

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg



The Communicator

January 2020



Sunday Services and Religious Exploration begin at 10:30 am

The theme for January is Thresholds

January 5, 2020

On the Threshold: A Poetry Service

Service Leader: Steve Lennon

Service Coordinator: MC Ziegler

As you venture into a crisp new decade, come experience six Unitarian Universalist poets with 20/20 visions of what it feels like to be on the threshold.

Hymns: 1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door; 292 If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking; 241 In the Bleak Midwinter; 356 Will You Seek in Far-Off Places?

January 12, 2020

Resolutions & Promises

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: Dylan Fijal

A new calendar year also brings with it cultural pressure to make changes in our lives. What does it mean to discern what changes will be sustainable and what will not?

Hymns: 1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door; 1037 We Begin Again in Love; 1029 Love Knocks and Waits for Us to Hear

January 19, 2020

Next! Life In The Supermarket Checkout Line

Service Leader: Rev. Lara Cowton

Service Coordinator: MC Ziegler

So much of our lives are spent waiting, waiting, waiting, then on to the next thing. What if we found these in-between times had value, significance and purpose? Join us as we search for ways to experience more fully the overlooked moments of our lives.

Hymns: 1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door; 396 I Know This Rose Will Open; 209 O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls; 359 When We Are Gathered

January 26, 2020

Of Which We Are All a Part

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: Steve Lennon

We are at a crossroads of human existence within our planet's ecosystems. What does the interdependent web really mean when it comes to our spiritual development with each other *and* with the flora and fauna of our world?

Hymns: 1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door; 1048 Ubi Caritas; 203 All Creatures of the Earth and Sky



Happy New Year!

IN THIS

Issue

- 1 Sunday Services
- 2 From the Minister's Study
How Can I Help?
- 3 RE Project
Methamphetamine Film
- 4 Board Notes
Worship Arts & Design
Adult Discussion Group
- 5 Craftivism Club
Harvest Committee
Message
- 6-7 Refrigerator Pages
- 8 CUC Corner
Who's Who

The deadline for the **February 2020** Communicator is **Monday, January 20th, 2020**

From the Minister's Study

by The Reverend Meghann Robern



*When
the song of
the angels is
stilled, when
the star in
the sky is
gone, when
the kings and
princes are*

*home, when the shepherds are back
with their flocks, the work of Christmas
begins: to find the lost, to heal the
broken, to feed the hungry, to release
the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people, to
make music in the heart. -- the Rev.
Howard Thurman*

In the mythic storytelling that many of our congregations do in our services on Christmas Eve, we include the part about the magi travelling across the land, following a star. What's glossed over in our worship celebrations is that in the original scripture, it doesn't happen the same night that Mary gives birth. The magi arrive twelve days later, giving us the twelve days of Christmas and the celebration of Epiphany in early January. For those of us who also use the orthodox calendar, the entire holiday of Christmas and Epiphany is happening right now in the month of January.

It is during this time that the major players of our story, the characters from whom we glean our

lessons, are in states of liminality; both in the stable and on the roads. Mary is still recovering from giving birth, and learning her new role as mother. Jesus is getting a crash course in what it means to be out of the womb, where there's things like hunger and cold. Joseph is figuring out his place in this family that has grown from two to three. The magi put their faith in their learning, risking days of travel entirely on the appearance of a star in the sky. They encounter Herod, and are wary enough of his abuse of institutional power and privilege to return home "by another road." They are changed by this experience as much as the holy family in Bethlehem.

What, then, does this time of year offer us as Unitarian Universalists? I would offer up January as a time for us to experience the stable and the roads. In the stable, we can contemplate ourselves, our roles in our families and communities, our fears and anxieties. On the roads, we can turn ourselves outward, to take stock of where our reason and values intersect with the work of justice. We can reach out to those for whom the holiday season is anything but joyous -- be it for grief or injustice or any reason -- and let them know that they are supported.

In gratitude and faith,
Rev. Meghann



Saturday January 11, 2020

10:00 am - 2:30 pm in our Zoom room (online; you require a camera and microphone on your computer or other electronic device to participate).

Facilitator: Rev. Meghann Robern

Part of participating in a caring community is being able to support one another with our time and our listening in addition to with rides and meals. This class is for all who wish to deepen their skills of listening and engaging with others in meaningful ways -- creating the web of the community that keeps us in covenant with each other.

[Click here to register](#) by **January 7, 2019**

How Can I Help? is part of our Congregational Life Series

RE Project



When the Bear Clan Patrol encounters people who are experiencing homelessness, they offer small kits of toiletries. This enables our neighbours to brush their teeth, wash their hair, shave, and otherwise care for their bodies.

