



UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF REGINA

THE CHALICE

SUMMER 2020



Summer Conversations

In 2020 we have a new name! We are calling our summer gatherings Summer Conversations. We envision simple gatherings, with a topic, a facilitator and a Zoom host for each Summer Conversation. The facilitator will be responsible for starting us with a Chalice lighting and a reading while monitoring to ensure everyone has a chance to share. The Zoom hosts will start the Zoom 'gathering', admit people from the 'waiting room' and end the gathering when we're done.

We thank everyone that has signed up as Zoom hosts as well as facilitators. Contact the committee if you are able to lead one of the Summer Conversations.

Summer Conversations for July

Services are on Zoom (connection info [here](#)), beginning at 10:30 AM. See our weekly emails for updates



June 28 - Canada Day weekend

No Service



July 5 – Ancestors in the Attic

Facilitator: Mooky Cornish **Zoom Host:** Jane Knox

Bring a story about one who inspires you (yours or?...perhaps someone who gave/ gives you strength, made/ makes you laugh... walks the path in your heart.



July 12 – The Desert Island Questionnaire

Facilitator: Jim Hutchings **Zoom Host:** Jane Knox

If you could choose 1 of the following?...Just one... 1 book....1 photo....1 musical instrument....1 tool.... What are we learning in these different times about what counts ?



July 19 – The Art of Letter Writing

Facilitator: Wayne Williamson **Zoom Host:** Jamie Struthers

Does anyone still write letters? Tell us about the most memorable letter or card you have ever received. Let's chat about how we express our feelings these days.



July 26 – Travel

Facilitator: Jane Knox

In these times of physical distancing, what does travel signify for you....bring along your imagination and let's "trip" together.



Summer Conversations for August

Services are on Zoom (connection info [here](#)), beginning at 10:30 AM. See our weekly emails for updates

August 2 - Civic Holiday weekend

No Service

August 9 – To Be Determined



August 16 – Fellowship Roundtable

Facilitator: Richard Jack **Zoom Host:** Jamie Struthers

Fellowship Roundtable to think about topics and zoom vs physical formats for future services. How do we meet our needs not knowing whether we'll be meeting in person or on Zoom. All creative suggestions welcome.



August 23 – Book Share

Facilitator: Sandra Blenkinsop **Zoom Host:** Joanne Green

A regular favourite.



August 30 - A Surprise Picnic

No details yet – it's a surprise!



LABOR DAY

September 6 - Labour Day weekend

No Service

The UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF REGINA is a Welcoming Congregation
This means we welcome you regardless of gender, sexual orientation or identity.

Visit our website at reginaunitarians.ca to learn more,
or visit us in person at **2700 College Avenue**, Regina.



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

Unitarian Fellowship of Regina, 2700 College Avenue, Regina, SK, S4T 1V1 or email reginauu@gmail.com
Website: <http://reginaunitarians.ca/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reginauunitarians/>
Podcast: unitarianfellowshipregina.podbean.com



We envision a vibrant, diverse and inclusive home for spiritual exploration and social action.

UFR Board of Trustees

President	Richard Jack
Past President	Jamie Struthers
Secretary	Jane Knox
Treasurer	Joanne Green
Members -at-Large	Chris Soucie, Ethel Struthers George Garbe

Leadership

- Finance Committee - Joanne Green
- Fundraising Action Group -Jane Knox
- Program Committee - Tanya Walker/Joanne Green
- Property Committee - Joanne Green
- Membership Committee - Jane Knox
- Reconciliation Study Group - Sandra Blenkinsop

Lay Chaplains

Jamie Struthers, Hilary Craig

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.

Office Hours & Rentals

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

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/>

Board Talk

By Secretary Jane Knox

In June, the Board received reports from several committees. Our focus this month was on Fellowship communication through Sunday Services online, phone calls, emails, website, and working together on committees. Beyond members and friends, who do we aim to talk with? The Board explored ideas about reaching out to others in our community. Who is our audience? Why? For many, this is still a time of relative isolation ...a difficult summer coming up for some. How can we ease their challenges? What could we offer that might help? Your ideas are important to the Board. Perhaps we will send you a survey over the summer.

The Membership Committee regularly phones those we seldom see and is working hard to make our website even more inviting <https://reginaunitarians.ca> Keep checking and let us know if you notice improvements. The re-shaped website will put out a warm Welcome to those new to our community and also will identify ways for you to *Get Involved*.

Most importantly, your Board discussed whether it was safe for us to resume meeting in person. After discussing the benefits and risks, the Board agreed it was best to wait at least until August to discuss this again. There are risks: we do not want to expose our members to potential health hazards. In addition, serious cleaning responsibilities will impact our energy and budget. Most important, official guidance discourages and group discussions over coffee and encourages that people attend service at a distance within the church and leave immediately after. We value our time together, sharing ideas and supporting each other.

Instead, the Program Committee *welcomes you to online Summer Conversations*—informal times together on Sunday mornings. Here is a chance to get to know others better and perhaps build new skills by volunteering as a discussion facilitator or Zoom technical host. See the list of proposed topics elsewhere in this Summer Chalice ... *join us!*

Some members are eager to make Zoom visits to other Unitarian congregations across the country ... and bring back new ideas. Don't forget to check the time zone. And please send a brief note about your impressions to Jane for a new Chalice column: *"UUs Across Country"*

As we approach summer, the Board is functioning with reduced numbers due to the vacant Vice-president position, health challenges, and work responsibilities. *Your ongoing support is truly appreciated.*

YOUR BOARD is listening—talk with us: Richard, Jamie, Ethel, Chris, George, Joanne, Jane



In-Person Gatherings at the Unitarian Fellowship

We have been following the news media, the health departments and others to gain insight into the future of faith groups. We know that some groups have started limited in-person services. However, as the Board Talk column advised, our Unitarian Fellowship will continue to meet online for the foreseeable future. This decision means that we continue to be challenged to learn new skills and ways to share.

