

KUFLinks



Kingston Unitarian Fellowship

February 2021

Sunday Services at KUF

Visitors are welcome to join our weekly Sunday service at 10:30am Eastern Time via this link: <http://bit.ly/KUFSundays>

For details about upcoming Sunday services please watch for your weeklyMiniLinks emails.

If you would like more information about KUF, Unitarian Universalism, or if you have any issues accessing our Sunday gatherings please reach out to us by email at office [at] kuf [dot] ca.

Connecting: Exploring This Month's Theme

What does it mean to be a people seeking Beloved Community?

Henri Nouwen, the treasured catholic teacher, activist and pastor, once described beloved community as “the place where the person you least want to live with always lives.”



Welcome to the month of Beloved Community!

On the surface this seems a straightforward reminder to not expect perfection from the communities we join. And to not expect perfection from others as well. Indeed, it's a plea to stick by the folks who are difficult for us. This is the work of acceptance, forgiveness, and staying open to the whole of who someone is that is central to community.

Besides the obvious calls to commitment, conflict transformation, and the hard work of relationship we can also hear a hidden call to hope woven into Nouwen's words; to stay in community with difficult people we have to hold onto the hope that they can change

and grow, and further that we have the capacity to accept them as they are in the meantime. We must believe that their better selves exist and will eventually show up. We must have faith that giving them the benefit of the doubt is worth it, and that assuming good intentions isn't foolish.

This can be hard work for certain, because this kind of hopefulness and generosity toward others is not easy. But here's the catch—Nouwen didn't stop there:

“Community is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives...That person is always in

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your community somewhere; in the eyes of others, you might be that person.”

In the last phrase Nouwen is excruciatingly direct as he reminds us that we are among the difficult people. And, ultimately, we must choose to hear in these words an invitation to greater hopefulness; by reminding us that we are all human Nouwen is pointing out that beloved community requires us to believe not only that others are worth our effort but also that we will be worth their effort.

This insight is one to hold close this month. Sometimes we can pull away from community because others let us down, and sometimes because we doubt that others won't step in when we have let them down. Beloved community can easily be held at arm's length not just because it is hard to build, but also because we don't trust that it will be there for us.

The work of beloved community is bigger than we generally imagine: it's not just about building a better world, it's

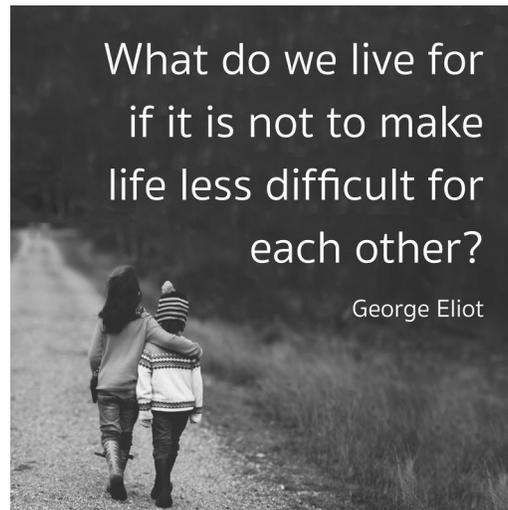
also about building up each other's faith. We are in a battle not just against the division between us, but the doubt within us.

We need a reminder, regularly, that beloved community is not just when we can create it, but that we can count on it to be created by others when we need it.

This month, may we continue our journey into building beloved community—together!

In Faith & Fellowship,
Rev. Beckett Coppola

(Adapted for KUF from the 2020-2021 Soul Matters materials on the theme 'Beloved Community' by Rev. Beckett Coppola.)



What do we live for
if it is not to make
life less difficult for
each other?

George Eliot

Engaging: An Opportunity to Live the Theme More Deeply

On 14 December 2020 an article titled “The Pervasive Reality of Anti-Black Racism in Canada: The current state, and what to do about it” was released by CivicAction.ca and Boston Consulting Group (BCG). The data pulled to-

gether reveals a piece of the important work of Beloved Community:

- Black students in Toronto face assessment bias as 40% of non-racialized students are rated “excellent” by teachers versus 20% of Black students with the same Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) test scores.
- Black people in Canada earn 80 cents for every dollar earned by non-racialized Canadians, even when both groups have university degrees.
- Nearly 60% of Black people in Canada experience microaggressions on the job and many feel the need to “code switch”, adjusting their style of speech, appearance, or behaviour to integrate into a non-Black workforce.
- Black women are nearly four times less likely to have a family doctor than the average Ontario woman.
- Only a quarter of Black people in Toronto trust police to treat them fairly compared to three-quarters of non-racialized people.