Our Explorers Religious Exploration group of 6 to 9 year olds is using a curriculum called Love Surrounds Us. This month they'll launch a project inviting you to donate the items needed for these kits — please watch for their posters. They'll collect items on Sundays until early February and will assemble the kits on February 9th.

Items that would be useful are travel size and include:

- shampoo
- toothpaste
- toothbrush
- comb
- soap
- tissue packets
- individually wrapped menstrual pads
- small toiletry bags (to fit a toothbrush)



by Heather Emberley

Mark your new calendars to see the documentary everyone is talking about!

Award winning film maker and Winnipeg paramedic Rodney Bodner, has captured the human side of our city's meth epidemic. You will recognize two of our Share the Plate recipients, Bear Clan and St. Boniface Street Links. You will see church member Michael Thiessen upholding our principle of the inherent worth

and dignity of every human being as the camera follows him on patrol.

This film (adult classification) has been endorsed by School Trustees to be shown in all Manitoba high schools in 2020 and U get to see it first!

The film will be shown on **Tuesday, January 28 at 7 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg**, 603 Wellington Crescent.

Montary donations will be accepted at the door.

Board Notes

by Lauren Bailey, President



Happy new year and all the best in 2020!

I'm now sad that we didn't label our goals for the new year our "2020 Vision."

Such goals include

continuing with our accessibility improvements, growing our community, both within our church family and outside of it, and being here for each other when needed.

One way we can ensure we are here for each other is to keep or upgrade our pledges in the 2020 pledge drive (coming late winter/early spring). The board will be hosting some budget and pledging town halls in March to get input into our next fiscal year.

Another way to contribute is to volunteer and join a new committee or working group. Joining a new committee can help you meet people, work on different projects and have a richer community experience. If you're not sure who to contact about what groups are available, talk to a board member, and we can usually introduce you or point you in the right direction. Have a committee or working group idea that doesn't exist? We can help with that too!

Committees are grouped together into clusters, and each cluster has a board liaison, able to assist. Part of growing our community is to knock down some of the "silos" and get committees working together on projects that can have a bigger impact.

Your board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 18:30 in the Dining Room. Are you interested in attending? The meetings are open to all church members. Exceptions for some topics will occur for confidentiality reasons.

I want to hear your 2020 Vision. You can contact me at president@uwinnipeg.mb.ca.



Choose From:

**Thursdays: March 5-26, 2020
5:45-7:15 pm in the Sanctuary**

Make-up session, if required, is the Saturday April 18 session

or

Saturday April 18, 2020
10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Meghann Robern

What are the various elements of our worship services, and why are they meaningful? How do we strive to speak to the needs of all gathered? How can we creatively weave these varied threads together?

[Click here to register](#) by **February 25, 2020**

Worship Arts & Design is part of our Congregational Life Series

Adult Drop-In Discussion Group

by Odell Havsdotter

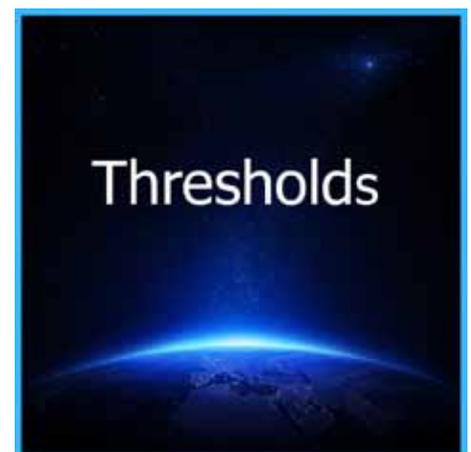
The Adult Drop-In Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month in the living room of the house area from 10 am to 11:30 am to discuss the monthly theme. Please ring the bell and we will open the door on the house for you.

This month the theme is Thresholds; our format will provide many opportunities to discuss this theme and how it relates to a Unitarian Universalist context.

There will be water and possibly some light refreshments. Childcare will be provided.

You do not need to have attended this discussion group in the past; all are welcome.

For more information, see the Facebook event listed here (<https://www.facebook.com/events/539111216643067/>) or contact Odell Havsdotter at ziphii@gmail.com



Craftivism Club

by Liz Redston



It was almost a year ago in the Communicator that we profiled the desire to begin a Craftivism Club and there was feedback from people that this would be well received. Craftivism is an updated version of a church quilting bee or stitching group. Only now the group may include various stitching, crafting and fibre related projects in support of a social action or social justice cause. It has taken us a while to find a person willing to run with such a club and we are happy that Darlene Payne has offered to help us launch.

