



UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF REGINA

# THE CHALICE

DECEMBER 2018



## *Sunday Services for December*

Services run from 10:30 to 11:30 in the morning, with time for coffee and fellowship afterwards.



Do the right thing – what does that mean to you?

### **December 2 – Doing the Right Thing**

*Panel Discussion with Jane Knox, Dave Cowley and Deb Barton.*

As Unitarians, our Second Principle urges us to work for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Please join us and share in personal reflections on why we need to speak up when we perceive injustice (that which causes harm to others). How can we encourage ourselves and others to ‘walk the talk’ and live by our principles? If we aren’t confident in our voice, how do we learn to speak?



### **December 9 – Indigenous Leaders in our Community**

*Guest Speaker: Angela Pratt*

As part of our commitment to furthering reconciliation, we are inviting guest speakers from local Indigenous businesses, tribal councils & non-profits. All too often, the news stories focus on negative events, or the hard stories in the Indigenous communities. Our guests will share their success stories and what motivates them, or has motivated them, on their life journey.

Our first guest speaker will be Angela Pratt, whose career aspirations have been focused on supporting the advancement and success of First Nations communities.

Potluck Sunday – Join us for food and fellowship after the service



### **December 16 – Living a Life of Mystery & Awe**

*Speaker: Andrew Quackenbush*

What does it mean to be a people of mystery? How does our personal experience of awe influence our beliefs and actions? Andrew Quackenbush will explore some questions related to the first source of our tradition.

*Birthday Party at 11:45 AM – Please join us to celebrate the Unitarian Centre’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! See p. 6 for the invitation!*



### **December 23 – Carol Singing and Festive Food**

Gather around the piano, sing some Solstice and Christmas songs, and eat some festive food. We’ll start at the usual time of 10:30 am with a reading, a story or two, some carol singing, and close with another reading. Keeping it simple is the watchword for today.

### **December 30 – No Service**

Have a happy New Year!

*If you have contributions to make to this newsletter, please contact Mike McCall:  
email [reginauu@gmail.com](mailto:reginauu@gmail.com). or 306-522-7357 (office). The deadline for contributions is the 23rd of the month.*

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Website: <http://reginaunitarians.ca/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reginauunitarians/>  
Podcast: [unitarianfellowshipregina.podbean.com](http://unitarianfellowshipregina.podbean.com)*



**UFR Board of Trustees**

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**UFR Committee Contacts**

**Sunday Services**

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**Chaplaincy**

Richard Jack

**Building**

David Cowley/Joanne Green

**Membership**

Carol Porter

**Music**

Carol Porter/Tanya Walker

**Endowment Fund**

Wayne Williamson/Allyne Knox

**Children's Program**

Wybo Ottenbreit-Born

**Finance**

Jane Knox

**President's Message**

Sometimes it's the sky that's falling – sometimes it's just the ceiling.

I am sure that I am not the one to coin this phrase – but for this issue of The Chalice I will take the credit. It does, however, in my view quite accurately (if not quite literally) describe the Regina Unitarian Fellowship. (I suppose as a metaphor it may well describe any number of institutions, both religious and secular.)

Many volunteers at the Regina Unitarian Fellowship have and continue to work tirelessly to keep our beloved fellowship functioning and providing for the needs of our members. When the ceiling of our lower hall, after hanging in there for ninety years or so with just a few odd patch jobs, finally showed signs of a final and definitive collapse it was time to do something. Something was indeed done – complete with modern drywall ceiling and new high-efficiency LED lighting. Wow – now that's progress. It did not come without significant effort from members of our Building Committee who oversaw design and work, and our Finance Committee who have worked hard to ensure that this challenge will not jeopardize our financial stability. Great job everyone!

Beautiful as our new ceiling in the Lower hall is however, it is my opinion that it is not what best exemplifies who we are and what we have to offer. In this regard, as a principles-based institution we aspire to offer opportunities for intellectual and spiritual exploration in a supportive and judgement-free environment. Rather heady and aspirational language maybe, subject in reality to some bumps, pot holes and the odd falling ceiling along the way. It is my view that the programming that has been coordinated by the Sunday Services Committee over the past year has gone a long way to realizing our aspirations as I have very generally set them out above. Continued challenging and interesting programming is on the horizon. Importantly, I also see our fellowship and its members taking part in activities designed to effect and support social change – a Second Principle issue. Our Truth and Reconciliation Commission Study Group is but one example of this.