To build Beloved Community we must step into relationship with this work, with communities of colour and the organizations they are leading.

The authors of the report wrote, “There are many actions we can and must take to start to eliminate anti-Black racism in Canada and drive lasting change. It starts on the individual level, where we encourage Canadians to speak up, identify inequities, commit to action, and become allies in the movement for change.”

And we must, as Unitarian Universalists, be committed to the promise of our faith to build a better world by tearing down the systems of oppression that maintain statistics like those above despite decades of good work by good people to make the world a better place.

From our themes the last four months remember deep listening, remember healing, remember stillness, and remember imagination as you step into this conversation inspired by our beliefs.

To read the press release and for a link to the full report go to: https://www.-civicaaction.ca/new-civicaaction-and-bcg-report-reveals-depth-of-anti-black-racismin-canada_trashed/

Deepening: A Contemplative Practice Experiment

Movies and the stories they contain allow us to engage challenging topics in ways that analytical essays and instructive quotes just can't. That is certainly true with this month's theme of Beloved Community. So this month, take up movie-watching and story-listening as a spiritual exercise.

As you watch or after you are done watching, identify the one scene that engaged you the most. And then spend some time reflecting on it, digging into its personal meaning/message for you. Is there a challenge in it for you? An insight? An invitation? A message of healing?

What "Beloved Community movie" should you watch? The following are a selection to choose from, and there are many more available online and from our local library:

For Black History Month:

Selma
The Hate U Give
12 Years a Slave
Thirteenth

Canadian Films:
Trick or Treaty?
Angry Inuk
Occupy Love
The Refugees of the Blue Planet
Poor No More... There is a Way Out!
Choose your Voice: Anti-Semitism in Canada
When Canada Said No

When someone asks me if they can be my friend, I tell them that they already are.

Anthony T. Hincks



Notes from the KUF Board of Directors - January

At the beginning of each Board meeting, we spend time acknowledging the members and committees that have helped support KUF in the past month. We could in fact list so many members, but then wouldn't get any work completed!

This month we would like to give a huge thank you to the Finance committee. They have spent numerous hours tracking our budget for last year and preparing the budget for this new year. This year is even made more difficult with the pandemic and the unknown about when we will be meeting in person. They have looked at every line and component of the budget more than

once. Thank you to everyone on the Finance committee for your dedication.

We also want to thank the Sunday services and COSM committees again. These are the people that are making sure we remain together as a community. Thank you for all of your dedication and support.

We did spend a fair amount of time on the Proposed Budget before accepting it for the congregational meeting (which will have occurred before you are reading this report!). Although this is a deficit budget, we noted that since we are indeed in a pandemic a conservative approach to income, particularly from rentals, was reasonable. A big thank you to everyone for your 2021 pledges. The spending for committees, salaries, and core programs has not been reduced. We have benefited by being very careful on expenses for 2020, as well additional donation amounts beyond what was pledged, to have a surplus to carry over.

The other item that we discussed was Rev. Beckett's Sabbatical proposal for early 2022. The formation of the Sabbatical Team will be an important event for helping the congregation thrive during the Sabbatical. The Team will be announced next month and will immediately start working.

Our affiliated groups were reviewed and their status will remain for this year. These groups are Amnesty International, Child Haven International, Dying with Dignity Canada, and Kingston Community Chaplaincy. To be an affiliated group they must be a charity that shares the same values and principles as KUF, allowing them to use our building and post through our social media without direct Board approval.

We wish everyone well and remind you to reach out to the COSM members or to any Board member if you have comments, suggestions, or ideas.

Cindy Dunning,
President

KUF Guide Update: Right Relations Covenant

The Right Relations Covenant has recently been updated in the KUF Guide, the primary KUF policy handbook. The full text can be found below. Also updated recently were the Disruptive Behaviour Policy (which can be read by [clicking here](#)) and the terms of reference for the new Right Relations team ([click here](#) to read). If you have any questions, or require a copy of these or any documents from the KUF Guide, please e-mail the KUF Office, office@kuf.ca

