

UU & you

**Newsletter of the
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax**

Vol. 54, No 2
October 2019

**Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax**
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Minister
Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon, Wed, Fri 10-3
Lunch 12 to 1 pm

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director, Religious Ed
for Children & Youth

Margaret Galbraith
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday service
10:30 am

Childcare available

All are welcome



Our Theme for October is *Belonging*

October 6

Life is Like a Pumpkin Patch — I think the title says it all... come out to hear more detail and be inspired by the opportunities that BELONGING to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax hold for you!

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Pam Berman

October 13

Bringing Thankfulness to Life — It is natural that we would focus on the future and things that we lack in our lives or that we find lacking in the world. After all, it is our role in life to make things better. But on Thanksgiving we take a break from the tasks of improving our lives and the world. In this service we will focus on Thanksgiving as a daily spiritual practice to help us appreciate the here and now.

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Dean White

October 20

The UN and the International Criminal Court — October 24 is United Nations Day. Martha and Jane, our senior and junior envoys to the UU United Nations Office, will share some updates on the UN's work in The Hague and will tell us a bit about how the International Criminal Court functions.

Presenters: Martha Wilson and Jane Woolaver

October 27

Samhain – A Time to Remember — Samhain (pronounced Sow-wen) is the final harvest celebration on the Pagan calendar. With the death of the Green Man, the old year passes away, and the veil between the worlds is thin. Join us to mourn all our beloved dead, both the recently passed and the long missed. An all-ages service with songs and stories. Everyone is invited to bring a photo or item to remind them of someone they mourn. (Items will be returned at the end of the service.)

Presenters: Sarah Bent and Katherine Hutka

The Theme for November will be *Attention*

Our mission is to provide a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.

October 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 4:45–6:15 pm Afterchoir | 3 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots | 4 | 5 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch |
| 6 12 noon Worship committee | 7 7 :00 am Climate Action MacDonald Bridge | 8 | 9 4:45--6:15 pm Afterchoir | 10 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots 1:00 pm Caring Committee Noon Tai Chi | 11 | 12 10--11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch 10 am – 2 pm Work Party |
| 13 12 noon Intro to UUism with Rev. Norm | 14 3 pm Thanksgiving Dinner! | 15 6:30 pm Board Meeting | 16 4:45--6:15 pm Afterchoir | 17 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | 18 | 19 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch |
| 20 12 noon Humanist Group | 21 | 22 | 23 4:45--6:15 pm Afterchoir | 24 United Nations Day 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | 25 | 26 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch |
| 27 12 noon SAGM | 28 12 noon Newsletter deadline | 29 | 30 4:45--6:15 pm Afterchoir | 31 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | | |

Canvass is coming!

Sunday November 3rd will be Commitment Sunday to kick off the Annual Budget Drive with a soup and bread lunch.

More details to follow in the weeks ahead after the Board has worked out the budget and set a goal for 2020. Stay tuned.



Minister's Notes

Our Theme this month: Belonging

We are born with a need to belong. We are social creatures, too weak to survive on our own, who sometimes get caught up in the illusion that we can take care of ourselves. We need each other for simple things like food and shelter, but we need each other even more for a sense of well being and peace.

As I look out at the congregation on Sundays I see many people who have been members and friends of the congregation for decades. They know in their bones that they belong. They build that sense of belonging a little bit every Sunday, greeting friends and renewing their commitment. For those who have it, it is a blessing.

And I see others who are new to the congregation. They are still trying to figure out who we are, and who they are in relation to this congregation. There is tentativeness and uncertainty in their sense of belonging.

During the social time after the service I can observe new ties being made as long-time members of the congregation reach out to those who are newer. And over weeks and months people gradually make the transition from outsider to insider.

That transition is not easy in a small close knit "family sized congregation" like ours. And sometimes it never happens. I hope that each of you reading this, regardless of where you are on the continuum of belonging, see your responsibility to offer and promote a sense of belonging for all who cross our threshold, and to find your own way into the life of the congregation and the blessings that it brings.

