

THE UNITARIAN



March 2020

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 1st Wisdom of All Ages Rev. Danielle Webber

Worship Associate: Keith Germaine

Welcoming Board Member: Wayne Broughton

We all have wisdom to share. As we begin this month's theme of wisdom let us attempt to glean from those in our community, of young and of old what wisdoms they have to offer, and how sharing can bring together a more wholesome understanding of truth.

Community Lunch will follow this Service. Please bring something to share if possible and join us for great food and conversation. All Welcome!

March 8th Wisdom of the World's Religions Rev. Danielle Webber

Worship Associate: Linda Guebert

Welcoming Board Member: Sheldon Reddekopp

Although Unitarian Universalists regularly refer to the 7 Principles to which all communities covenant to Affirm and Promote, did you know that we are a living Tradition that draw from 6 different Sources? This Sunday we will be focusing on our 3rd Source: Wisdom from the World's Religion which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life. Please join us as we explore world traditions from Ancient Greece, modern day India and Early Judaism.

March 15th The Seven Principles in Poetry and Song

Worship Associates: Kim Dawson & Linda Guebert

Welcoming Board Member: Lindsay Atkinson-Smith

Unitarian Universalists do not have a prescribed doctrine or creed, but we do share some guiding principles. In this service we reaffirm our commitment to these principles and explore and extend our understanding of them through specially selected music and poetry.

March 22nd The Wisdom of A Rebirth Rev. Danielle Webber

Worship Associate: Robert Sebo

Welcoming Board Member: Ali McMillian

Spring and Spring Equinox are often associated with the concept of rebirth, and life coming back into our world. We will be exploring the wisdom that we find in the earth, in the rebirth of this time, while reengaging in a practice of welcoming



new members to our community. Mixing renaissance with new life we will also be creating a new communion ceremony together this Sunday!

March 29th Why Go to Church?

Worship Associate Linda Guebert & Congregational Panel

Welcoming Board Member: Linda Easton

What brings people to church? Couldn't they just stay home and worship on their own? In this service several members of our Kelowna Unitarian community will reflect on what they personally gain from attending church and the impact it has on their lives.

Soul Matters: What Does It Mean To Be

A People of Wisdom?

When the topic of wisdom comes up, so do the usual images. Walls and walls filled with dusty old books. Elders with the wisdom of many years carved into the wrinkles on their faces. Diplomas framed and

filling one's office wall. Endless letters placed in front and behind your name (Dr., PhD., LCSW, JD, Rev., etc.)

The message: wisdom is about accumulation. If you want to be wise, you need to pile it on. More knowledge. More experience. More books to read. More gurus to follow. More degrees to get.

But then words like these sneak into the conversation:

Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.
- Martin H. Fischer

There is no need to "acquire" the knowledge of God. There is only the dropping of the illusion and forgetfulness.
- Omid Safi

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.
- Lin Yutang

It's a reminder that the math of wisdom is often the opposite of what we think. It's more a game of subtraction than addition. Often, accumulation of knowledge doesn't get us closer to wisdom; it's just in the way. There's a sorting, simplifying

and stripping away that needs to occur. It's about unknowing as much as knowing.

Just think about how deeply we get tangled up in those cultural messages about money and success. Or the way degrees, IQs tests and SAT numbers get mixed up with status rather than the pursuit of truth. Or the way political parties, religions and even science claim to have all the answers. Maybe this is why the Sufi poet Hafiz wrote:

The Beloved sometimes wants
To do us a great favor:
Hold us upside down
And shake all the nonsense out.

And with all the nonsense shaken out and stripped away, maybe what we notice most is not so much the pearls of wisdom themselves, but the sources of wisdom we've forgotten.

When reason and logic hog the spotlight, the wisdom of the body rarely enters the room. When week-long retreats with the newest guru define the path to wisdom, we stop asking what our failures and mistakes are trying to teach us. When "experts" sit in the center, the wisdom of those on the margins is lost.

So many untapped sources.

So much wisdom waiting to be known.

**Makes one think that maybe the wisest question of all this month is:
"Where have I not looked before?"**

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

As we move further into the new decade, new things are happening at Kelowna Unitarians as well!

A new Board was voted in during our Annual General Meeting on February 16th:

President: Sheldon Reddekopp
Vice President: Lindsay Atkinson-Smith
Treasurer: Wayne Broughton
Secretary: Linda Easton
Member at Large: Ali McMillian



Thank you to Rob Sebo for the last 3 years that you served on the Board! And thank you for offering to step onto the Nominating Committee! Thank you to Sheldon, Wayne & Linda for staying on the Board, and to our Newest Members as well; Allisa Bennett & Kim Dawson, thank you for being our Nominating Committee, and Linda Sampson for stepping into this role!

