



The Flaming Chalice

February 2022

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario uusarnia.com

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

February Services - VIA ZOOM ONLY

Theme—Intention

February 6: “Community Update” – Mayor Mike Bradley

Mayor Mike will give us an overview of the ‘state of the city’ highlighting community concerns and potentials for 2022 and beyond. Come prepared with your questions and any concerns that you would like to share with the Mayor.

February 13: “Distress Line and Tel-Check” – Donna Martin

Donna will share with us her experiences as Program Co-ordinator of the Distress Line and Tel-Check programs along with the newly launched Child & Youth Crisis Line and Care Pathway for Older Adults information and referral line.

February 20: “Sarnia’s Crisis in Poverty and Homelessness” – Myles Vanni

As Executive Director of the Inn of the Good Shepherd, Myles will explore the impact of COVID on poverty and homelessness and The Inn’s response to the crisis - immediate and longer term solutions.

February 27: “Our Responsibility to Become Good Ancestors” – Michael Zimmerman (Clergy Letter Project)

The impact of climate change will affect us all – but it will not do so equally. The poorest among us are the first to feel its full force. While Unitarians have long spoken out about this issue, there is a growing sense of urgency among religious leaders. Recognizing that we are called upon to care for all people, as well as provide stewardship for the planet that supports us. Leaders from a wide array of religions and denominations are calling for action.



“Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.”

James Vila Blake.

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President's Message

The theme for the month of February is 'Intention'. The following passages speak to me.

"You told me once that we shall be judged by our intentions, not by our accomplishments. I thought it a grand remark. But we must intend to accomplish—not sit intending on a chair."
- E. M. Forster, *Where Angels Fear to Tread*

and

"Great intentions become tragic when delivered without careful thought."
- Michael Dooley

As I'm writing this article, my thoughts are now focussed on "what are my intentions?" Is it to entertain? Is it provide some deep insight? Maybe to fill the space! At least I'm attempting to be conscious of my intentions!

On the other hand, while living our everyday lives, how often are we conscious about our intentions? We often live our lives driven by our ego and in reaction mode to our environment.

Taking the time to reflect on our personal intentions in our overall lives and in our daily interactions are an important step.

But our intentions are not enough. even when they are good intentions. The intention needs to be followed up on in a careful way.

In Fellowship, Dwayne O'Neill



Social Justice—KIVA Loan Update



Background

The Fellowship set up a KIVA loan account starting in 2015 where micro-loans are made to individuals and small groups in developing countries. US \$1,600 was initially allocated to this by the Fellowship.

By January this year, a total of 137 loans were made. There are currently 38 loans outstanding. The current value of the loan portfolio is US \$1,445.

Our group is part of a larger group called the Unitarian Flames consisting of Canadian Unitarians that are participating with KIVA. The leaders of this group are Lisa and Mike from the Unitarian Church of Victoria.

Recent Information

Lisa and Mike issued an update recently indicating that they will be withdrawing their funds and closing the Unitarian Flames team.

The reasons for this relate to the lack of KIVA transparency (both financial transparency and process transparency). The top 10 Kiva employees earn over 3.5 million dollars and the Kiva CEO was given a raise in 2020 of \$262,000- to bring his annual salary to just under \$750,000 US.

Lisa was a member of the “Captain’s Team” and they met with Kiva in December to express their concerns. They were very disappointed with KIVA’s response and are withdrawing from participation in KIVA.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Fellowship withdraw from participating in Kiva and that we investigate other social action initiative options. A plan is being developed for the Fellowship which will be presented to the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.

In preparation for this, we are not reinvesting any payments into new loans going forward, In addition, with the approval of the membership, we plan to withdraw the funds from KIVA, as the funds become available, over the next couple of years.

Dwayne O'Neill

January 2022



A Note From the Program Chair

Hello Everyone,

As I write this message today, February 2, 2022, the weather outside is cold, snowy and windy. That being said, my heart is always warmed when we meet together each Sunday, even if it is only via ZOOM! Many thanks to those of you who have stayed with us as we once again resumed 'ZOOM only' services in January. Your comments on past services as well as suggestions for future ones are always welcomed! Our intention is to resume in-person services as soon as the Executive determines when it seems relatively safe to do so. Any comments about resuming in-person services are also welcomed.

