

Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

September 2017, Vol 58 No. 8



September 3

The Promise to Self

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Promises are a core aspect of human life. Covenants are foundations in religion and in law, they are the basis for trust and the centre of our relationships. And if we are to have integrity in all things, we begin with the promises we make to ourselves.

September 10

The Promise to Others

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

These days many marrying couples like to develop their own wedding vows. They sometimes ask for help. "Simple", I say, "First, tell your fiancé what you like about them, say something about your hope for your shared life and most importantly say what you are truly willing to promise. Keeping those promises is the strength of marriage".

September 17

The Promise to Community

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Communities, like this church, are also built on promises. Sometimes they are clearly stated, sometimes not so much. Sometimes the stated ones are ignored a little, while the quiet ones rule the community.

September 24

Chorealis will lead a musical exploration of the Theme of *Promises*

Ministerial Musings

It's not often that I quote National Post columnist, Andrew Coyne...ok, it's never happened, but these might be extraordinary times. I'm writing on August 10th as Donald Trump is promising 'fire and fury' to North Korea and



Rev. Brian Kiely pictured
at the Ride for Cancer in
Calgary, 08/17

Kim Jong-un is promising 'enveloping fire' on Guam. I am not stockpiling post Armageddon supplies of canned food and water yet, but the news is still troubling.

This column is not about the odds of nuclear war. I will leave that to people who know about these things. This column is about the scary downside of anarchism and libertarianism. It's about the pitfalls of insisting on change for change's sake without considering the consequences or having a plan.

"Throw the bums out," is not a helpful political plan, whether we are discussing government, school boards, corporations, religious bodies or any community organization.

Burning down the house only leaves ashes and rubble and nothing on which to build a future. The institutions that we humans create to serve us are intricate bodies with history, policy and obligations that must be honoured. If it's time for change, well and good, but the idea of aggressive deconstruction of any institution is a very risky thing. The risk is heightened when power falls into the hands of those who have little understanding of, or respect for the institution they have come to control.

And so Andrew Coyne on the US - DPRK crisis states:

The lesson from all of this, painfully obvious as it should have been, is that it matters who is in the White House, not just who isn't. Those who had convinced themselves that, whatever Trump's manifest unfitness for office, "at least he isn't Hillary"; if they had not already repented of their folly over the previous six months, must surely do so now. (He said with no conviction whatsoever). The presidency is not a ceremonial post; neither is it a program of policy. It is a command centre, with decisions to be made, many on short notice, sometimes with the most profound consequences. (NP August 10, 2017).

I suspect that most reading this would agree that Trump was elected for the wrong reasons. He was the ultimate "Hell, No!" vote of angry people united by little more than their negative feelings about politics in general, democratic rule, hatred of Hillary, racist hatred of Obama, mistrust of government, dislike of refugees and immigrants...the list goes on...

In my view, his election was a triumph of anarchy and me-first libertarianism. Trump's most loyal supporters are anarchists, even though they would reject that term. Anarchy is "absence of government and absolute freedom of the individual, regarded as a political ideal". These are people who mistakenly perceive the state's role as taking their money and trampling on their rights. They might as well adopt the old revolutionary war slogan of, "Don't tread on me."

The other people who tilted the election were libertarians from the upper end of the economic spectrum, people who advocate unregulated capitalism and near absolute freedom to live however they wish. The two philosophies meet on the point of selfishness. They want what they want and hang everyone else.

The problem with both of these philosophies is that they define their positions in negative terms. They are against everything and only in favour of vaguely defined freedom. There is no agreement on what freedom should look like, no policy platform, no limits for the good of all...indeed no concept of the 'good of all'.

Donald Trump was their perfect candidate, all incendiary promises and no policy. Despite the grand puffery of the campaign trail, there was no plan for how to actually govern. Six months and zero legislation passed is proof of that assertion.

