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January 2018 18 Volunteer of the Month

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Wolf Moon is the first full Moon in January, this year occurring on January 1st. The Algonquin Tribes named the first full moon of the year Wolf Moon because of its appearance when wolves howled in hunger outside their villages. January 2018 also features a Blue Moon... a second full moon in the same month.

January 2018 Services: Prophecy

January 7th **Gratitude and Vision**This is the starting point, recommended by Joanna Macy, to begin addressing Climate, Indigenous and Economic Justice, well really best if everything begins with gratitude. Prophetic voices have usually come from a place of vision. Presenter: Rev Bill Phipps*
Service Leader: Mary Anna Louise Kovar Music: Music Director Jane Perry

January 14th Prophetic Women: A Journey into Our Unitarian Past Join me as I explore the trail blazing prophetic women in our Unitarian tradition. Two such women are Mary Wollstonecraft, who wrote The Vindication of the Rights of Women in 1792 and Emily Jennings Stowe (1831-1903), Canada's first woman physician. We will honour the women who were 18th and 19th century social justice activists in the struggle for women's education, political and economic rights and who raised their compassionate voices in a call to justice for less fortunate men, women and children.

Presenter: Lynn Nugent

Service Leader: Mary Anna Louise Kovar Music: Music Director Jane Perry with

UUphonia

January 21st **Grief and Lament**This second in the "Rediscovering the Commons" service series recognizes the need for public expression of grief at the

ways things are releases energy to empower forward action. Presenter: Rev Bill Phipps* Service Leader: Kathryn Burwash Music: Music Director Jane Perry

January 28th Sing, Dance, Play Spirit Jam
An opportunity to be joyfully in each
other's presence. Spirit Jams are
innovative multigenerational services that
are engaged and interactive.
Coordinator: Sheila MacMaster
Service Leader: Hendrik Schaink
Music: Music Director Jane Perry with
UUphonia

While Rev Debra is on sabbatical (January 1st, 2018 - February 15th, 2018) we will be fortunate to have Rev Bill Phipps offer a series of three services "Rediscovering The Commons" inspired by and loosely following the work of deep ecologist, Joanna Macy. In all three he will seek to connect Climate Justice, Indigenous Justice and Economic Justice.

Rev Bill Phipps, trained as a lawyer before answering the call to ordained ministry in the United Church of Canada (retired 2007). He was the 36th Moderator of the United Church from 1997 to 2000. During his tenure, the official United Church of Canada apology to survivors of residential schools was offered. Bill is also an author and a lifelong social activist.

Debra's Deliberations

The beginning of a calendar year often includes discernment of hopes and intentions for the year ahead. I am feeling fortunate to be beginning this year with a short sabbatical (January 1st – February 15th) that will afford me, in part, some time for such reflection. Interesting that our capacity to think and consider alternatives, a hallmark of the human experience, is sometimes considered 'wasting time', rather than useful or even purposeful. One of my hopes is that each of us, individually and collectively, take the time to deeply ponder our hopes, vision, and intention for the year. We take time for physical activity, many take time to meditate or engage a spiritual practice, how about time just to think. During my sabbatical, I am going to attempt to cultivate a 'thinking' practice, half an hour a day dedicated to the thought process.

While I won't be with you for the Theme of Prophesy, I have been and will continue to engage the theme. Doing so reminded me of the book *The Prophetic Imperative:* Social Gospel in Theory and Practice by Richard S. Gilbert in which he contends that our movement lives under a prophetic imperative, a religious mandate for the corporate address of the church to the systemic problems of society. He puts a choice before us all: "the continued privatization of our religious lives - or the potential revival of prophetic, socially engaged living."

Gilbert, a humanist, is clear about what he feels to be one of Unitarian Universalism's most important tasks citing Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote 'there is a crack in everything God has made,' Gilbert writes: "I submit that one of the central missions of the Unitarian Universalist movement is trying to fix these cracks, repairing the world, and creating the Beloved Community of Love and Justice. The inner urge to work in the service of this vision I call the prophetic imperative, the sewing together of spirituality and social action as a seamless garment".

Then there is a quote in this month's Reflections from theologian Walter Brueggemann:

The task of prophetic ministry is to nurture, nourish, and evoke a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us.

I will be pondering my prophetic ministry, the dominate culture and alternatives, as is evident from my reading list, shared for those of you who asked:

- Salsa, Soul and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age by Juana Bordas
- Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations by Richard Wagamese
- When Moses Meets Aaron: Staffing & Supervision in Congregations by Gil Rendle & Susan Beaumont
- Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present Robyn Maynard
- Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, & Reconciliation in Canada by Paulette Regan
- Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Namaste, Debra

2017 Panabaker Award for Extraordinary Service to UCC

The time is approaching for the Unitarian Church of Calgary to present the Panabaker Award to honour someone in the congregation for extraordinary services provided to the Church community. To do this, we need your nominations. You will find the guidelines for nominations here: <u>Panabaker Award Information</u>.

As well as new nominations, we welcome resubmission of previous nominations, as there have been times when we have had more than one deserving candidate and only one award. To see who has already received the award check the lists (Panabaker Award and Extraordinary Service award) at the end of the Panabaker Award page. Nominations may be e-mailed to secretary@unitarianscalgary.org or placed in the Secretary's mailbox in the Church Office.

Deadline for nominations: January 8, 2018

WhaleCoast Alaska 2018

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2018** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966.

We would love to share our Alaska with you!



This month we recognize and thank:

Alex Schumacher, Eric Leavitt, and Mich Michell for installing the new video doorbell. It is quite awesome!

Duff Bond for being so handy with a paintbrush and sprucing up the front door.

Thank you to everyone involved with the Souper Sunday. Everything was delicious.

The choir deserves high praise for their great concert in November. Many thanks to Linda Brown, Charlene Hoeppner, Donna Ontonio, and Judy Osbourne for their work organizing this event.

Libby Mobley-Kasner for standing up and stating her convictions at the Congregational Meeting.

Leslie Buckle would like to thank Bob Wilson and Bob Pond for their help in preparing the financial statement for the Congregational Meeting. To everyone involved with the set up, and clean up at the Congregational Meeting, thank you.

The children's pageant was a delight again this year, and Kudos to everyone involved, *especially* Michael Leboldus. Bravo, well done, all!

This is just a sampling of the many people who contribute in numerous ways to our community. When you catch someone in the act of kindness and service please share the info by emailing Kudos@unitarianscalgary.org.