"I think, Mr. Penny, that it is the ceiling and not the sky that is falling."

**Regina Multi-Faith Forum**

The Regina Multi-Faith Forum provides opportunities for people of different faith traditions to gather, get to know each other and pray together.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reginamultifaith/>

**Lay Chaplaincy Services**

The Fellowship provides non-denomination services to celebrate rites of passage, including births, weddings and deaths. Our Lay Chaplains are available to the public to provide services. Please feel free to contact us at (306)522-7357 or [reginauu@gmail.com](mailto:reginauu@gmail.com).

**Office Hours**

*Saturdays, 1-3 PM*

Mike McCall is available at the Unitarian Centre once a week for any business which needs to be dealt with in person. At any other time, feel free to telephone the Centre (306-522-7357) and leave a message, or email [reginauu@gmail.com](mailto:reginauu@gmail.com)



### *Renovations to Our Lower Hall Ceiling*

Our ceiling repairs are now 90% complete and by the time you read this, we hope to have new light fixtures in place.

A huge thank you for the drywall work which was completed by Superior Drywall. They do great work and gave us a 10% discount from the original quote!

Painting of the ceiling was done by Patty's Painting and Patty's price was also discounted from the original quote. The finish looks wonderful.



The completion date has been pushed back by the additional electrical work that needed attention. Another big thank you to Chris Soucie & Klein Electric for their work. Chris found that the lighting circuit was not safe and so new wiring was installed before the drywall. Further work to properly wire the furnace and lights in the furnace rooms will complete the project.

### *Giving Tuesday Success!*

It was November 27--Giving Tuesday--when Unitarians delivered the final packages to meet our commitment to Housing First. Our goal was 280 items, representing people experiencing homelessness who are waiting for assistance from Housing First. In 6 weeks, the Unitarian Fellowship delivered over 320 household items to help people establishing a home for the first time. The whole staff of Housing First turned out to thank us. A great Unitarian success.



### *Report from the Board*

*From Jane Knox, Treasurer*

The Board extends warm thanks to the trades people who offered discounts on the work they did to make the ceiling of the lower hall safe and beautiful. We are also grateful to members Joanne Green, Chris Soucie, and Dave Cowley who all played important roles during the renovations. Thank You!

The Board has had good discussion about how best to meet the needs of children and youth who attend our services. As the children get older, the Board encourages our young people to participate in services in various ways and contribute to intergenerational services. If you are responsible for ringing the bell, lighting or extinguishing the Chalice, collecting the offertory, or doing a reading, please invite our young people to join you.

Much of the Board's work during November 2018 was devoted to preliminary budget discussions in preparation for the 2019 Budget year. The Board has been communicating with committees since mid October so as to give committees an opportunity to consider various options for achieving their objectives. Setting priorities is the Board's job and they do not find it easy! Please talk with Board members about Fellowship priorities as you see them.

At this time, the Board is considering the impact of a deficit budget for 2019. Further discussions will be held during an early December meeting and budget proposals will be finalized January 3. All members will have an opportunity to vote on budget priorities at the Annual Meeting in early March.



### *The Unitarian Fellowship Mitten Tree 2018*

Once again the Rainbow Youth Centre has requested our support for their Christmas Stocking Project for infants, Toddlers, and youth. Our Fellowship has been contributing to this endeavor for a number of years now and the generosity of members and friends has been wonderful each season. The Centre is hoping to fill 200 stockings this year and have sent us a shopping list of desired items for us to donate. The list is posted on the notice board in the lower hall along with an informative letter.



Along with new mittens, toques & socks they are also looking for personal hygiene items, reading books and colouring books with crayons.

So in the next few weeks while you are out doing your regular shopping, how about picking up some of these items? Gift wrapping is not necessary. Bring them to the Fellowship when you come to Sunday services and put them on or under the tree. All donations need to be delivered to the Rainbow Youth Centre by December 10th. Thank-you one and all for your contributions to this worthwhile project!

### *Vivace Christmas Concert*

*December 15, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church*

Hello Friends

Along with about 60 others, my sister Lily, brother-in-law Robin and I all love to sing with the Vivace Choir. We want to share that joy with you on December 15 at 7:00 pm at the First Baptist Church (corner of Lorne and Victoria, across the street from KnoxMet). Tickets are \$12 for seniors/students, \$15 for adults.