Institutions of any size are only successful when the people involved understand how the organization works, understand that even if change is desperately desired, sometimes compromise is necessary. Working relationships must be built on trust and not dictated from power. This does not happen overnight. It takes time, often more time than the people will grant in these times of 'instant gratification'. Sweeping change is not often successful change. When the ramifications of dramatic policy shifts are not fully considered, real people get hurt

So, here we all sit wondering if the Doomsday Clock is finally about to strike midnight. That decision rests, on one side in the hands of a narcissistic totalitarian madman. The other side of the decision belongs to a narcissistic, short sighted man incapable of truly understanding the legacy of the office he holds.

Diplomacy is an ancient art, not always successful, but a useful tool in the quest for peace and human rights. It is a strategy of change. Like most change strategies it takes time and patience, not bombast and threat. Diplomacy is frustrating and unsatisfying at times, but it sure as heck beats burning down the house.

(Brian Kiely)



Genocide Memorial Service
*Interfaith Genocide Memorial Service, July 16, 2017, sponsored by The
Edmonton Interfaith Centre and The Unitarian Church of Edmonton*

There were 75 people in attendance on July 26, for the ninth annual Genocide Memorial Service, many with heartrending stories of genocide in their countries. Halal, from Syria, told the story of the escape of her family and how appreciative she is to be cared for and helped by Edmontonians. Ahmed, from the Somalia Association, with tears in his voice described the repeated rape of a woman who was in attendance, and the other atrocities that were and are still being inflicted on the people of Somalia; a Muslim prayer was offered for their dead. Sebastian Berrara, who works for the Boyle Street community spoke about the violent events in South America which devastated so many people and countries; Jasmina Colic and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Cultural Society, are making this memorial service an annual pilgrimage; they placed flowers at their memorial stone, while a young girl gave a traditional prayer for the men and boys massacred in Srebrenica. Susan Dutz from South Sudan, and Jalal Barsanji from Kurdistan read poems based on their Genocide experiences; Karen Farkas read Kaddish for all people who died; Karen Gall placed a memorial stone for her relatives who died in the Holocaust.

Readers included John Pater, UCE president Karen Mills, ministers Brian Kiely from the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, and Rev. Anne Barker from Westwood Unitarian Congregation. Gordon Ritchie played the harp throughout the service; Diane Scott from In Her Voices Women’s Intentional Community played the Djembe during poetry readings and for the First Nations smudge, led by elder Pauline Paulson from the Edmonton Interfaith Centre: Sebastian Berrara sang a song in Spanish for those who survive despite terrible oppression; and the Raging Grannies sang the final piece to close the service. Kimberly Lang supervised the setting up of the facility, food and ushering, as she does every year, helping to facilitate the smooth operation of the memorial service. Thank you too, to all of the UCE folk who came despite the uncertain weather, who contributed to the refreshments and helped with the set-up and take-down of the chairs.

Next year, 20189, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Genocide Memorial Service, with the theme of “Thanksgiving and Hope,” An invitation is sent to all cultural and faith groups to join us with music, song, dance and the spoken word, to give thanks for those who survived terrible times, and to keep hope in our hearts that peace will come to all those places where genocide is still a reality.

Rev. Audrey Brooks, Chaplain

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

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**Child Haven International 14th Annual East Indian Dinner
Sunday October 22nd, 2017.**

Inspired by the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi; Child Haven International is a registered not for profit charity founded in 1985 by Unitarian Minister Fred Cappuccino and his wife, Bonnie. Child Haven Int'l assists children and women in developing countries that are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, emotional and moral support. Child Haven has five homes in India, one in Nepal, one in Tibet in China and one in Bangladesh. Further information is available at www.childhaven.ca

The Annual Edmonton Child Haven dinner will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at the Meridian Banquet Centre, 4820 – 76 Avenue NW, Edmonton at 5 pm. Adult tickets are \$50, Children 5-12 years are \$20 and 4 years and under are free. Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino will be in attendance and show slides of some of the children. There will be a bazaar, silent and live auction, children's craft table and auctioning a painting created during the event by artist Lewis Lavoie. We hope you will join other Unitarians and support this worthwhile Unitarian initiative. Tickets are available from Sylvia Krogh, Paulette Hagel, Louise Charach, Donna Hamar and Edwina Madill. (submitted by Sylvia Krogh)

UCE AND ART THERAPY

Karen Stevenson will be continuing her art therapy services for adults this fall at UCE. While completing her Art Therapy training at St. Stephen's College, Karen will offer one-to-one art therapy counselling sessions as well as workshops on particular themes. Engaging in a creative process is a way to explore life questions, shift perspective and can be a healing experience. Best of all - No art experience is necessary!