Art for All: Puzzling Together the Wayside Pulpit

February can sometimes feel a bit dreary, so we thought we'd introduce a bit of colour and fun to the Wayside Pulpit for the month. Our February theme is "Interdependence" and we're going to make a pulpit sign that depends on everyone – so we'd love for you to contribute!



February's sign will be made up of puzzle pieces, with each piece decorated by a different member of the congregation.

Come to the Wayside Pulpit art table in Wickenden hall on Sundays in January (7th, 14th and 21st), following the service and create your unique puzzle piece to add to the sign. Decorate it however you like – maybe a picture of what Interdependence means to you, an image that represents you, a pattern, or a wild splash of colour.



Historical Highlight

As was announced at the December congregational meeting, throughout 2018, our denominational and congregational history will be highlighted through inclusion in Sunday services, monthly articles in the Quest and other activities. This year marks several significant anniversaries: the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda, which is described below, the 60th anniversary of our current congregation, and the 50th anniversary of the purchase of this building.

Unitarianism in Calgary has a storied history dating back more than 100 years. In 1907, Rev. Frank Wright Pratt arrived in Calgary from the American Unitarian

Association as Field Secretary to Western Canada, to introduce Unitarian ideas to interested individuals. Services were held sporadically for the next several years, in a variety of locations. In January 1914, Rev. Leif Huseby arrived from New Jersey to serve as minister. However, swept up in the excitement of the Turner Valley oil strike in May of that year, he left in mid-year to become an oil broker. This event is just one example of how our church history reflects significant events and social trends in Calgary and beyond.

On January 13, 2018, one of the world's first statements of religious tolerance celebrates its 450th anniversary. In 1568, in the city of Torda, in what is now Romania, a religious gathering presided over by Unitarian King John Sigismund proclaimed:

"In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well. If not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve...no one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone... and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment... For faith is the gift of God..."

Unitarianism was officially recognized for the first time in history in the Edict of Torda. That proclamation is the beginning of our legacy as a spiritual tradition that resists hatred, oppression, and the narrow view that there is only one way to be faithful, to be religious, to be free.

New Calgary Unitarians Name, Logo and Slogan Selected

With the guidance of Candace de Vuyst, a 4th year Alberta College of Art and Design student and with excellent input from the congregation we have our results to share with you. Thanks so much for the thoughtfulness of your comments. The board authorized the visual identity committee to take all this input and come up with a final logo, slogan and name to present at this meeting.

No one at the town hall questioned our dropping the word "church" in our public name and only a couple of our 25 plus email responses indicated a concern with this, so we have proceeded to drop the word "church" from our logo. The word "church" has strong links to the Christian faith like synagogue in the Jewish faith and mosque for Islam. "Church" also may not resonate with young adults and others. Instead we may wish to refer to ourselves in future as a "faith community" or our Unitarian congregation. We will keep our legal name as the Unitarian Church of Calgary for purposes of maintaining our tax-exempt status.

Both in emails and at the town hall, you indicated a clear preference for logo number 1 but you challenged us to do a better job on the colours. In addition, you gave us some excellent input on the slogan which we wanted to represent a condensed version of our great purpose statement. With your help, we agreed upon:

Grow In Wisdom. Deepen Relationships. Act For Justice.

Here is our final logo with the flame colours coming out of our blue stylized chalice – a chalice that also represents the Bow River. We liken ourselves to the "flame on the Bow". We have many variations of this logo design to accommodate different uses. And we have also developed a new poster and brochure template that incorporates this logo and colours. This will all be rolled out in 2018. Plans are being finalized now and full details will be available soon.

Candace is drafting a plan for new outdoor signage on the east, south and west sides of our building. We will keep you posted on developments here.

Many thanks to everyone for their thoughtful input here.

Visual Identity Committee



Grow in Wisdom. Deepen Relationships. Act for Justice.

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There's a lot of music for Calgary Unitarians to look forward to in the winter semester! Here's an idea of what's happening in the next two months.

In January...

UUphonia begins its winter semester with a rehearsal on Thursday, January 4 at 7:30pm in Panabaker Hall. If you've been wanting to join our 45-voice non-auditioned choir, then this is a perfect time to attend a rehearsal and see what the group is all about! Info: Music Director Jane Perry at jane@unitarianscalgary.org



And in February...

Spirituality of Sweet Honey in the Rock. On Sunday, February 4, the morning service will be all about the storied African-American a cappella women's ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock. Come and hear live renditions of Sweet Honey songs from the BarberEllas, with history and context provided by Music Director Jane Perry.

An Afternoon of Chamber Music. Sunday, February 11 at 2:30pm in Panabaker Hall. Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra cellist Tom Mirhady will present this annual classical-music concert with guest performers. In this recital, you will hear Tom perform as part of the Springbank Trio with violinist Laurie Syer and pianist Jamie Syer, and also with pianist Jane Perry. Repertoire by Vivaldi, Henderson, Chopin, and Brahms. Tickets will be available at coffee hour starting on January 28: \$25 regular, \$20 senior/student, or pay what you can at the door. Free for those age 18 and under. To purchase online (mid-January): wwwlbrownpapertickets.com

The Coffee Chorus! This is a brand-new choral offering for Calgary Unitarians. For three consecutive Tuesday afternoons in the month of February, join Music Director Jane Perry for 30 minutes of social time over coffee and then 60 minutes of singing! This choir is designed for folks who have time to come and sing in the middle of a weekday and who also want a little social time in a relaxed atmosphere. Children are welcome, though the choral offerings are designed for grown-ups: music by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Simon & Garfunkel, and great old tunes from the '40s and '50s. Our first Coffee Chorus date will be Tuesday, February 13 in Wickenden Hall, with coffee at 1:30pm and singing from to 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Join us!

And out in the community...

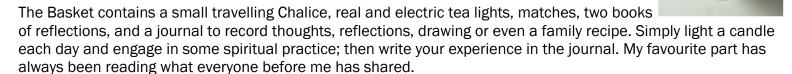
The Building Sacred Bridges Concerts are part of this city's Interfaith Harmony Week and feature choirs from various Calgary faith communities. This year, two of our Calgary Unitarians ensembles have been invited to sing! Proceeds from the concert go to Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta. Suggested donation: \$20. *Saturday, February 10 at 7:00pm. UUphonia sings at Knox United Church (506 4 Street SW at 6 Avenue) *Sunday, February 11 at 7:00pm. Chor Vida sings at Beth Tzedec Conservative Congregation (1325 Glenmore Trail SW)





Bearers of the Light Begins Again for 2018

Starting Sunday, January 7th the community practise of passing the Bearers of the Light basket from one household to another begins!