I close with these words adapted from the writing of Rev. Gretchen Haley.

In a world that feeds on moral outrage
We are here to cultivate moral courage
In a time that prizes, picking sides
We gather to draw a wider circle
And in a culture that teaches us to get for what we give
And to ask "what's in it for me?"
We come to practice generosity and to remember,
We are all in this together.
In the midst of life's bitterness,
we choose to sing, to give thanks,
to laugh together, and to be keepers of beauty
to offer a place of belonging for all who come
in gladness and in pain
to resist the push to the next moment, and the next
to slow down, to breathe more deeply,
to feel a part of something greater
to belong here in the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

With Love, Norm



**The Semi-annual General Meeting of the UUCH
will be held at noon Sunday, October 27, 2019.**

The meeting will conduct the following business:

1. Business arising from the minutes of the May 2019 Annual General Meeting.
2. Receive and approve reports from the Minister, the various officers and committees.
3. Adoption of a budget for the 2020 calendar year.
4. Adoption of the Annual Budget Drive (the Canvass).
5. CUC Conference (“Making Waves”) to be held at UUCH, May 2020.
6. Other business as may be raised before or at the meeting.

Members-only vote on motions, but non-members are most welcome to attend.

***Margaret Galbraith, President
UUCH Board of Directors***

Reports please!

**Committee reports are officially due
in my Inbox by 10 am, Wednesday, Oct 16th.
Early submissions would be most helpful.**

Your cooperation will enable me to:

1. Compile your reports in the right order.
2. Include your reports on the agenda.
3. Compile the complete package of agenda & reports, and send them out via UUinfo on Friday, October 18th.

Don't miss the opportunity of having your report(s) included.

A number of stapled, hard copy packages will be available on Sunday the 20th, one week prior to the meeting. This timeline is normal and expected business practise.

To minimize the over-use and expense of paper, anyone taking a set on the 20th might try to resist the temptation of taking a second set at the meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

***Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca***

“MAKING WAVES” CONFERENCE IN HALIFAX SEVEN MONTHS AWAY AND COUNTING!



During September the leaders of the Making Waves Host Committee, Glenda Butt and Molly Hurd, have been concentrating on building the working linkages with CUC Headquarters **and on recruiting to staff the various teams**

needed for hosting Making Waves. Despite Hurricane Dorian (talk about making waves!) they had tables in both UUCH Volunteer Fairs with good results.

Team leaders are needed for:

- Transportation, coordinating the shuttle
- Signage for the conference
- Setup of the rooms for the events and activities
- Safety coordinator

Spots left on various teams. This is an excellent time to decide to take one of the open team leader spots, or to volunteer to serve on a team that appeals to you, as you will be part of the planning. If working on the **Saturday night Ceilidh/Kitchen Party** sounds like fun, now is the time to step forward. Please talk to Molly or Glenda if interested. I am also glad to help with questions, information, etc.

The excitement is starting to build, so do be sure that you have marked your calendar to attend yourself **(May 15–17, 2020)** and have signed-up for the team of your choice.

Our Roving Reporter asked some of our members why they are looking forward to being there and heard lots of **good reasons for being part of Making Waves:**

Kath Anthony: I want to meet fellow UUs and enjoy good food and music. Gee whiz– I want to have a good time!

Pam Berman: I’m interested in talking to people in our denomination from across the country, and discovering our similarities and differences. I haven’t been to a National meeting before. In fact I am giving up running for the CBC in the Bluenose Marathon that weekend so that I can go to Making Waves.

Marilyn Shinyei: I’ve been to a couple of past National meetings and to General Assembly in the US. They are marvelous experiences—very very special. All those UUs in one place – it’s very moving.

Danielle Saulnier: I want to bring the children to as many events as possible, so that they can see how much larger than UUCH our denomination is in Canada.

Troy Saulnier: I am interested in the breakout sessions and the music, and most of all in meeting new people and sharing points of view.

