

IMAGINATION NEW HORIZONS

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Theme Based Ministry Newsletter of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

“We tend to consider imagination too lightly, forgetting that the life we make, for ourselves individually and for the world as a whole, is shaped and limited only by the perimeters of our imagination. Things are as we imagine them to be, as we imagine them into existence.”

— Thomas Moore, *The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life*

Author and one-time monk Thomas Moore says that we take imagination too lightly, or even forget about it altogether. Our forgetfulness seems verified all the time. “I’m not creative,” we say. “I’m not one of those imaginative types.” But what if that isn’t true? What if imagination is more like a muscle to be exercised? Or a spiritual practice to be, well, practised?

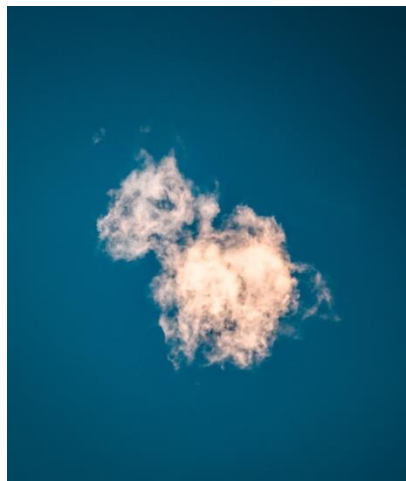
As we take a closer look at our lives, we notice that imagination is the thing that helps us break out of self-centredness and see ourselves as connected to the greater whole. It’s what allows us to put ourselves in other people’s shoes, cultivating empathy and compassion. It’s what allows us to trust and assume good intentions with others. It’s what allows us—as the saying goes—to turn lemons into lemonade. It’s what helps us envision what the world could be; and then, inspires us to help to make it so. Imagination invites possibility. And is an antidote in cynical times to the notion that “things will never change.”

This month, we invite you to make more room for imagination—and for the possibility that life can be so much more than we often imagine it to be.

Imagine that!

In faith and love,
Shawn

Questions to Live With



1. Are you more imaginative than you think?
2. Do you use your imagination to enhance reality or to flee from it?
3. Do you imagine where you are going in life, or react to what is?
4. What, if anything, is “beyond your imagination”? What stops you from envisioning it?
5. Author Brenda Ueland writes: “So, you see, imagination needs moodling—long, inefficient, happy idling, dawdling, and puttering.” Are you giving your imagination enough “moodling time”?

For Inspiration

The most interesting people are the people with the most interesting pictures in their minds.

- Earl Nightingale

The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it.

- J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Though I personally will defend the value of bedtime stories to my last gasp, I have learned to value imagination in a much broader sense. Imagination is not only the uniquely human capacity to envision that which is not, and therefore the fount of all invention and innovation. In its arguably most transformative and revelatory capacity, it is the power that enables us to empathize with humans whose experiences we have never shared.

- J.K. Rowling

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundation under them.

- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Our imagination flies—we are its shadow on the earth.

- Vladimir Nabokov

---if something is there, you can only see it with your eyes open, but if it isn't there, you can see it just as well with your eyes closed. That's why imaginary things are often easier to see than real ones.

- Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

I've a notion, imagination perhaps, that if you are slightly off focus, you vision the spiritual a little clearer. Perhaps it is that one is striving for something a bit beyond one's reach, an illusive something that can scarcely bear human handling, that the 'material we' scarcely dare touch. It is too bright and vague to look straight at; the brutality of a direct look drives it away half imagined, half seen. It is something that lies, as Whitman says, in that far off inaccessible region, where neither ground is for the feet nor path to follow.

- Emily Carr

Join Us

Join a Journey Group

Journey Groups are the best way to go deeper with our monthly theme by sharing with a small group of people for a couple of hours each month. Groups meet online on Zoom and are scheduled at different times during the month.

For more information, visit our website <https://firstunitariantoronto.org/journey-groups/>, or look for the link in First Light.

Upcoming Themes

September– Place | October– Possibility | November– Reconciliation and Racial Justice
December– Blessing | January– Intention February– Contentment | March– Money
April– Awakening | May – Beauty

Upcoming Services

Sundays at 10:30

Aug 1 – “The Wisdom of Our Stories”
Rev. Ben Robbins, Summer Minister

Aug 8 – “Free and Responsible”
Rev. Ben Robbins, Summer Minister

Aug 15 – “The Limits of Reason”
Rev. Ben Robbins, Summer Minister

Aug 22 – “Imagine That!”
Rev. Lynn Harrison

Aug 22 – “Radical Hospitality”
Rev. Shawn Newton

Sep 5 – “How is it with Your Spirit?”
Nicole McKav. Seminarian



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First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto



Seek • Connect • Serve

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