Keep the basket for two weeks, then pass it on to the next family at Sunday service during the Lighting of the Chalice. To sign up, email Sheila MacMaster at dre@unitarianscalgary.org.

The Youth Room Needs a New Couch!

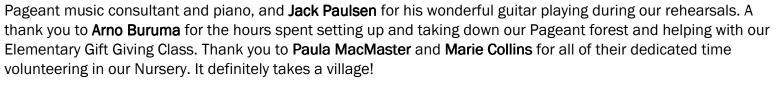
As you can see our Youth room couch is a little worse for wear, there is also a very particular smell...



We'd like to spruce up the Youth room for the coming New Year and are looking for donations of good condition couches, chairs and sectionals. Side tables and lamps are welcome too! Pick up is available, just contact DRE Sheila MacMaster at dre@unitarianscalgary.org.

Thank You to All Our Amazing CYRE Volunteers for The Month Of December!

Michael Leboldus – Director of our Holiday Pageant, thank you for all your time and hard work. We couldn't have done it without you! Donna Ontonio, Yoseth Diaz Ramirez, Heather Walker and Linda Brown for their help with costumes and organization. Marsha Haug, always a wonderful help with the Elementary classes, Pageant musical support, and lending us a tree for the Pageant. Jane Perry as



A special thank you to **Evangeline Jordan** – who was not only a lovely tree in our Pageant but a dedicated "stand in" tree during rehearsals. Evangeline often helps out in class with taking attendance and leading the songs. She has also been an excellent helper and volunteer at Coffee Time. Thank you, Evangeline, for all that you do!



Thank you to **Elizabeth Watterworth** and **Yoseth Diaz Ramirez** for donating rocking chairs and lamps to our Mother's Nursing area and **Elizabeth Orland** for donating toys for our Nursery. Also thank you to **Martha Mantikoski** for her donation of a tree for our Pageant. It all really helps to make a difference!



What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Prophecy?

Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for prophetic witness, by Prophetic witness I mean our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know.... Prophetic witness ...is the ability to name those places where we resist knowing what needs to be known.

-Rebecca Parker, UU theologian and minister

Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God's judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting "You're evil!" and more about pointing out "We're all asleep!" The prophetic message, for us, is not so much "Repent!" but "Wake up!"

Recent global political/socio-cultural events are relevant here. Unexpected election/vote results, a swing to fundamentalist perspectives, a rolling back of equal rights earned, revelations of misconduct - so many situations that challenge many of us to pop the bubble we in which we have been living. We existed in an echo chamber but told ourselves we had a clear picture of the world. Whether it was class, condescension or comfort, something distorted many people's view.

And so if elections/votes and disclosures/revelations are about realizing we were asleep in a bubble, the question now is are we ready to wake up? And let's be clear: this is not a politically partisan thing; liberals and conservatives both have a ton of waking up to do.

Bottom line: we need prophetic communities now more than ever. As Rebecca Parker says, we need circles of brave and bold people who are willing "to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what they know." Which means that being a community of prophecy is not just about helping people wake up to each other's realities and fears; there is also the matter of waking up to and being wide-eyed about the need for resistance. Most of the time, holy work is about finding common ground among differing world views. But sometimes, holy work is about prophetic judgment and knowing when some views need opposed. As that activist said, "I am not crushed. I am awake."

So many ways to wake up. So many people who need us to do so. Sleep is no longer a luxury. In the end, maybe that is the most prophetic message of all.

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Learn how to join at http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com

Spiritual Exercises Option A: Pick a Prophet

"The Prophetic role is such a tough one...It's annoying and unsettling. It points out hypocrisy and the intentional self-deception we engage in. Who wants that? Enter the comedian..." - **Pete Santucci**

So it turns out they want us to do more than laugh! Who knew that their main goal is to wake us up?! To unsettle our self-deception?! To honor that, this exercise invites you to open yourself to some edgy prophetic comedians and discover where you need a little unsettling. Your instructions:

- 1. Watch the video clips below or another of your choice.
- 2. Listen for the one that gets under your skin.
- 3. Beware of the ones that you agree with too easily or cheer too loudly; That's a sign of the way you want to unsettle others, not the way you need unsettled.
- 4. Write down the sentence or two from your chosen clip that captures where your work seems to lay that speaks to the self-deception that you most often slip into.
- 5. Find a way to put that sentence (and the video) in front of yourself frequently this month.
- 6. Come to group ready to tell the story of how this made a difference in your daily living/woke you up.

Videos: (A word of warning: The language that comedic prophets use is often explicit.)

Pete Holmes - Not Knowing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ4o1N4ksyQ

Bill Hicks - It's Just A Ride: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgzQuE1pR1w

Joe Rogan - Society Trap: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRK8ghuniJQ

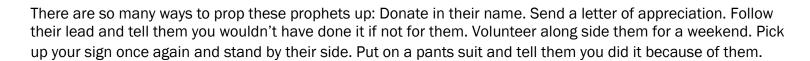
Rick Mercer - Parliament and the Need to Be Informed https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZsXBo1L9Bk

Samantha Bee - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwEKgAwozOY

Option B: Prop Up a Prophet

We can always be sure of one thing—that the messengers of discomfort and sacrifice will be stoned and pelted by those who wish to preserve at all costs their own contentment. This is not a lesson that is confined to the Testaments. ~ Christopher Hitchens

We owe prophets much. They inspire us, guide us and keep us on track. In short, they prop us up. So, this month, in gratitude, why not return the favor and prop them up? We need to remember that they regularly feel cast into the desert and fear being pelted, sometimes literally. We need to remind them that they are appreciated and not alone. This is especially true of the everyday prophets. The ones protesting when the rest of us stop showing up with our signs. The ones who devote their lives to keeping homeless shelters going and challenging the rest of us to not forget the forgotten. The vegetarians and vegans who remind us that eating is a spiritual practice. The neighbors who forgo dinners or vacations so they can put solar panels on their house or afford the electric car, reminding us that it is possible to live in a new world now.



We all need everyday prophets in our lives. This month, let's remember that they need us too. Find your own unique way of appreciating and propping them up!