Glenda Butt: I am really excited about it. I’ve been to many Nationals, but this is looking great. I can’t wait to see what the program streams will be. The list will be out soon.

Shripad Pendse: I am planning to return from Australia to attend Making Waves. I was at the conference in Hamilton two years ago and want to see how ours compares. Our venue (Kings College campus) is going to be much better than theirs, much easier and quicker for moving around than the McMaster campus. The Saturday night musical evening at the last conference was wonderful, and I am looking forward to seeing what Vanessa and John Lindsay-Botton come up with.

Sylvia Mattinson: I’ll be there, to be part of our larger denomination. I want to learn how other congregations are dealing with Truth and Reconciliation. Plus, I want to be part of the team that pitches Halifax to UU’s from across the country.

Dean White: I want to know what’s going on across the country and catch up. Maybe some ideas for improvement. We are almost perfect now, but there is always room to improve.

SO MANY GOOD REASONS TO ATTEND, AND TO BE PART OF THE TEAM THAT HOSTS MAKING WAVES FOR UUs FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: please phone or write Karen at 902-821-2015 or kjw19@eastlink.ca. I will find out the answer for you and we will communicate it in future newsletters.

WHAT WE SHOULD ALL DO NOW:

Let Molly and Glenda know now if you can help on a team and what your area of interest is.

Save the dates **May 15–17, 2020**, for attending Making Waves yourself.

Let your UU contacts across Canada and elsewhere know that a terrific conference will be happening in Halifax and suggest that they attend for a whale of a good time.

Karen Woolhouse
Making Waves Communications

**Late breaking news about
MAKING WAVES**



In keeping with the different month's themes, we'd love to hear a short story from you about your life and personal experiences.

The Worship & RE committee can help you in presenting a 5-minute story to be shared with the congregation.

- Themes coming up are:
October: Belonging
November: Attention
December: Awe

Have you a story to share? Reach out to:

Marie-Claude Leroux
at marieclx@hotmail.com

On September 30 the organizing team from CUC met with Norm and Glenda and Molly for a detailed tour of the King's College facilities where Making Waves will be held. Everyone agreed: THE FACILITIES ARE GOING TO BE FABULOUS! Beautiful new spaces for meetings and breakouts, convenient access to great breakout rooms, the beautiful dining hall at King's which is renowned for making 90% of its dining hall food from scratch, spacious lobbies for socializing, green spaces nearby, etc. etc.

The CUC organizing team were delighted with the venue and the support for conferences at King's.

We will publish more details and some photos in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, rest assured: *IT'S GOING TO BE TERRIFIC!*

Karen Woolhouse
Making Waves Communications

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the **November** newsletter is 12 noon,

Monday, October 28th.

Please send submissions to both:
Etta Hamm braeside@eastlink.ca
and
Sandra Jamieson uuchurch@eastlink.ca

2019 Church Directories Available

A few copies of the 2019 UUCH directory (published in late-January) are still available to our known members and friends.

If you missed out, you can pick one up next time you are in church. Not heading this way? We can mail your copy to you.

Sandra Jamieson

uuchurch@eastlink.ca

902-429-5500

Board Buzz

Fall seems in full swing with a marked change in temperature and the changing of leaves starting. Although I miss summer already, fall is an amazing season. Our last board meeting opened and closed with words celebrating the equinox.

Picking up after our summer break and the great work and ideas that came out of our board and congregational retreat, the September meeting focused on the year ahead. We are now clearer on our priorities, with CUC 2020 Making Waves at the top of the list—while continuing the existing programs that support our community.

We decided to apply for a West Trust project again this year, focused on using advertising and media to capitalize on the unique opportunity the CUC 2020 provides to get the word out about UUCH and UUism in general. In fact we just submitted the proposal on September 30th.

Other board business this past month focused on the upcoming AGM in October, our 2019 financials, the 2020 budget, overall 2020 planing, and how we revitalize volunteer roles. Pam Giffin-Hody and Pam Berman headed up the volunteer fair over 2 Sundays in September.