On **Saturday, January 11th from 10 am to 12 noon** we will host an event open to all, including the external community to come and stitch a small piece of cotton in support of the refugee issues as part of a large international initiative: <https://www.25millionstitches.com/>. People have the opportunity to do a simple image in easy running stitch on a

15 X 17 piece of cotton. Completed pieces need to be submitted by April and we can send ours in together or supply people with the address and all details.

We will have donated supplies for those who attend and this easy start to future Craftivism events. Based on who attends from within the church congregation we will talk about future events.

The Craftivism Club will be an ad-hoc group within our Social Justice cluster. It may meet 6-8 times in a year depending on group energy. And will hopefully offer a multi generation social/learning/community building opportunity for all. We also see this as something of potential interest to the broader community and a great way to possibly attract new friends. As there is not budget allocation for these events we may look for donations of supplies from time to time. And – for our first event in January if you have any embroidery floss or embroidery hoops to share please drop off at church and place in Darlene Payne’s mail folder.

If you like to do any kind of sewing, crafting or needle work- please come join us. We look forward to seeing you and your friends.

A Message from the Church Harvest Committee

Submitted by Brian Klowak
on behalf of the Church Harvest Committee



We would like to thank the congregation...again, for your continued and generous support of the Annual Christmas Orange Appeal for our Winnipeg Harvest sponsored food bank.

Approximately 150 boxes of oranges were purchased and distributed on the last two Thursdays before Christmas (December 12th and 19th) to two appreciative groups of food bank clients. The orange boxes were purchased at the Food Fare Store on Maryland and Westminster.

The surplus money will be used to purchase powdered milk throughout the year and distributed to adults and families with teenagers. Thank you for your support, and for making this holiday season a bit more plentiful for our food bank clients!



Save Your Stamps and Candle Wax - These Can Be Recycled

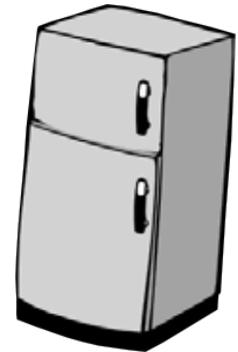
by Linda Henderson

Please remember to remove the stamps from Christmas cards, letters and packages. Two charities benefit from cancelled stamps, and our church is pleased to help them out. Leave your stamps in an envelope on the kitchen window sill. Thanks!

We're also in need of all your candle wax stubs and used crayons, to be recycled into new candles to sell in our UU Gift Shop. *Let's recycle!*



RE-Frigerator Page



We Celebrate...

Our theme for January is Thresholds. A threshold is literally the part of a doorway that you step over. So thresholds represent transitions—moving from one space to another. We can move from indoors to outdoors, or the other way around. But we can also move from being a 1st grader to being a second grader, or



move from someone who only goes places with their parents to someone who walks alone to a friend's house.

Of course, January is the perfect time to talk about Thresholds, since we are moving through the doorway into a new year. It's a good time to stop and reflect on how we want to move forward. We can choose to make January a time when we look at our lives and see if there is some piece we want to adjust, some new doorway we want to move through.

Family Quest
of the Church of
the Larger
Fellowship

Jan. 2020



We Honor...

"Threshold" is a word that gets used a lot at Starr King School for the Ministry. Starr King is a Unitarian Universalist seminary—a graduate school where people learn to be ministers. Many Starr King graduates go on to become ministers in UU congregations, but many go on to do other kinds of ministry in the world, serving in hospitals or prisons or working for justice in many ways.

But training for ministry—whatever kind—can be understood as moving through a variety of doorways. Areas of learning

can be understood as thresholds—through study and practical experience you move into becoming someone who is prepared to minister in social justice work or building community or creating beautiful worship or creating interfaith connections or providing counseling or teaching for religious exploration.

Thinking of learning as crossing a threshold emphasizes the fact that learning changes us. We don't just gather up facts, we become people who have skills to share

with different people in different circumstances, people who have new understandings about who they are in the world.

Starr King follows this theme by welcoming new students with a Threshold Ceremony, celebrating the important transition into their community and the path to ministry



Talk About It!

- ☺ What are some transitions in your life that have felt like thresholds?
- ☺ What is something you've learned that felt important enough to be a threshold?
- ☺ What thresholds do you mark or celebrate during the year?
- ☺ What, if anything, do you do to mark the New Year as a threshold?

Act...