Individual counselling can be arranged starting the first week of September through to the end of November, 2017.

WORKSHOPS

A Time for Change: Creative Recovery (September)

This workshop is for women in recovery from alcohol use issues who are looking to maintain sobriety and health. Karen brings her own journey and understanding of recovery to this workshop. This is a closed group and pre-registration is required. For more confidential information, please contact Karen at sustainingwonder@gmail.com.



Invisible Me (October 20 & 21)

What happens when experiences of job loss, retirement, or empty nest leave you feeling somewhat invisible? For some these changes can be challenging to one's identity and wellbeing. Using the creative process, we'll explore "Who am I now?" Pre-registration is required.

For more information about workshops or individual counselling please contact Karen at sustainingwonder@gmail.com.

SHARING OF THE ABUNDANCE: This month's Recipient is: **Camp Fyrefly**



Camp Fyrefly is Canada's only national leadership retreat for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning and allied youth. Your donation helps the camp assist youth develop leadership skills and personal resiliency. Thank you for supporting this much **needed** service for our youth. (Louise Charach)



Treasurer's Report

Here is some guidance to those who have joined our church recently. Part of being a UCE member is supporting the church financially, to whatever extent you can. The important thing is that you make the effort and that we can identify your effort.

When you place cash in the collection plate, it's anonymous. It's great to have that money, but for members, it should be an "extra". Please take the time to occasionally put money in an envelope (in the grey hymn books) and make sure your name is on it. Then our tellers know it comes from you.

Alternatively, you can give us a cheque, website – there's a link at the bottom of an automatic contribution to the church annually or whatever. Most UCE



or donate to UCE through the Canada Helps our website, www.uce.ca. Best of all is to set up from your bank account – it can be monthly, members make their contribution that way.

Take one of those steps and we can see that you're doing your bit to keep UCE going. And of course, you'll get a tax receipt.

Got questions? Give me a shout and I'll get answers for you.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30 with a surplus. Donations from our members were about what was expected. What gave us the surplus were (a) several donations to the Endowment Fund, which now sits at \$80,000;

(\$40,000 in revenue from our casual renters, which was \$14,000 more than budgeted; and (c) \$12,000 in fundraising money, \$4,000 more than expected.

- Susan Ruttan, Treasurer
ruttans@shaw.ca

Faith in Action

Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Facilitator Training

Are you interested in becoming a facilitator for the CUC Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Reflection Guides? The next Facilitator Trainings will be held via Zoom video-conference on the following dates:

- Saturday, September 30 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Pacific, 12 - 3 p.m. Eastern
- Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Pacific, 12 - 3 p.m. Eastern

Please take special note about the facilitation training and its requirements. We approach this work knowing that we are all learning how to walk the path of reconciliation – in short, none of us are experts. We know that true reconciliation comes from the creation of safe space in order to engage in authentic dialogue. The materials used in the Reflection Guides are complex and the activities and group facilitation requires skill. This topic is sensitive in nature and facilitators need to be able to respond to sensitive group dynamics and responses to the material being provided.

For that purpose, we require facilitators to have a basic understanding of our approach to this work. Congregational approval and a \$25 participation fee will be required to register for the training. Congregational support means that your minister or religious educator knows that you have signed up for the facilitation training and are in agreement that you'd make a good facilitator in this area.

Follow this link to register <mailto:http://cuc.ca/event/thrrg-facilitator-training> (Submitted by Sylvia Krogh and Jeff Bisanz of The Social Justice Committee)



Religion on Tap – Metro Billiards!