As for 2020, you will hear more about plans at the upcoming SAGM. Marilyn Shinyei and I have started work on a strategic 5-year plan towards UUCH financial sustainability which will pull others into it.

I will close off with a word on our new staff. I have heard many positive comments about Marie-Claude and Jessica Friesen as they settle into their respective roles of Director of Religious Exploration and Music Director.

Enjoy the brisk air and fall colours!

Troy Saulnier
Vice-president
UUCH Board of Directors

UUCH Board of Directors June 2018 - May 2019

Officers

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President | Margaret Galbraith |
| Vice-President | Troy Saulnier |
| Past President | Kim Turner |
| Secretary | Pam Griffin-Hody |
| Treasurer | Marilyn Shinyei |

Members at Large

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Jim Morrison | Katherine Hutka |
| Michael Belland | Jean-Francois Turcotte |

Refugee Committee News

In October we will welcome three newcomers to this fair land. A young man from Uganda arrives Oct 2nd; Nawras's fiancée Nairouz Hamchou lands on the 3rd, and a Ugandan woman arrives on the 24th.



In the meantime we have been busy submitting applications for more individuals and families including a number of Rainbow Refugees (LGBTQ) and four from the BVOR stream. In total in 2019 we have now submitted applications for 34 people and plan to submit another 25.

We are still anxiously hoping for the arrival of the eight family members going to Mahone Bay, as well as a family of four to Halifax before 2019 is over.

We note that considerable downsizing is going on these days in our church members' households and several people have asked about donating furniture and household goods to this cause. Please do think of us if you have furniture, small appliances, linens, etc. that you are giving away. We are connected with several settlement groups who can use these things as they are welcoming newcomers all the time.

Marilyn Shinyei, Co-Chair

**Delicious Dining for Dollars
event coming up!**

**Saturday, November 15th
Any time after 5 pm**



M e n u

Appetizers

Moncton UU Fellowship
Heritage Seafood Casserole
with lobster, haddock, salmon & scallops
(vegetarian on request)
with rice & rolls
Salad
Light dessert
Wine

H o s t

**Pam Griffin-Hody
at 922 Herring Cove Road**

Cost: \$30

For 11 people

Don't miss out – be sure to sign up!

Contact marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca
or add your name to the sign-up sheet
on Sunday after the service.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

New friends

BONASIO, Giulia

giulia.bonasio@gmail.com

& **TURCHETTI, Daniele**

daniele.turchetti.math@gmail.com

404–5778 South Street

Halifax, NS B3H 4K6

New address

WELCH, Dr. Philip

307–82 Baker Drive

Dartmouth NS B2W 0C8

New email address

WHITE, Dean

sissiboo1935@gmail.com

To have your contact info included
in Directory Updates, see or email
Etta at braeside@eastlink.ca

**New UUCH Friends Daniele Turchetti and Giulia
Bonasio** left Northern Italy in 2010 to pursue
research

interests in
France,
Germany,
Holland and
the States
before landing
in Halifax.

Giulia's
specialization is
ancient



philosophy; she teaches in the Foundation Year
Program at King's College. Daniele is a researcher in
mathematics at Dalhousie and is involved in scientific
public outreach, organizing math festivals and events
in Atlantic Canada. Daniele: "We attended our first
service at UUCH in July in our quest for a community
where we can share and challenge our ideas about
'life, the universe and everything'. Here we have
found that and much more: genuine social
engagement, good vibes, nice music, and provocative
sermons. We look forward to each Sunday!"

The Caring Column

Wietske Gradstein was happy to return home on September 23rd following hospitalization and surgery for a broken leg. She is moving around very carefully these days--and has a tenant moving in, a young Palestinian woman entering medical school. Despite her recent stresses Wietske is feeling optimistic about her future, and looks forward to her brother's visit in December.

