

The Chalice

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Unitarian Fellowship of Regina

Join us for *friendly, informal* **Sunday discussions at 1:00 PM**
at the Unitarian Centre, 2700 College Avenue followed by coffee/tea.

5 July



Peace in the Middle East. A discussion of possibilities with Wybo Ottenbreit-Born, Jim Hutchings, and Allyne Knox

12 July



19 July



Book Share with Archibald Crail. Bring your favourite book for show and tell. This is a chance to hear different perspectives.

Purpose: Promoting the teachings and principles of the Unitarian Universalist religion, and bringing together people interested in liberal religion to study religious, moral, philosophical and social questions.

26 July



What does it mean to be two-spirit? Explore with us through a National Film Board video and discussion.

2 August



No service

9 August



A Response to Sarah Laronde's National Film Board Video: Embodied Stories

Share your voice in a discussion about the ways that stories are the key to our empowerment.

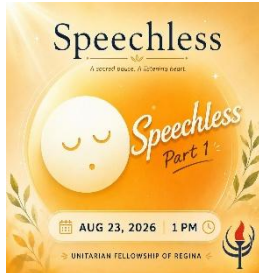
16 August



It's a summer potluck and an opportunity to connect before the Fall season.

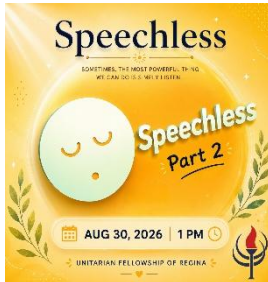
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August 23 – **SPEECHLESS!** (part 1) –



- **A discussion with Jamie Struthers**

August 30 – **SPEECHLESS!** (part 2) –



- **a discussion with Ethal Struthers**

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Get involved with Unitarians!

**Share your knowledge & skills.
Deepen your friendships.**

“+” means other members invited

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Jamie Struthers, Sandi Whitford,
Claire Clement, Ethel Struthers,
George Garbe, Istvan Sipos*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Sandi Whitford, Phillip Muñoz, Jane Knox

Lay Chaplain Committee

Jamie Struthers ...+

Membership Committee

*Ethel Struthers, Marena Charron,
Jim Hutchings, ...+*

Nominating Committee

Claire Clement, Jane Knox

Program Committee

*Glenna Ottenbrite-Born, Claire Clement,
Jamie Struthers, Sandi Whitford, ...+*

Property Committee

Claire Clement, Jim Hutchings, ...+

ACTION GROUPS

Cybersecurity Overseer

Michael Fig supported by Sandi Whitford

Inclusivity

Zoë Sargent, Jane Knox, ...+

Policies

Jane Knox & others (varies by topic)

Reconciliation

*Jane Knox, Ethel Struthers, Helmi Uguh,
Sandra Blenkinsop, Tanith Perry-Mills,
Claire Clement, Deborah Barton*

Social Media

Sandi Whitford, Jim Hutchings, ...+

Board Talk

by Jamie Struthers, President

The Board met June 17. The Policy Action Group led by Jane Knox made a comprehensive presentation concerning updated Board Governance Policies for their consideration. Constructive discussions took place and a significant number of the recommendations were accepted by the Board. It's anticipated that further discussions will take place in the fall concerning the remaining proposals as well as proposals to update conflict of interest and banking policies and procedures.

The Property Committee has been active and provided updates on both lighting and flooring upgrades. The Property Committee reported that it had been Sandi's son, who had donated time and expertise to the lighting project. Thank you!

The Board is undertaking a review of the priorities gleaned from congregational consultations of the summer of 2025 and an evaluation of successes and challenges.

Awareness

July 9 – Nunavut Day

On this day in 1993, the Parliament of Canada passed the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act. This led to Nunavut being recognized as a territory on April 1, 1999.

Nunavut Day highlights the importance of Inuit self-determination and honours the cultural heritage, traditions, and contributions of Inuit in Canada.

[Learn more about Nunavut Day](#)

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Pride Parade 2026

by Ethel Struthers

We marched in solidarity with the local 2SLGBTQIA+ Community for the 2026 Pride Parade.

A small but mighty contingent from the Unitarian Fellowship of Regina joined a coalition of Regina Welcoming Faith Communities, including congregations of the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Churches, on June 14. A special thanks to Rev. Russell Walker of East side United for his efforts in organizing this group of affirming churches. A great time was had by all.



Community Events

Free Film—Red Fever: an exploration of Western appropriation of Indigenous culture

July 15 at 7pm.

Regina Public Library Theatre.

Tickets are free. Details are

here: <https://www.reginalibrary.ca/film-theatre/browse-films/16791841>

Reconciliation Ripples

by Jane Knox

We are All Treaty People. Here is an opportunity to prepare for Treaty Day, (September 15 for Treaty Four in Saskatchewan).

Treaty Timeline

Saskatchewan has a Treaty history that has led us to the Treaty relationship we have today. The OTC Treaty Timeline is a great way to learn more about that history.

https://otc.ca/pages/treaty_timeline.html

The Crown and Indigenous People:

Three videos by the Government of Sask., distributed by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner:

Treaty: <https://youtu.be/iW-ET0Tf8JI>

17minutes

Residential Schools:

<https://youtu.be/3hZxMXZqvV4>

27minutes

Truth and Reconciliation:

<https://youtu.be/ewXyYIBLc6g>

18minutes

Protect the Planet

This article summarizes a United Nations news article about the environmental impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence – How will this impact your life?

https://docs.google.com/document/d/164vw8ZSt_LWtPpDVXwxA69kHYzXfIX4GmhgC9k94dOY/edit?usp=sharing

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Give Us Spirit



I believe in going back to the magic of
the earth and the lake, the sky and the
universe.