Option C: An Anishinaabe Prophecy

The CBC popular television series, 8th Fire, "draws from an Anishinaabe prophecy that declares now is the time for Aboriginal peoples and the settler community to come together and build the '8th Fire' of justice and harmony." http://www.cbc.ca/8thfire/2011/11/tv-series-8th-fire.html

Here is an English translation of part of this Anishinaabe prophecy:

"It is at this time that the Light Skinned race will be given a choice between two roads. If they choose the right road, then the Seventh Fire will light the Eighth and final Fire, an eternal Fire of peace, love, brotherhood and sisterhood. If the light skinned race makes the wrong choice of roads, the destruction which they brought with them in coming to this country will come back at them and cause much suffering and death to all the Earth's people."

June Kaminski writes from her perspective as an Anishinaabe Ojibwe person: "Traditional Mide people from other Nations have interpreted the two roads that face the Light Skinned race as the road to technology and the other to spiritualism. They feel that the road to technology represents a continuation of Head-Long rush to technological development. This is the road that has lead to modern society, to a damaged and seared Earth. Could it be that the road to technology represents a rush to destruction? The road to Spirituality represents the slower path that traditional Native People have traveled and are now seeking again. The Earth is not scorched on this trail. The grass is still growing there." http://www.chi-manidoo.com/7fires.html

What is your experience being at the crossroads in the dominant society with the road of technological development and the road of spirituality? In meditation, prayer or reflection, spend some time considering these words: What images come to mind? What words? What struggles—your ancestors, your family and community, and your own?

If you want to engage this further, consider watching some of the 8th Fire episodes to learn more about the tension between Indigenous worldviews and non-Indigenous dominant white worldviews, and how they impact the lives of those who share their stories in the series.

Your Question

As always, don't treat these questions like "homework" or a list that needs to be covered in its entirety. Instead, simply pick the one question that speaks to you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal of these questions is not to help you analyze what Prophecy means in the abstract, but to figure out what being a part of a community of Prophecy means for you and your daily living. So, which question is calling to you? Which one contains "your work"?

- 1. Who has been a prophetic oracle to you? Whose voice has influenced, and thus, predicted your future? Is it still doing so? (Every man is hero and an oracle to somebody, and to that person, whatever he says has an enhanced value. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson)
- 2. What are you willing to being driven into the desert for? (The ones we call the prophets were the ones jailed and driven into the desert. ~Noam Chomsky)
- 3. How is Beauty calling you to a new future? (Beauty is the oracle that speaks to us all. Luis Barragan)
- **4. What would it look like for you to remember?** ("The biblical prophet didn't so much predict the future as to speak for God in a world that has gone askew by forgetting ...something essential." Peter Santucci)
- 5. Have you domesticated your prophets? Is your "cloud of prophetic witnesses" really just an echo chamber? (Avoid the bad habit of domesticating the prophet of your choice, turning him into a cheerleader for your way of thinking and way of life. ~Parker Palmer)
- 6. Which Martin Luther King Jr. do you celebrate? (Martin Luther King Was a Radical, Not a Saint: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/martin-luther-king-was-a-_1_b_6498740.html)
- 7. Are your New Year's resolutions too small? Are they really big enough to bring down your bully? (The best way to [predict] any future is to cause one... The future isn't a pattern laid out to abuse and bully you.

 The future is a beautiful playground... L. Ron Hubbard)
- 8. What New Year's resolution will make life feel like a playground again? (The best way to [predict] any future is to cause one... The future isn't a pattern laid out to abuse and bully you. The future is a beautiful playground... L. Ron Hubbard)
- 9. How has the election of President Trump "mugged you with truth"? ("You can tell the future?" "More like the future mugs me from time to time.... The oracle spirit kind of hijacks me once in a while, and speaks important stuff." ~Rick Riordan)
- **10. What's your wave?** (It is a mistake to see [the prophet] as an isolated, heroic individual. It is better to see him/her as the crest of a wave. -Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker)
- **11. Is your prophetic engagement with or without love?** (If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2)
- **12. What's your question?** Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.

Recommended Resources

As always, this is not required reading. We will not analyze or dissect these pieces in our group. They are simply meant to companion you on your journey this month, get your thinking started, and maybe open you to new ways of thinking about what it means to be a community of Prophecy.

Prophecy

Greek - *prophéteia*: the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth; pró, "before" and phēmí, "make clear, assert as a priority, what is clarified beforehand. Hebrew – *nabi*: from a root meaning "to bubble forth, as from a fountain," hence "to utter."

Wise Words

Prophets help us connect the dots between the world as it is and the world as it might be.

The best way to know any future is to cause one. And that's why, you see, when you start consulting the ora

~Krista Tippet

The biblical prophet didn't so much predict the future as to speak for God in a world that has gone askew by forgetting about God [and goodness]... And so, the prophets spoke both about God and for God, reminding their listeners that they've forgotten something essential.

~Peter Santucci

The ones we call the prophets were the ones jailed and driven into the desert.

~Noam Chomsky

We can always be sure of one thing—that the messengers of discomfort and sacrifice will be stoned and pelted by those who wish to preserve at all costs their own contentment. This is not a lesson that is confined to the Testaments.

~ Christopher Hitchens

The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls and tenements halls and whispered in the sounds of silence.

~Paul Simon

To see clearly is poetry, prophecy and religion all in one. ~John Ruskin

To be a prophet requires living in and looking at the present, at what is really going on around you.

~ Anne Carson

The best way to know any future is to cause one. And that's why, you see, when you start consulting the oracle at Delphi, you've taken a step downhill. You have assigned cause for the future elsewhere. The future isn't a pattern laid out to abuse and bully you. The future is a beautiful playground that nobody happens to be combing. ~L. Ron Hubbard

The prophetic liberal church is the church in which all members share the common responsibility to attempt to foresee the consequences of human behavior (both individual and institutional), with the intention of making history in place of merely being pushed around by it. Only through the prophetism of all believers can we together foresee doom and mend our common ways.

~James Luther Adams, UU theologian

http://www.uua.org/care/stories/what-is-your-ministry

Avoid the bad habit of domesticating the prophet of your choice, turning him into a cheerleader for your way of thinking and way of life. Remember that all the great prophets were courageous and outrageous folks who railed against the powers-that-be, challenged self-satisfied posit, threatened the prevailing social order, and would find you falling short in some significant ways. ~Parker Palmer

Every man is hero and an oracle to somebody, and to that person, whatever he says has an enhanced value.~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Beauty is the oracle that speaks to us all.