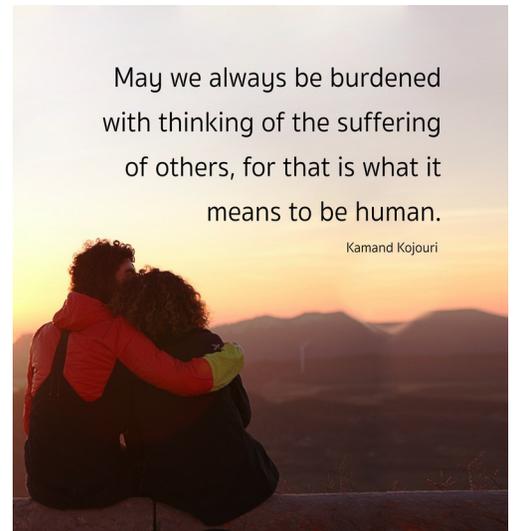
“KUF strives to be an inclusive community, affirming our differences in beliefs, opinions and life experiences. As a congregation KUF welcomes diversity in its various forms and values expression of diverse beliefs. We also affirm the belief that our congregation must maintain a secure atmosphere where such openness can exist. As part of KUF’s Right Relations Covenant, we strive to:

- be open and curious about other people’s theological understandings and avoid making judgments about them
- listen, really listen to other people, their experiences, their understandings and their stories
- take responsibility to respond, rather than react to others, and engage in conversations with respect and encourage questions

- celebrate and accept diversity of all things
- deal with conflicts, be they large or small, when they arise, promptly and directly
- give priority to the collective good of the congregation over any one individual’s wishes or views

We assert these promises as fundamental rights and responsibilities of all persons attending the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship. We will use it as a guide of how we wish to be in relations together. The Right Relations Team is available to assist with any conflict that hasn’t been resolved after congregants used their best problem-solving skills. There may also be times that behavior is not in keeping with this promise and is experienced as disruptive. The Disruptive Behaviour policy will guide the response when this type of behavior is experienced.

The Right Relations Team will be utilized on a as needed basis and will take an educational role around conflict resolution and facilitate discussion for all persons involved as deemed required. If any party to a conflict is unwilling to cooperate or in any way undermines the process of resolution, the Right Relations Team cannot be involved, and the matter will be forwarded to the Board to pursue under the Disruptive Behaviour Policy.”



May we always be burdened
with thinking of the suffering
of others, for that is what it
means to be human.

Kamand Kojouri

KUF Publications

KUFLinks: The monthly newsletter. Please send submissions by the 20th of the month. It is usually published on or about the last Sunday of the month. Send submissions to news@kuf.ca. Past issues of KUFLinks can be found on the KUF website, <http://www.kuf.ca>, by clicking on the “News” tab, and then the “Newsletter” page.

MiniLinks: A weekly reminder of upcoming events sent out by e-mail every Thursday as a supplement to the monthly KUFLinks. Send submissions to news@kuf.ca.

Website: www.kuf.ca. To comment on website content, send an e-mail to news@kuf.ca.

Facebook: Be sure to share postings of interest with your friends: www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarianFellowship
www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarianFellowshipChildrenRE

Calendar: We constantly update the KUF calendar. For the most up-to-date snapshot of what’s coming up at KUF, please go to the “News” tab at <http://www.kuf.ca> and click on the “Calendar” page.

If you use Google Calendar, you can also view KUF events on your own calendar. Check the instructions on the “Calendar” page on the KUF website.

KUF Admin Office: Like the rest of Unitarian Place, the Admin Office here at KUF is currently closed for in person meetings and appointments to help limit the risk of spreading COVID-19 in Kingston and the KUF community.

However, Office Administrator Sean Fenlon is working remotely and available by e-mail. Administrative comments and queries, as well as any questions about what's going on in the KUF community and how to stay connected in these trying times, can be sent to office@kuf.ca

Lay Chaplains: Please refer our lay chaplains to your family and friends for weddings, memorials, and child namings.

For more information please go to the "Weddings" tab at <http://www.kuf.ca> or go to <https://www.kingstonweddingofficiant.com>



Board of Directors 2020-2021 Committees and Board Liaisons

Role	Director	Liaison
President	Cindy Dunning	Shared Ministry/Lifespan Learning – Youth & OWL
Vice President	David Wendt	Buidling Facilities
Past President	Joe Pater	Sunday Services
Secretary	Sandra Woodhouse	Communications
Treasurer	Victoria Vincent	Finance
Directors at Large	Mara Shaw	Social Justice
	Vanessa McCourt	Lifespan Learning – Children
	Audrey Foster	Membership
	Susan Howlett	Interfaith
	Kim Irvine-Albano	Lay Chaplains

(For e-mail addresses and phone numbers see KUF Directory.)

Working with a committee is a great way to get to know each other better – working with other Unitarians helps us to practice our principles in a safe space and learn from each other.

(See "Serving with Grace" Eric Walker Wikstrom" Chapter one "The Spirituality of Service")