What a wonderful crew of volunteers!

In other New news – Louise McKenzie has decided to retire from the Administration position. **Louise, thank you so much for all the work you have done to hold things together, and thank you for all the insight and support you have offered me, as I transitioned into this ministry of this church!** I look forward to a continued relationship with you, all though with a new focus.

In addition to stepping onto the Board, Ali McMillian has also offered to help manage our Kelowna Unitarians Website. Keep your eyes peeled for changes, and hopefully some streamlining of our social spaces!

With a New Member Recognition Ceremony, and a new program, Starting Point, happening March seems to be the month for new opportunities!

Rev. Danielle Webber (She/Her/Hers)
Kelowna Unitarians Minister
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STARTING POINT

An Introduction to the Unitarian Universalist Journey

As a faith, Unitarian Universalism presents a journey, not a set of beliefs. Starting Point is a curriculum that offers a discovery of that journey. Join Rev. Danielle and other congregants through Four sessions of discovering your personal spiritual path, and learning about ours.

**March 16th, 6:30-8:30pm March 30th, 6:30-8:30pm April 13th, 6:30-8:30pm
April 27th, 6:30-8:30pm**

Facilitated by Rev. Danielle Webber & Congregational Guests

Please R.S.V.P uudaniellewebber@gmail.com by March 10th, 2019



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

The Board & Rev. Danielle met on February 10th. The property taxes for the church property & the Cawston house in particular, have increased substantially due to the development happening on Bertram & the valley in general. Unfortunately, a house used as a parsonage is not exempt from property tax, the same way as is a church building. The parsonage is experiencing numerous "leaks" for which urgent arrangements for repairs are being made. Linda Guebert has agreed to be chair for the Worship Committee. Welcome new member Megan Atkinson-Smith.

Our next board meeting will be March 2 at 7:00. Welcoming board members for March: March 1, Wayne; March 8, Sheldon; March 15, 22, & 29 will be agreed among Linda & the new board members at the next meeting. The board welcomes new members Lindsay Atkinson-Smith as Vice President, & Ali McMillan as Member at Large!

SUPPORT REFUGEES!

**JOIN US AT THE KELOWNA UNITARIANS' COFFEE HOUSE!
ACOUSTIC ACTS AND SPOKEN WORD
Friday February 28th, Show Starts 7:15pm For More Info,
Contact: kgermaine@okanagan.bc.ca**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Labyrinth walks will be March 6 at 2:30 and March 20 at 7:00.

Lindsay

A friendly reminder and information to those who have or haven't used the Kelowna Unitarians [website](http://www.kelownaunitarians.ca), the KU website features:

1. homepage announcements of services and other upcoming events
2. homepage access to this month's newsletter
3. easy click to building events calendar and updated rental rates
4. opportunities to get creative and much, much more!!!



Plans include updating the ceremonies page and providing recordings of services for those who can't make it out on Sunday mornings.

Users are key to the success of any website. Maybe the site even attracted you to come to KU for your first visit. **If you have used the [KU website](#) a lot or at all, please reply to kadawsonphd@gmail.com to receive appreciation for your ideas about what you like about the site and how it could be improved.**

Though feedback is gratefully accepted on its own merit, please consider putting your name forward if you also have aptitude and interest in working together to improve the [website](#).

All the best to you,
Kim

Poetry Corner

Circuitry of Laughter

The element of surprise
sets off a circuitry of mirth.
A punch line or a pun
stimulates guffaws, chuckles, giggles,
contagious acts from the belly.

Emotions, ideas, sensation flow,
a tickle sparks
brain's prefrontal cortex.
Currents of jubilation light the route
to a network of smiling muscles
that leaves no choice
but to laugh along the way.

Sterling Haynes

Sunday Services as well as our Children's Religious Education Program are held at 10:30 AM Kelowna Unitarians Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 11:00am-2:00pm Phone: 250-763-7212, 1310 Bertram St. Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 2E8 Email: unitarian@telus.net **Please send Newsletter submissions to ufksignal@hotmail.com by the 3rd Monday of each month.**



www.kelownaunitarians.ca



KELOWNA **UNITARIANS**
Sharing Diverse Explorations of Faith