~Luis Barragan

This is the crime of which I accuse my country and my countrymen, and for which neither I nor time nor history will ever forgive them, that they have destroyed and are destroying hundreds of thousands of lives and do not know it and do not want to know it. ~James Baldwin

The task of prophetic ministry is to nurture, nourish, and evoke a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us.

~Walter Brueggemann

Having [been] in the Pentecostal church, there was an interesting perspective there about prophecy: rather than being "fore-telling," prophecy was more a "truth-telling." A "word of prophecy" cut to the quick in a situation, or an individual's life, and was spoken in service of the higher order of "God's will." Think of pulling back the layers and veils of denial, disguise, avoidance, and so on. It could be utterly disarming, since the shields of one's self-protection and strategies of selfjustification were penetrated. I experienced it directly once - and looking back now I am fascinated by what it felt like, how my encounter with what was really, undeniably true in that situation left me feeling both exposed and relieved at the same time.

~Chela Sloper, Soul Matters member

Behind the lone prophet who speaks up, there is a group. ...it is always a mistake to imagine that lone prophets are really alone. ... We should think of Jesus this way as well. It is a mistake to see him as an isolated, heroic individual. It is better to see him as the crest of a wave, the sparkling foam breaking brightly from the force of a whole ocean moving and swelling up from underneath. I sense among Unitarian Universalists these days a deep desire to affirm the ocean that is within and beneath the voices of individual conscience that we celebrate.

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker, CLF reflection

"You can tell the future?"

"More like the future mugs me from time to time." Rachel said, ... "The oracle spirit kind of hijacks me once in a while, and speaks important stuff."

~Rick Riordan http://tinyurl.com/y7zqujzh

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ~1 Corinthians 13:2

Songs

The Times They Are A-Changin'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7qQ6_RV4VQ

Holy War

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E_5AU9guB4

Movies

Shut Up and Sing

A documentary on the Dixie Chicks in the wake of singer Natalie Maines' anti-George W. Bush statement at a 2003 concert.

http://tinyurl.com/gl6ucm4

Selma

A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1020072/

Milk

The story of Harvey Milk, and his struggles as an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official.

http://tinyurl.com/hpt2tho

Ghandi

The life of the lawyer who became the famed leader of the Indian revolts against the British rule through his philosophy of nonviolent protest. http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083987/

Predicting the Future & The Power of "Maybe"

http://tinyurl.com/kzv7yru

http://tinyurl.com/6x4p38

Prophets & Comedians

The Prophetic role is such a tough one...It's annoying and unsettling. It points out hypocrisy and Samatha Bee- The Party of Inclusion the intentional self-deception we engage in. Who wants that? Enter the comedian...

- Pete Santucci

Prophecy in the Nostradamus sense, or that whole messenger-of-God thing, isn't what I mean when ascribing prophet status to Louis C. K. or Chris Rock or Doug Stanhope or their forebears. They aren't seers or priests. They're truth tellers.~ Scott Raab, http://tinyurl.com/ya47x693

Prophets and Comedians, Pete Santucci http://tinyurl.com/y9c6rlg2

A PRYOR LOVE: The life and times of America's comic prophet of race: Richard Pryor http://tinyurl.com/n2can8c

<u>Videos</u> Some contain explicit language

Pete Holmes - Not Knowing: http://tinyurl.com/ycokygv7

Joe Rogan - Society Trap: http://tinyurl.com/pft8rxa

Bill Hicks - It's Just A Ride: http://tinyurl.com/nzrtu8u

Chris Rock on Racism, Wealth & America http://tinyurl.com/y7n8rmrd

Dave Chappelle Addresses Donald Trump's Election http://tinyurl.com/gp7exef

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

George Carlin - "Who Really Controls America": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYICOeZYEtl

http://tinyurl.com/gkpoal3

Larry Wilmore - 2016 White House Correspondents' Dinner: http://tinyurl.com/gvf6gx9

Prophetic Glimpses of a New Day

The Prophet lays down an alternative reality to the one we live in which critiques the way we live our diminished, self-sized...lives.

~Peter Santucci

Instead of polishing the bombs of holy war What if sex was holy and war was obscene And it wasn't twisted, what a wonderful dream Living for love, unafraid of the end Forgiveness is the only real revenge So we can heal each other and fill each other We can break these walls between each other Baby, blow by blow and brick by brick Keep yourself open, yourself open We can heal each other and fill each other We can break these walls between each other Baby, blow by blow and brick by brick ~ Alicia Keys, 'Holy War'

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always." ~Mahatma Gandhi

Videos and Podcasts

The Prophetic Imagination

by Walter Brueggemann

The people we later recognize as prophets are also poets. They reframe what is at stake in chaotic times.

http://tinyurl.com/gvf6gx9

The Most Prophetic Three Minutes In Television History: Scene from The Newsroom

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ML3qYHWRIZk

Charlie Chaplin's final speech in the film the great dictator:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WibmcsEGLKo

Martin Luther King: I Have Been to the Mountaintop https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oehry1JC9Rk

Books

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

http://tinyurl.com/ybvcyzbi

The Radical King by Martin Luther King Jr

http://www.beacon.org/The-Radical-King-P1049.aspx

Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the **Public Square** by Paul Rasor.

http://tinyurl.com/ybdy8mks

Black Prophetic Fire by Cornel West

http://tinyurl.com/yddzn2v3

The Fifth Sacred Thing by Starhawk

http://tinyurl.com/yayl5evl

8th Fire - The CBC popular television series, 8th Fire, "draws from an Anishinaabe prophecy that declares now is the time for Aboriginal peoples and the settler community to come together and build the '8th Fire' of justice and harmony." http://tinyurl.com/yca9grr2

Articles and Videos

Martin Luther King Was a Radical, Not a Saint

http://tinyurl.com/nz9dqkp

Searching for the Prophetic in Hip-Hop

While conscious hip-hop takes more of a propagandized, abstract approach and Christian hip-hop is concerned first and foremost with Christ, prophetic hip-hop bears witness to the human condition in graphic, uncompromising terms.

http://tinyurl.com/yabn26ul

Prophet Muhammad: The Social Reformer

Few individuals in any civilization have been able to accomplish religious, gender, educational, racial and conflict-resolution reforms all at once. Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam, reformed his society in all five respects which laid the foundation of the Arab and Muslim civilization.

http://tinyurl.com/yc8whyq7

And How are the Children?

http://tinyurl.com/y7weqbol

Sacred Economics

We have all been given a gift, the gift of life. What we do with our lives is our gift back

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEZkQv25uEs

S.M.A.R.T. Green Resolutions

The Green Sanctuary Committee invites one and all to join our "Green Club," for at least the first three months of 2018. The challenge is first to make for yourself a Green Resolution inspired by climate change. Second, send your signed resolution to Green Sanctuary Chair Carl Svoboda either by email (<u>csvoboda@shaw.ca</u>) or by a note in the GSC mailbox in the office. You will be invited to share a 'midterm report' with other Green Club members in mid-February and a 'final report' in early April.