We will be singing wonderful arrangements of Silent Night, First Noel, Joy to the World, White Christmas, Tell it on the Mountain, and some wonderful newer songs including Mary was the First One, Some Children See Him, Swing Down Angels... And several fun jazzy tunes.

It would be a great joy for me to see you in the audience and chat with you over treats after the performance. Please come. I want to sing for you!

*Jane Knox*

### *Appeal from Flaming Chalice International*

Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana wrote recently to give us an update on the Burundian refugee who was the recipient of a scholarship the Regina Unitarians funded. Thank you to all of the people involved, most especially the children who made a donation to the fund.



Rev. Fulgence says "Our refugee work is going well, and we are about to reap our first fruits. Eight of our refugee students in Rwanda will graduate in July of 2019. Mugisha Aline who got a scholarship from the Fellowship is one of these students. Four of them are working on a plan to combine their skills in Computer engineering, economics and accounting in order to start a joint business that will support them and create jobs for at least five other refugees.

The vision of "Flaming Chalice International" is to inspire refugees and help them thrive in their host communities. The goal is the autonomy of refugees, so they can have a stable income and be contributing members of their communities.

Whether it is through transition projects that provides them, for a limited time, with shelter and food, the scholarship program that helps them acquire needed skills, or supporting small businesses, the goal is for refugees to be independent and not depend on regular handouts.

This holiday season, I am asking you to help me raise \$7500 for a business fund that will fund the dreams of the graduate group and others who will come after them. Donations can be made online through <http://flaminginternational.org/how-to-be-involved/> or by cheque made out to "Flaming Chalice International.

Mail cheques to:

Flaming Chalice International  
11B Dunning Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2S6

Thank you very much for being part of this Ministry.

Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana"



## A History

### *The Unitarian Centre at Age 90*

*by Pam Bocking*

The building at 2700 College Avenue, which now belongs to the Unitarian Fellowship, is truly venerable. Built in 1928, after ninety years, this is a good time to look back at its beginnings, and history.

Designed by the Regina architectural firm of William Van Egmond and Stan E. Storey, the building demonstrates a popular style of the day — Classical Revivalism. The front of the building has four Doric columns, with carved medallions resting high on the outer walls. Inside, the windows of the upper hall have the semi-circular sections typical of the Romanesque period and the central dome draws the eye.

Always a church, it was built for the Greek Pentecostal Church and later sold to the First Church of Christ, Scientist. The building's importance as part of the architectural heritage of Regina was recognized in 1989, when it was placed on the Regina Heritage Holding Bylaw List. This means that the city planning department must be consulted sixty days prior to any significant changes to the character of the building, or its main purpose as a church.

In 1992 the Christian Scientists, whose membership had dwindled, put the property on the market, and this is where the Unitarian Fellowship of Regina comes into the picture. The Fellowship began holding services in 1955, and until 1992 had used available space in a number of buildings, instead of buying property. Some of the meeting places were the YMCA, the Tommy Douglas Building, and the Pink Flamingo Room, in a hotel. In 1992, the Fellowship made the decision to take the big step of buying 2700 College Avenue from the Christian Scientists. The cost of the building and the extensive repairs necessary at the time was financed by direct donations, personal loans, and a loan from the Unitarian Universalist Association. All the loans were repaid by the agreed-upon dates.

Today, the Fellowship uses the building for a variety of Unitarian purposes, such as services, celebrations, meetings, and activities. In addition, the Unitarian Centre has become a community hub, in many ways. For example, the Regina Fringe and the Cathedral Village Arts Festival use it as a performance venue, and groups rent space for activities including yoga, music, parenting, public speaking, and discussions.

**Happy 90th birthday!**



***Join us for a Birthday Party!!***  
***The Unitarian Centre turns 90 this year.***

**11:45 a.m. Sunday December 16 - Open House**



**Let's celebrate. Bring your friends!**  
**Gifts are welcome. Bring your cheque book!**

The Building Committee has successfully guided the repair of our lower hall ceiling - it looks terrific. Many thanks to the members and trades people who have made this possible. We are well on our way to keeping our building safe and *well preserved ... at 90!* Another reason to celebrate!