One kind of threshold is the border between countries. People have a lot of different reasons to cross the threshold that will take them literally into another country. You might cross a border to visit a place on vacation, or to see relatives or friends. You might choose to immigrate for work or education or to be with someone you love.



But many people cross international borders out of desperation, because where they are leaving has become unsafe because of war

or political persecution or natural disasters. The people seeking asylum are trying to cross a border into a place where they will be safe.

Asylum seekers face many dangers and hardships, not only in the places they are fleeing, but often also at the border that they are trying to cross.

There are many ways to get involved in helping refugees and asylum seekers. If you are not in an area that provides direct support to those needing refuge, there are excellent organizations like HIAS that can use your support in advocating for those who want to cross a threshold into safety.

Nurturing the Spirit

How do you mark crossing the threshold into a new year? One way is to create a vision board. A vision board is a collage or drawing that shows things that you hope for the year to come.

To create your vision board, get a large piece of paper or poster board. Look through old magazines and (with permission!) cut out pictures that make you think of things that you hope will be part of your life in the coming year. Think about what your goals and dreams and hopes for the year might be, and include words or pictures that remind you of what you want to bring

into your life.

When your vision board is done, hang it somewhere that you can see it regularly.

Keeping an eye on your vision can help remind you of the goals and dreams that you want to keep moving toward.



Draw something you would put on a vision board.

Practicing the Principles

Our sixth UU Principle is:

~~~~~  
*The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.*  
~~~~~

Now, sadly, we are unlikely to ever just step over a threshold into a world where there is now peace and liberty and justice for all people all the time.

But we can think of this goal as an open door that we can see in the distance. We might not ever step across the threshold, but seeing glimpses of what it looks like when people live together with respect and harmony keeps us moving in the direction of that doorway.

Whether or not we ever cross through to world community, we can keep moving in that direc-

tion, building that world of peace, liberty and justice as we go.



Watch a video of the Threshold Ceremony at Starr King: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Boi3G8wiEAY>

How to take action for asylum seekers: <https://www.hias.org/get-involved/how-take-action-asylum-seekers>

CUC Corner

Young Adults

Gathered Here: Young Adult Check-In, [January 13](#), [February 10](#), [March 9](#), [April 13](#), [June 8](#), [July 13](#), [August 10](#) - 8 pm ET

Gathered Here is a monthly online check-in and gathering for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults.

Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/6792849010>)

Youth

[Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Youth Con \(Pilot\)](#), February 28 - March 1

Unitarian Church of Vancouver, Cost: Sliding scale, \$30, \$40 or \$55 Registration: via the Unitarian Church of Vancouver's website (coming soon), open from January 6 - February 17.

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver, North Shore Unitarian Church and the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation are co-hosting the first pilot of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide (THRRG) for youth. This THRRG is in the form of a weekend

youth con. Youth and advisors from across the BC region are welcome to attend.

January & February

[Connect and Deepen - Virtual Gathering](#), Monthly - January 12 & February 9 (2nd Sunday of the month), 4:00 - 5:30 pm ET

Join us for the opportunity to discuss matters of spiritual and theological significance in small groups and connect with people across the country.

[What's In a Name](#), February 22, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET, Online

A recent discussion on the CUC Leaders list focused on the language we use to describe our Unitarian Universalist communities. A summary of the conversation was compiled and distributed. This Roundtable is an opportunity for us to consider the summary, to review some additional materials and then to share our questions about when renaming would be appropriate and to then learn a bit about what the renaming process might entail. Registration deadline: February 13.

Who's Who

Minister

the Reverend Meghann Robern

minister@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Andrea James

dffd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Lifespan Faith Development Assistant

Carol Lindsey

lfda@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Lay Chaplain

Barb Shearer

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Bonnie Thiessen

Music Director

PJ Buchan

Choir Accompanist

Rob Lindey

Child Care Providers

Harrison Hnatiuk

Brittany Klatt

Donna-Jean Krahn

Rae Towse

Lily Zhou

Caretaker

Ray Aikens

Webmaster

Karin Carlson

webmaster@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Rental Events Director

Lauren Lischka

rentals@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Newsletter Editor

Marjorie Doyle

communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Editorial Assistant

Linda Henderson

Office Administrator

Pamela Johnson

office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

The 1st Unitarian Universalist
Church of Winnipeg
603 Wellington Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3M 0A7
Telephone: 204.474.1261
Fax: 204.284.2639
www.uuwinnipeg.mb.ca
office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to: communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca or 204.663.2126

The **deadline** for the **February 2020** issue is: **Monday, January 20, 2020**

The opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors, the editorial board, the newsletter editor, or the church minister.