SMART resolutions will be:

S - Specific: Goal explains clearly exactly what you want to accomplish

M - Measurable: Has measurable results

A - Achievable: Clarity about how the goal could be accomplished

R - Relevant - Related to climate change

T - Time-bound: Could be accomplished within three months

A few examples from GSC members (not necessarily perfectly SMART but genuine – we'll confess discovered shortcomings for the Green Club's mid-term report.)

- My goal is to reduce my car use, which is known to be a large source of greenhouse gas emissions. I will do this by reducing my vehicle use by at least 15% over the next three months. For somebody that drives seven days a week, this target can be achieved by simply picking one day a week to find an alternative to driving. For the really ambitious goal-setters out there, this could mean recording our weekly mileage or gas consumption and using alternative transportation to cut that mileage/consumption down by 15%.
- 2) I will monitor what my political representatives and news media are saying about issues related to climate change, and where appropriate, respond to them in writing, a minimum of four letters in three months.
- 3) Over the next three months, I will find five different models of climate change predictions and compare them to suggest best and worst projections for where to live in 2050, taking into account all factors included in the models. ("Where" might be just locations in Alberta or just in Canada, depending on what I find.)



Please Join Our Green Club!

An Inconvenient Sequel

Social Justice and Green Sanctuary Committees invite you to view An Inconvenient Sequel January 12 th at 7:00pm Former Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight, traveling around the world to train an army of activists and influence international climate policy – as he pursues the inspirational idea that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion."

Top 10 Common Recycling Mistakes

Wisdom from Calgary's recycling facility brought to you by Green Calgary, Sophia Lang, and your Green Sanctuary Committee.

- **10.** Loose Plastic Bags. Hard for Calgary's facility to sort. Bundle cleaned plastic bags into another, clear plastic bag, and tie it shut. Include plastic wrap, sandwich bags, and freezer bags, but not bags that don't stretch, as in cereal boxes. Sadly, they are garbage.
- 9. Plastic Lids. Lids smaller than 7.5 cm or 3 in are garbage. Bigger ones can be recycled.
- **8. Styrofoam.** It may have a recycle symbol on it, but it's too light for our recycling facility to sort properly. Yup, garbage.
- 7. Plastic Cutlery. Too small to process. Save for picnics, find compostable cutlery, or do without.
- **6. Single-Use Packets.** As for tea bags and hot chocolate. Too small, too light.
- **5. Fresh food seals and peel-off lids.** Seals on condiment bottles and dairy products, like yoghurt or cottage cheese, or single-use peel-off lids, as on pudding cups. Nope, not recyclable.
- **4. Envelopes and Bubble Mailers.** Envelopes are okay but not the plastic part of window envelopes. Bubble mailers are mixed materials, and mixed materials are not recyclable.
- **3. Candy wrappers.** All food bar wrappers, as for granola and chocolate bars, and individual candy wrappers are (sigh) garbage.
- 2. Coffee Cup Lids. Single-use coffee cups are recyclable in Calgary, but the lids are too small.
- **1. Straws.** Too small and light to be recycled. Green Calgary sells compostable or stainless steel straws, but in a restaurant, simply ask for "no straw."

Lots of garbage, eh? The noble option is to find ways to do without.

A few more tips:

Anything in your recycling that isn't empty and clean can contaminate other materials, meaning they all get pulled out and sent to the landfill.

Used tissues and toilet paper can go into Calgary's new compost bins.

Aluminum foil that isn't dirty/greasy can be recycled with cans.



Congratulations to January's Volunteer of the Month: Jim Washbrook!



Our first Volunteer of the Month for 2018 is Jim Washbrook, an unfailingly kind hearted member of our congregation who goes out of his way to help in myriad ways. Jim is part of the Information Technology committee and does A/V support, both sound and video. He helped install the video surveillance cameras, and helps out on the Physical Plant Committee. He also participates in a TLC. He is even good at setting boundaries and modeling when and how to say no.

A member of the congregation wrote, "Jim is cheerful, relaxed, friendly, and easy to work with. He contributes lots to the (Computer) Tech Team. He takes the minutes at our meetings, takes on learning new software and techniques, authors much of our documentation, and devotes many hours to helping our

staff with their computers. As a member of the A/V crew he contributes many Sunday mornings to setting up the sound equipment and operating the soundboard for our services. He is willing to share his knowledge whenever the need arises. He is a wonderful member of our congregation and I am glad he is being recognized for all his volunteering."

One of our board trustees said that. "Jim's unflappable, and always has a cheery word to say. And he makes enormous contributions, most of it under the radar, without fanfare."

Another member stated, "My take is that Jim is always helpful, he jumps in wherever needed, with a generosity of spirit that is admirable and infectious. I cannot recommend him highly enough."

Please join the Board in congratulating Jim when you see him!

Jim, thank you for all that you've done, and continue to do, for the congregation. It has not gone unnoticed, and is greatly appreciated!

4-Others

January's 4-Others will be split between two recipients:

Childhaven International, inspired by the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, was founded in 1985 by Unitarian minister Rev. Fred Cappuccino and his wife Bonnie. Cl assists children and women in developing countries with food, education, health care, shelter, clothing, emotional and moral support. They now operate 9 homes in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Evenstart is a Calgary based organization that works with young children and families living in at risk or unpredictable situations. Evenstart believes when children are fed, have access to education, live in homes that are safe, and where parents are assisted in developing skills that allow them to generate a livable income, then children learn that they are valued, and will realize their potential.

*4-Others *4 Others is a social justice outreach program that financially supports non-profit initiatives that align with our values. Each month, half the unidentified and all the identified money collected at church services will be donated to that month's designated non-profit/organization. The selected organization must have charitable status.

Laughter Yoga with the Travelling Laughter Club Still Laughing in January, February ...