That kind of magic.

I believe in that kind of religion.

A religion of the rocks, the lake, the
water, the sky.

Yes, that's what I believe in.

~ George Morrison

Cybersecurity for ALL

Always use automatic software updates.
and perform software upgrades when
prompted. If you are in the midst of a
critical task, make a note to do the
update before you logout.

System software on older devices
(computer, laptop, tablet, cell phone)
may no longer be eligible for automatic
security updates. Ideally, reinstall with
software that is still supported or replace
the device with something that has up-
to-date features.

Ask a friend or tech shop if you are not
sure.

Books to Build Bridges

Books to read to little ones this summer.

One brand new story:

Canada, We Are the Story (2026) by
Richard Wagamese and Mangeshig
Pawis-Steckley

A poem by acclaimed Ojibway author
Richard Wagamese is reimagined as a
stunning picture book in the skilled
hands of Anishinaabe artist Mangeshig
Pawis-Steckley. Thoughtful, healing and
hopeful, *Canada* is a testament to the
transformative power of enduring
identity and belonging.

And an older story for young readers:

***One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue
Dad*** (1994) by Johnny Valentine
Picture book

This wonderful old classic introduces
diversity and is really fun to read aloud.

Recommended reading from Rev.

Anne Barker as she leaves CUC staff
to serve the UU community for Grand
River, Ontario. We will miss her on the
prairies but she is not far.

Imaginable: *How to Create a Hopeful
Future ...* (2023) by Jane McGonigal
Set Boundaries, Find Peace: A Guide
To Reclaiming Yourself (2021) by Nedra
Glover Tawwab

Emergent Strategy: *Shaping Change,
Changing Worlds* (2017) by Adrienne
Maree Brown.

Hear an interview with the author:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1xS7hmipkU>

Read for Pride! It is never too late:

Issac's Song (2025) by Daniel Black.
An exuberant story about a queer young Black man in 1980's Chicago.

What Does Two-Spirit Mean? (2024)
by Trinity Antone (a Canadian youth perspective). Recognize and honour the Indigenous relatives and ancestors who make your life possible.

Try something from these collections:

a) <https://www.cbc.ca/books/30-canadian-books-to-read-this-pride-month-and-beyond-9.7229661>

b) [Read the Rainbow: 135 New LGBTQ+ Books to Celebrate Pride](#)

From Goodreads! a collection of new LGBTQ+ authors and stories (mostly American)

Hopeful Thoughts

A thought shared by **Liz James**, a Unitarian who helps us to think “outside the box”:

“What if the cracks are not there because we are breaking ... but are there because we are hatching?”

A thought from **Leonard Cohen**:

“There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8-BT6y_wYg

We hope you enjoy this song video and that it gives you a “lift”.

CUC WELCOMES New Executive Director

The CUC Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome **Michael Jodah** as the new Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Michael will work part-time April 13 to June 15, alongside current Executive Director Vyda Ng. Vyda's last day with the CUC will be June 30, 2026, closing a chapter of dedicated service to Canadian Unitarians. We will miss her.

Michael has significant experience in executive leadership, community-building, education, and environmental sustainability. Michael has served as a board member in a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

As the new Executive Director, Michael's collaborative leadership style will help to make real connections with people. A Guyanese-Canadian, he has dedicated his career to building spaces where people feel they belong and where communities are strengthened from within.



Original photo at
<https://cuc.ca/project/michael-jodah/>

Obituary—Unitarian Pam Bocking

It is with great sadness that we share the recent passing of Pam Bocking, on June 3rd, 2026, at the age of 88.

As a Unitarian member since November 2004 (22 years), Pam was an integral part of the Unitarian community. Pam's abiding interest in the Unitarian Fellowship was a gift to all. Her insights added depth when she participated in services, seminars and social events. Many people treasure her calligraphy "thank you" notes and her thoughtfully crafted letters of appreciation on behalf of the Fellowship. Often these were accompanied by beautiful photos taken by Pam of the Unitarian Centre. She was a skilled photographer, writer, and artist.

In 2018, Pam researched the origins of the Unitarian Centre (built in 1928) and discovered a mystery which she enjoyed unravelling. With sparkling eyes, Pam used detailed architectural drawings and archived notes to explain it. She learned that the Unitarian Fellowship was the second owner of the building (not the third as we had thought).

Pam considered the Fellowship "home", truly cherishing her friendships there. Her beautiful English voice was a delight at any time and her warm smile was a wonderful greeting as we came in the door for Sunday Service. In recent years, Pam contributed many columns to the monthly newsletter, *The Chalice*. She wrote about Courage, Humanism,

Wisdom, and other topics of interest to her and many of us. She always referenced her writing so that the original authors were recognized and those with an interest could dig deeper.

Pam had a positive, upbeat attitude and a wonderful sense of humour. She read widely and critically and enjoyed discussing controversial ideas and events. In addition to being an active member of the Unitarian Fellowship, Pam was a committed volunteer at the University of Regina Lifelong Learning Centre and at the famous "Big Book Sale"

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to her family. Pam will be dearly missed. We are very grateful to have known her.

For more details see:

<https://www.speersfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Pamela-Joan-Bocking?obId=48576527>



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