Join us for our first informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening of the new church season. September on Tuesday the 19th at 7:00 pm. Brian Kiely will host the gathering and start a conversation. Everyone is welcome. Metro Billiards is located at 10250 106th Street.

INVITATION TO NEWCOMERS

If you are receiving our monthly *Newsletter* and are not yet a member of the church, but would like to be, please contact [Church Administrator, Janet Polkovsky, Phone: (780) 454-8073 -- chadmin@uce.ca to start the process of becoming a fully-fledged member of our very vibrant community. We look forward to welcoming you.

Board Update:

The Board will be reconvening after the summer break on September 13th, 2017 at 7:15.

CUC FALL GATHERING IN CALGARY

Want to meet some other UUs? The Western Regional Fall Gathering is the place to do that. It's in Calgary this year, Oct. 14-16. Think about going.

A day of Truth, Healing and Reconciliation will be a major focus of the gathering, but there are other streams of programming as well:

- a morning art session and an afternoon music workshop which will feature songs of social change; and
- a day of workshops on building better congregations.

The keynote speaker, United Church minister Dr. John Pentland, will share tips on growing a congregation – his congregation went from average 60-70 attendance to 450-500.

The early-bird registration deadline is Sept 15. Details about the event and registration are at <http://cuc.ca/western-region-fall-gathering>.

Communications Committee



Can you Tweet? The Communications Committee would love you to join us. This is a great committee of volunteers but you get to help from the comfort of your home and on your own timetable!

Please remember EVERYBODY can help with communications - Please participate in our active Facebook group page, remember to Like/ Share/ Invite/ Post/ Tag/ Comment. . Use this link to go directly to our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>

Or go to uce.ca and click on the Facebook link on the front page.



All Committee chairs, please keep Communications informed of events, topics of interest, anything UCE related you would like to share. Our goal is to keep all the members and friends of UCE informed of the interesting and important things that our many Committees are up to. (Karen Bilida at Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca).

Heart to Heart

♥ Congratulations to Graham Macfarlane and Erin Thackeray on their marriage; a beautiful ceremony was held July 22nd at The Royal Glenora Club; Brian Kiely read the service.

♥ Liz and Clem Cloutier have moved to Rosedale Developments and are looking forward to getting to know their new community.

♥ Lillias Cowper is recovering well from a recent surgery. We send best wishes to this hard working member who always has time for others and for volunteer position is the church.

♥ Condolences are sent to Karen Mills and family; her mother died peacefully, on May 18th, after several years of decline. A memorial service was held Tuesday May 23, in Calgary, Alberta that several UCE members attended.

♥ Condolences also to Lyn Evans; his mother, UCE Founding Member Frances Blythe died on August 20th. A memorial service will be held at the church on Friday, September 1 at 2 p.m.

♥ From May 25 to Monday 22, 51 Unitarian youth and young adults attended a CanUUdle conference at UCE and Westwood Unitarian churches. For those of us who participated in the programming, which was led by their own members, the experience was profound. Michelle Van Der Molen took capable charge of providing all of the meals; Marilyn Gaa, Lauren Kay, and Corinne Jackson did night supervision duty; Jeff Bisanz and Kat Hartshorne supported the youth as they spoke at the church service on Sunday, May 21.

Dragging At The UCE: There is a Drag Event Scheduled Saturday the 23rd of September at 7 pm; Come on out, show your support, and have a fantastic time ~



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Lockers Available!! In an effort to help our volunteers know their valuables are safe when they are volunteering their important time lockers have been installed in the men's and women's washrooms. Locks are available in the office or you can feel free to bring your own. (Mike Keast)

Youth Area Ready for Youth



The youth area is finally ready for the youth to occupy it and make it their own. Thanks again to **Jan McMillan** for the laminate flooring and thanks to all the volunteers that put in time up there.
(Mike Keast)

RE Program

- The fabulous and capable Lauren Kay will continue as Religious Exploration Director at UCE
- Registration opens September 3rd
- All age activities start September 17th

(-Erica Slevin)

UCE Walking Group Schedule

Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10 am, or meet at the walk site at 10.20 am. There are often changes to the schedule so if you are not on the email list please call Sheila, 780-454-7581 the day before to confirm the walk.