The Travelling Laughter Club - Laughter Yoga - will be continue meeting twice monthly in the new year. What is it – Laughter Yoga is a program of exercises, silliness, and laughter along with yogic breathing and some meditation. Laughter, along with the easy exercises, energizes the body, stimulates the brain, and lifts the spirits. Laughter Yoga is a healthy means to lighten up lives at home, at play, and at work. And it's fun and FREE!!! Exercises are modified to fit anyone's ability, and can be easily done while sitting. No special equipment needed – just wear comfortable clothes, bring a water bottle.

Laughter Club will meet in Room 1 twice monthly on Monday nights: January 15, 29; February 5, 19; March 5; 19; April 2, 16, 30; May 7; 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Admission is Free. For information check out Facebook, the website: www.travellinglaughterclub.ca, contact Sheila Ward at travellinglaughterclub@shaw.ca or 403-875-1266.



What Time or Talent Can You Donate?

It's time to start thinking about our Winter 2018 silent auction. Bidding will take place from January 28^{th} to February 11^{th} . What time or talent can you donate?

I personally had a wonderful time these last 5 months donating a couple of dinners, a pasta making class and a port tasting. It was fun to share my passion for good food and wine and to get to know my wonderful Unitarian community better.

Below is a sampling of new items that we have for auction this time ...what can you offer for the Winter 2018 Silent Auction?

TRI UU House Concert
Foursome of Golf at McCall Lake
Tennis Racket and Lesson
Hungarian Dinner for Four
Made to Order Crocheted Cardigan
Scotch Tasting

You likely have a service or talent you have not considered, but that would be valued by someone else. What about donating chess or bridge lessons or a learn to knit session, French lessons, or a ride on a motorcycle? Or what about a week at your cottage or timeshare, a dog sitting weekend or a day of sailing on your boat? **All ideas are welcome! Please submit your items by January 20th.** – Blank bidding Sheets are available in Wickenden on the bulletin board and on the home page of the UCC website. Just complete the upper section and put in the auction mailbox in the church office - include a description of the item, value, minimum bid if any, and then your contact details. Or email jane.ebbern@gmail.com. Questions - call 403-283-7162.

Many Paths for Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Learning

The *Truth, Healing & Reconciliation* (THR) series is an 8 week program for Canadian Unitarians to explore the history and our relationships with Indigenous Canadians. Part of the 8 week program was integrated into the Western Fall Gathering in October. Another stage was participating in the CUC's THR Facilitator Training and being able to access the "Guides" (or the 8 week program with video and print resources).

As we move into 2018, there are more opportunities to launch, expand and build on your THR understanding. Learning about Indigenous reconciliation is a journey and we are all at different points of learning and understanding. Some of us will be exposed to Aboriginal stories and reconciliation through our work or studies, some of us through day-to-day contact with fellow Calgarians and for some, Calgary Unitarian programs may be the main opportunity. The advantage of programs within the church context is a setting where discussions are shared with like-minded people.

Consider the following programs and self-learning opportunities within our church:

Adult Religious Exploration March 20, 2018 Tuesday 3 to 5:30 pm OR 7 to 9:30 pm. Preregistration required (unitarianscalgary.org, Programs for Adults). Topic: Colonization and Indian Residential Schools. We'll watch the NFB film *We Were Children* (85 min) and have follow-up group discussion. A Zoom link is being considered, but details need to be confirmed.

Adult Religious Exploration. April (date and time to be determined). Follow-up to *We Were Children* focusing on the path forward and building reconciliation.

January services on Active Hope by Rev. Bill Phipps

Online videos: watch for an update in January about videos, articles and other reading on the unitarianscalgary.org web page. Watch E-news for the notice of when this resource list is posted.

Quest Reflection: many of the Reflections include specific resources/ideas for THR reflections.

Community events to consider:

Saturday February 3. Kairos Blanket exercise. Tsuu T'ina, Grey Eagle Resort. Offered as part of Interfaith Harmony Week. This exercise is a powerful activity which is a metaphor for the impact of colonization on Indigenous people.

Saturday February 17 or Sunday February 18. "šxw?am'ət: (home)" – an interactive reconciliation play. Can Calgary Unitarians rise to the challenge and be well represented at the play? For general information (and how to pronounce šxw?am'ət, see

http://www.theatreforliving.com/present_work/sxwPamet/index.html

Date TBD (possibly late June). Canadian Bridges talent show is an opportunity to be inspired by Indigenous youth. In previous years, this has been part of June's Aboriginal Awareness Week Calgary.

Watch for more details in the Quest, Enews and unitarianscalgary.org, Adult Programs or contact Wendy Benson wb4fun@telus.net.



Co-Op Gift Cards: Raise Funds for The Church

The church receives 4% of gift card orders totaling less than \$5000 6% of gift card orders totaling \$5000 - \$9999

9% of gift card orders totaling \$10,000 or more.

We Accept Cheques, Cash and E-Transfer

There are 2 types of Co-op gift cards. One Co-op gift card is for grocery and gas purchases at the Co-op grocery stores and gas bars. The Co-op liquor gift card is solely for purchases in Co-op Wine and Beer stores. These gift cards can be used either as gifts or for your own purchases. If using a gift card for gas purchases, payment must be made inside the store. Please specify at the time of ordering which type of gift card(s) you are requesting. Any questions? Please ask at the order table.

Place Gift card orders - Sunday, January 7, 2018 Pickup Gift cards - Sunday, January 14, 2018

If you have not purchased a gift card before, here is how to do it:

On the first Sunday of the month, bring cash or cheque to church, payable to the Unitarian Church of Calgary. If you have forgotten to bring either, you can ask about making a money e-transfer. Place your order at the table in Wickenden Hall before or after the service. If you are not going to be at church on the first Sunday of the month, you can leave post-dated cheques in the Co-op Card/Fruit Cake Cheques mail slot in the church office.

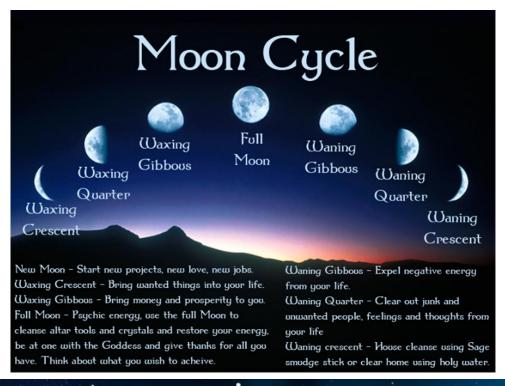
The gift cards will be distributed on the second Sunday of the month. If you are unable to pick up your card on that day, you can collect it on the next Sunday.