Ann Steadman, Program Chair



Fellowship is a kind of belonging that isn't based on status, achievement, or gender, but instead is based on a deep belief that everyone matters, everyone is welcome, and everyone is loved, no conditions, no exceptions. It's not the kind of belonging you find at the top of the ladder among those who think they are the best, but at the bottom among all the rest, with all the other failures and losers who have either climbed the ladder and fallen, or never gotten up enough gumption to climb in the first place.

Friday, Jan 28, 2022 - Richard Rohr

How To Donate

Thank you for the eTransfers and cheques that have been arriving.

Your continued financial support is appreciated. If you would like to make an eTransfer donation, please send it to: UFSPH.executive@gmail.com. There is no longer a need for a security question. If you prefer to write a cheque, please designate the payee as Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron and mail the cheque to:

Mark Woolston, UFSPH Treasurer, 1993 Rainbow Trail, Sarnia, ON, N7T 7H6

A PayPal donation button has been added to our website, <https://www.uusarnia.com/>. Please note that PayPal charges for this service, and we are only crediting the donor with the net amount.

Sharing Our Faith National Sunday Service

Sunday, February 6, 2022

1 pm ET



As part of CUC Month, we offer a national Sunday Service on February 6th as the Sharing Our Faith service. Coordinated by Revs. Victoria Ingram and Meghann Roborn, the service is titled “Celebration and Contemplation: The Path of an 8th Principle.”

Join us live on [Zoom](#) or the CUC’s [YouTube](#) channel; the service will be made available early the following week for your congregation’s use if you are unable to attend.

More details [here](#).

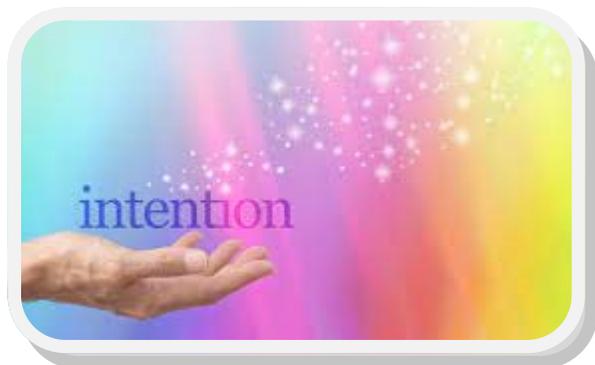
'Intention' Quotes to Ponder

What one does is what counts. Not what one had the intention of doing.

- Pablo Picasso

The thought manifests as word; the word manifests as the deed. The deed develops into habit, and habit hardens into character. So watch the thought and its way with care and let it spring from love, born out of concern for all beings. . . as the shadow follows the body, as we think, so we become. - from the Dhammapada

The really magical things are the ones that happen right in front of you. A lot of the time you keep looking for beauty, but it is already there. And if you look with a bit more intention, you see it. - Vik Muniz



Every journey begins with the first step of articulating the intention, and then becoming the intention.

- Bryant McGill, Voice of Reason

When you know your intention, you are in a position to choose the consequences that you will create for yourself. When you choose an intention that creates consequences for which you are willing to be responsible, that is a responsible choice. - Gary Zukav



By banishing doubt and trusting your intuitive feelings, you clear a space for the power of intention to flow through. - Wayne Dyer

Teachings come from everywhere when you open yourself to them. That's the trick of it really. Open yourself to everything and everything opens itself to you. - Richard Wagamese

And that is just the point... how the world, moist and beautiful, calls to each of us to make a new and serious response. That's the big question, the one the world throws at you every morning. "Here you are, alive. Would you like to make a comment?" - Mary Oliver



February's Theme—Intention



For spiritual nourishment and inspiration, please click on the link below to access the theme package so graciously shared by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

<https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/tj/2022/The-Journey-2022-01-Intention.pdf>



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 Associations latest **UUWorld** <http://www.uuworld.org/>

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To unsubscribe from this newsletter at any time, please send your request by email to:

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