September 1	Mill Creek Ravine (Whyte Avenue/95A Street)
September 8	Borden Park/Highlands Golf Club (park by old swimming pool)
September 15	Hawrelak Park (lunch at Mayfair)
September 22	Kinsman Park –walk West
September 29	Federal Building Grounds/ Legislature Grounds

** Picnic is possible or lunch in nearby restaurant, except for Sept 15th*

Famous Universalists: Beatrix Potter



Beatrix Potter is world renowned for her illustrated children's stories about Peter Rabbit. In fact, she wrote and illustrated 28 books which have sold over 100 million copies world-wide. She was born in Kensington (London), in 1866, to a prosperous family that was concerned with giving their daughter a 'proper lady's education', therefore, she was encouraged to draw and received her art certificate from the National Art Training School; she was, otherwise, self-educated. Her family had a strong Unitarian background and her grandfather, John Leech, donated land and supplies for the Stalybridge Unitarian Church in Cheshire. The character of Peter Rabbit was developed through her habit of sending illustrated letters to the children of her former governess. She had a deep love of the natural world and was an amateur natural scientist. She settled at 'Hill Top Farm' (a sheep farm) in Cumbria until her death in 1943.

2012

Around Our Church

- Sermons: On the YouTube website, <http://www.youtube.com/EdmUnitarian> Need help: Contact Bill Lee billlee@ualberta.net or 780-435-7477
- Brunch: Going for brunch after church is a UCE tradition. Want to join? Contact Marge Roche or Jennifer Hinchcliffe at church.
- Recycling: We don't have recycling pickup at the church, so we need help with taking blue bags home for home collection or to the Recycle Centre. The bags are in the kitchen and/or social hall
- Bissell Centre: All items donated to our church green box in the foyer go to the Bissell Centre Thrift Shoppe on 88st & 118 Ave. There they are sorted, some going to the store, some to various other programs including the Community Closet at 105 Ave & 96 St where they are dispensed for free. Earnings from the Thrift Shoppe support the Community Closet. Also accepted is all bedding and linen with the exception of cushions and pillows, small household items, CD's and videos but no books or tapes.
For further information contact Barbara Forbes 780 439 4553 or Rosemary Falconer 780 472 9287.
- Pop Cans: We raise money from returnable bottles, tetra packs etc. donated by members. Drop your contribution in the second storage room (the single door) in Keeler Hall.
- Food: If you use our kitchen, clean it up afterward and don't leave any food behind. Public Health Regulations prohibit the storing of perishable food for more than one day
- Security: If your committee or groups are meeting after Church hours, please make sure all the exit doors are locked before setting the alarm and leaving. The exits that need to be checked are Keeler Hall and the side door (on the same as the main doors, by the picnic table).

Newsletter Submissions



We are looking for articles and news items that directly involve UCE. Since we are a diverse group of people with many different interests and events, UCE cannot print everything and must limit it to UCE items. Submissions should be short and may be edited for length and content. Don't forget to submit your newsletter items before the 20th of the month and before Thursday for order of service items. Please send appropriate articles and event descriptions **electronically** to the Church Administrator chadmin@uce.ca
Thank you, the Communications Committee

Minister's Office Hours

Brian is usually in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 until 2:30. Sometimes community meetings and visits cause him to be away. People dropping by are most welcome, but it's always best to call ahead and check to make sure he is there.

UCE Office Staff and Hours

I am pleased to announce that Janet Polkovsky is returning as administrator for the new church year, after her summer vacation, and will continue to give the meticulous attention and care she always dedicates to her administrative role here at UCE. I appreciate all the patience and kindness I received from the UCE Community while I worked at the office in July and August. It has been a learning experience for me, to get to know a little bit more about how this church is maintained; not only by staff, but by a collection of steadfast volunteers- e. slevin

*Office administrative hours are 10-1:30 Monday to Friday

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Newsletter Submission Deadline is the 20th of every month. Please send your article to chadmin@uce.ca

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