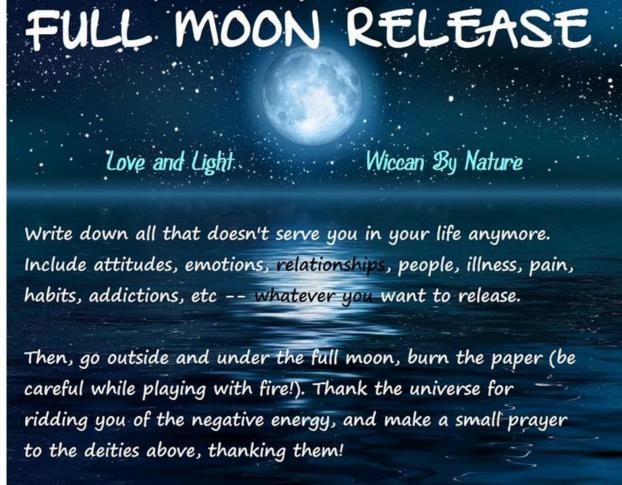
Use the gift cards like cash when you make purchases at Calgary Co-op. You receive immediate cash discounts with gas purchases that can be used in Co-op grocery stores. If you become a member of the Calgary Co-op you also receive dividends at the end of each year.

That's how easy it is!

Any questions? Contact: Ev Dewar <u>ev.dewar@kogawa.com</u>, Sheila Ward <u>sggward@shaw.ca</u>, Frances Schaink <u>blue.sky@infovisi.com</u>, Alex Russell <u>itfromblighty@gmail.com</u>

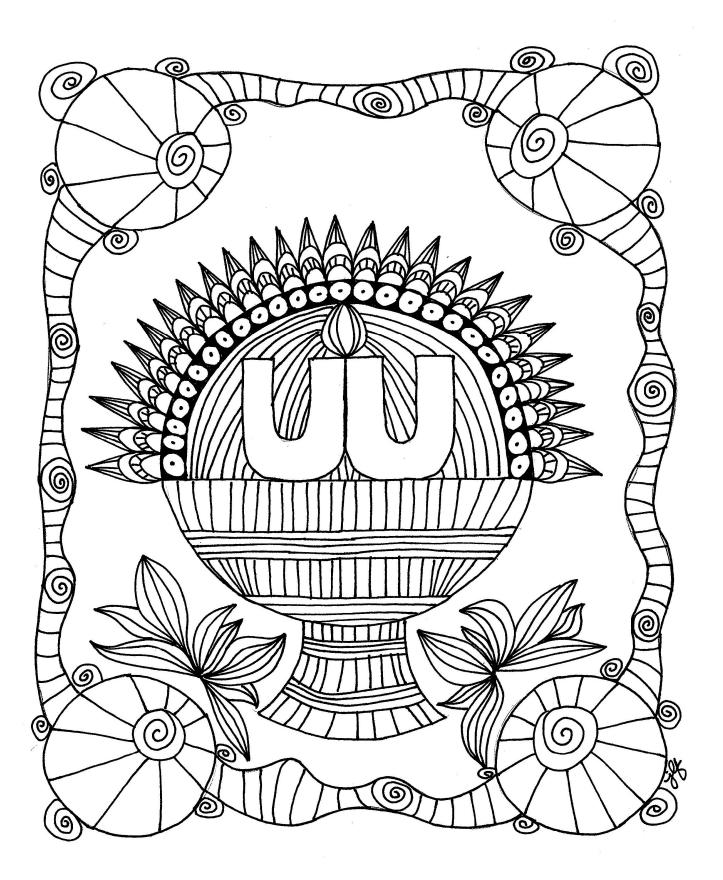
Magickal Moon





Kid's Activity Page!

Use your imagination... go wild with color... have FUN!



How to Reach CU Staff

Minister Rev. Debra Faulk debra<u>@unitarianscalgary.org</u> 403 702-6486

Director of Religious Exploration / Youth Program Coordinator Sheila MacMaster 403-404-1361 dre@unitarianscalgary.org

Music Director Jane Perry <u>music@unitarianscalgary.org</u>

Church Administrator
Martha Mantikoski
office@unitarianscalgary.org
403-276-2436
Monday -Wednesday & Friday
9am to Noon
Office closed Thursdays



Publishing the Quest

The UCC Quest is published 11 times per year by the Unitarian Church of Calgary. Electronic copies are available at www.unitarianscalgary.org/newsletter/. Submissions of articles, photographs, and event announcements are encouraged. Questions about the Quest, please email, quest@unitarianscalgary.org.

The Quest Deadline is the 15th of every month except for July.

ENEWS

The ENEWS is normally published via email once a week on Wednesday. Material for the ENEWS must be submitted by Tuesday midnight. If you would like to the receive the ENEWS, please email enews@unitarianscalgary.org

Booking Rooms

As our Church gets busier it is important that if rooms are needed they are booked in advance. Space can be reserved either by filling out the online booking form found here http://unitarianscalgary.org/calendar/#form or by contacting the Church Administrator at 403-276-2436 or office@unitarianscalgary.org

Lay Chaplains: Mary-Anna Louise Kovar and Beverly Webber

Our Lay Chaplains are trained to perform rites of passage, such as weddings, funerals/memorial services, child dedications, etc. They are available to provide such services for a fee to the wider community. (Services for Unitarian Church of Calgary members are provided by the minister.) Our lay chaplain can be contacted by calling the church at 403-276-2436 or via email, laychaplains@unitarianscalgary.org.

The Caring Team

The Caring Team provides support to the members, friends, and families of the congregation. If life has you stressed because of illness, hospitalization, moving, we can help. If you have something to be celebrated, such as a graduation, marriage or new child, we are there with you. We are all part of the Caring Team! Need support, have a concern, or want to be of service? Contact caring@unitarianscalgary.org

Monthly Co-Op Card Fundraiser

Each month we will take Co-op Gift Card orders on the first Sunday. Bring cash or a cheque to church unless we already have your post-dated cheques. Cheques are payable to the Unitarian Church of Calgary. A table will be set up in Wickenden Hall place your order there before or after the service. The cards will be distributed following Sunday.