedding or event planners.

**Back Ground Nationally:** As stated on the Canadian Unitarian Council's website: "The Canadian Unitarian Council's unique lay chaplaincy program was created in 1971. The program trains and supports carefully chosen lay members of Unitarian Universalist congregations who create and perform rites of passage, including weddings, child dedications, and memorial services. Lay chaplains are pleased to provide this outreach service to people who want a religious or spiritual ceremony: both to the general public and to Unitarian Universalists in congregations without a minister. The National CUC Lay Chaplaincy Committee oversees congregations in approving applicants for lay chaplaincy, coordinates training and support for lay chaplains and congregations, and provides consultation on lay chaplaincy matters."

**Back Ground Locally:** Our Fellowship greatly appreciates the lay chaplains that have served us: Kathleen MacKay, Wendy Starr, Allan McKeown, Bill Franks, and, most recently, Steve Lane. Now that Steve has chosen to resign, others are encouraged to consider becoming a lay chaplain.

### Basic Requirements & Process:

1. The candidate has been a member of our Fellowship or another Unitarian congregation for a minimum of two years.
2. The candidate has successfully completed a training session conducted by the CUC National Lay Chaplaincy Committee (these sessions are now on-line and typically happen early in the year—costs can be paid by the Fellowship).
3. When the above criteria are met and the Board agrees, the potential Lay Chaplain is then recommended to the Fellowship. Confirmation of a lay chaplain requires the agreement of two-thirds of the membership at either an Annual General Meeting or at a Special Membership Meeting.
4. The endorsed candidate will then be recommended to the CUC National Lay Chaplaincy Committee. When approved at this level, the CUC will connect with Ontario's Marriage Office and ensure that the Lay Chaplain receives an official licence to perform marriages in Ontario.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Ann Steadman*

*(former chair of both Local & National LC Committees)*

## The Passing of a Pope—UUA & CUC Statements

### Statement from Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, UUA President, on the Passing of Pope Francis

April 21, 2025

“Unitarian Universalists join millions of people worldwide in mourning the death of Pope Francis. A transformative leader, the first Pope from Latin America, and the first Pope from Argentina, his moral clarity and justice-centered ministry, including his work elevating climate justice and highlighting the dignity and humanity of migrant families, were significant to all people of good will. As importantly, he will be remembered for his gracious humility and his willingness to demonstrate his own frailties to a world that is often uncharitable to those made vulnerable. I pray today for and with the millions of Catholics and others who will miss him and the model of servant leadership he embodied.”

### Statement from the Canadian Unitarian Council on the Passing of Pope Francis

April 22, 2025

With the passing of Pope Francis, we offer our condolences to members of the Roman Catholic Church and to all who are grieving the loss of a profoundly influential global spiritual leader.

We remember Pope Francis as a voice of moral conscience in our time — a pope who, with humility and courage, sought to address the world’s significant spiritual and ethical challenges. He was a pope who was a man of the people. He deeply cared about the day’s issues and sought healing, justice, and mercy.

From moving the annual foot-washing ceremony to the prisons, to phoning the only standing Catholic church in Gaza nightly to provide support, he was a pope who centred the needs of those on the margins.

His encyclical *Laudato Si’* called for urgent, justice-centred care for our common home, and inspired people of many faiths to deepen their commitment to climate action and ecological solidarity. As well, when he visited Canada in 2022, he acknowledged the devastating role the Catholic Church played in the genocide of Indigenous peoples through the residential school system. Though not without critique, his presence and apology marked a step toward truth-telling and healing — a journey we know is long and ongoing. We are in solidarity with Indigenous communities as they continue to speak truth and seek justice.

As Unitarian Universalists, we honour the values of compassion, justice, humility, and the interconnectedness of all life — values that transcend traditions and call us into right relationship with one another and the Earth. In his ministry, we recognize that Pope Francis lifted many of these shared commitments: challenging systems of oppression, advocating for the poor and marginalized, and urging all people to care for creation with reverence and urgency. In this time of mourning, we hold close those for whom Pope Francis was a source of hope and spiritual grounding, and we honour the grief of those whose lives he touched.

May this be a time of remembrance and reflection, and of renewed dedication — across religious traditions — to the ongoing work of reconciliation, ecological stewardship, and human dignity for all.

~ From the CUC’s National Voice Team:

UU Ministers of Canada President, Rev. Samaya Oakley; CUC Board Co-Presidents, Margaret Kohr & Rev. Debra Faulk, and CUC Executive Director, Vyda Ng.



### 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/>

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