We know there is a strong wish for our community to remain vibrant, and a need to be inspired, comforted and challenged. Your program committee will be meeting again in late July to start planning for the fall. We encourage ideas and feedback to any one of our members - Marena Charron, Tanya Walker, George Garbe and Joanne Green.

In her book "All Our Relations," Tanya Talaga quotes Nelson Mandela:

"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." (p. 219).

May we all, in whatever ways we can, strive to honour and protect the freedoms of others.

Give Us Spirit

Support for your spiritual journey

"The antonym of empathy is apathy."

That is, the opposite of doing good isn't doing harm; it's doing nothing.

Dr. Brian Goldman, *The Power of Kindness: Why Empathy Is Essential in Everyday Life, 2018*

As Unitarians, what will we do over the summer? How will we reduce racism ... everywhere we go? For starters, share a big smile ...it's free! And it might start a conversation ... or a new friendship.

Read more about kindness ... and reconciliation. Ask your friends (and your relatives) to join you. Spread the word ... individuals can make a difference. It starts within each of us.



What's Happening at the Unitarian Centre?

Even though the building is closed to our Fellowship and our renters, the Property Committee is busy! Our committee members and Mike McCall check the building regularly, arrange for repairs and occasional minor cleaning.

A couple of scheduled projects have been completed as well - hopefully we'll have a chance to show them off soon. 2Morrow Renovations repaired the eastern set of doors to the sanctuary (upper hall) - they just need painting now. And Patty's Painting repainted the lower hall as well as one wall in the children's room. You'll see in the photo that we have painted the walls all the same colour.

Our caretaker Brad Cournoyer has returned to do the lawn maintenance and occasional sanitizing or cleaning. Last, we hope to have some junk hauled to the dump in partnership with one of our regular renters, the Toastmasters. They need some storage space and we need some younger bodies! At this time, the building remains closed to renters, and our own Fellowship.





CUC Releases Statement On Police Violence Against Indigenous People

In 2020, more Indigenous people have died as a direct result of their interactions with Canadian police forces. Most recently the deaths of Chantal Moore and Rodney Levi in New Brunswick, and Eisha Hudson, Jason Collins, and Stewart Kevin Andrews in Winnipeg have illustrated the tragic results of the systemic oppressions and discrimination within our social and justice systems.

Representing a community of faith which believes in the inherent worth and dignity of all, the Canadian Unitarian Council calls on the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to implement changes to policing to better protect racialized populations. Priority should be given to implementing existing recommendations, such as those of The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and to developing police approaches which are responsive, accountable, culturally appropriate, and anti-racist. We again urge the federal government to issue their plan to implement the recommendations within the MMIWG report.

We call on all police forces across the country to acknowledge systemic racism and its impact on the health and safety of Indigenous people who have interactions with police. We further call on all police forces to review and revise how they interact with Indigenous, Black and other racialized people, and with those with mental health and addiction issues, making de-escalation tactics the standard. Police forces, their leaders and individual officers must be held publicly accountable for their actions. Police forces, and their oversight bodies must actively work to diversify their members by increasing the representation of racialized communities in their ranks.

Further, we encourage Unitarian Universalists to contact their police forces and all levels of government to urge the enactment of these changes that are needed, and such as those recommended by the Ontario Human Rights Commission. None of us can afford to be silent any longer. The time for change is now.

~ From the CUC's National Voice Team: UU Ministers of Canada President, Rev. Anne Barker; CUC Board President, Margaret Wanlin, and Executive Director, Vyda Ng

Read the statement and sample letter for political and police officials [here](#).

Reconciliation Ripples

by Jane Knox

Excerpted from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner....

If we needed a reminder of the importance of truth and reconciliation in Canada and Saskatchewan, the current situation in the United States is sadly providing it to us. The American troubles demonstrate that historical wounds and racism do not just go away. Healthy societies and sustainable living standards cannot be built upon systems designed to reflect a belief in the superiority of one group of humans over another. In Canada too, we need to examine our historical past in order to build a promising future for all.

Five years ago, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released their report on the horrors and long-lasting impacts of Indian Residential Schools, along with 94 Calls to Action to initiate change in Canada. The Calls to Action touched many Canadians in ways that previous reports had failed to do. Thousands of residential school Survivors from across this country courageously shared personal stories that had often been buried for years. Perhaps Canadians responded this time because these were stories of children. Those children are now men and women – parents, grandparents and great-grandparents – kookums and mushums. But these Survivors were once innocent children who fell victim to a system designed to steal their Indigenous identity and replace it with racist ideals of “civilization” and “progress.”

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) works to facilitate Treaty implementation in Saskatchewan. Treaties were entered into in Saskatchewan as a series of nation-to-nation agreements to work together for shared prosperity. They were agreed to through ceremony and were intended to last “as long as the grass grows, the sun shines and rivers flow.” The spirit and intent of Treaties were of kinship, mutual benefit and shared management of these lands.

Read the whole post on [Wellness Wednesday on the Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing](#)