Alison Chipman fell down some steps in front of the Dalhousie Arts Centre on September 21st and along with a cracked nose and lots of bruising she also broke her wrist, requiring a plaster cast. She was happy to be back home on the September 27th with help from the VON and Northwood staff, as well as from her good friend Sass Minard (long-time UU) who has supported her throughout her struggles.



Marie Davis recently had another fall and broke her wrist. She was moved from the Central Infirmary to the Restorative Care section of the Veterans Hospital where there is onsite physiotherapy. Marie is happy to have visitors; her room number is 3422. Here is Marie enjoying a get-well card made by Abigail Saulnier in RE.

Kathy Anthony finally has a date for her hip surgery: October 10th. She will be in hospital overnight—and Eileen Ross will be with her for her first night home.

Best wishes Wietske, Alison, Marie and Kathy on your road to better health!

Mary Lu Macdonald reports that the September 28th simulcast from Vancouver to UUCH of the Celebration of Life for **Barbara Taylor**, a long-time Universalist Unitarian, first in Halifax and then in Vancouver, was an amazing experience for all who attended.

Ann Wood is happy to report that her daughter is moving back to Canada after 10 years in Sweden.

More good news: **Rev. Norm and Janet** were overjoyed recently to report that they are awaiting the arrival of a grandchild in the spring!

Marie-Claude, our RE Director, recently suggested the **RE program and the Caring Committee** develop a collaboration, a wonderful idea! I met briefly with the children to tell them what kinds of things the committee does. When I asked them what a “family” was, one replied “it’s a group of people who care about each other.” The wisdom of children... We agreed that our church is that kind of family—and they worked diligently to make the first greeting cards for this project.

Sylvia Mattinson

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at UUCH Monday, October 14, 3 pm

A spirited potluck event (attended by 50-60 people)! For anyone who wants to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends old and new.

This is a great volunteer effort, folks—so watch your Inbox for the (yet un-named) coordinator's appeal asking for ...



***Meal items: Two cooked turkeys**, mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salads, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and other dessert items. **Please bring your items already cooked.** We can warm them or keep them warm in the oven but actually cooking them at the church would cause congestion.

***Other food and drink items you'll contribute.** Don't cook or bake? Consider bringing milk, cream, butter, dinner rolls, pickles, a store-bought pie, etc.

***Important note:** If you cannot contribute as above, you are welcome anyway! There is no cost.

***How many people in your party.** Family and friends are most welcome.

***How your party can help—**decorating, setting up, taking down and (importantly!) cleaning up.

We hope to see you there!

Religious Exploration

We've made it through the storm and have come together again to resume the Religious Exploration program with the children and youth.

It was such a pleasure to have this year's first multigenerational service for the water communion. The youth participated with readings and the children added much life to the story telling. I'm looking forward to seeing them continue to participate in worship services, regularly with the chalice lighting and in upcoming multigenerational services.

The youth have been reacquainted with the continued Amazing Grace program, learning about how to be guided in situations of right and wrong. The children have become acquainted with the Love Surrounds Us program in creating a covenant on how to treat each other respectfully and with love.

Surrounding ourselves and our church family with love is the guiding force in having the RE program collaborate with the caring committee. Sylvia Mattinson shared with us the kind and compassionate mission of the committee to alleviate the sorrows, loneliness and fears of those who find themselves hospitalized, isolated or recovering at home and unable to join us at church. She also shared with us the gift in celebrating each other's joys and accomplishments. Ultimately sharing in friendship and love. To participate in this mission, the children and youth have and will continue to make cards for those who could enjoy their warm wishes.



October 2019

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax



Religious Exploration For Children & Youth

Join us on Sundays from 10:30 for our one hour age-appropriate programs to explore questions that matter. Learn more about our current curriculum and schedule below.

Schedule

Oct 6 Spirit Art: Diyas for Diwali: the Indian Festival of Lights

Oct 13 Children: Love Surrounds Us | Do Small Things with Great Love
Youth: Spirituality & Me | The Youth & The Guru

Oct 20 Children: Love Surrounds Us | Learn & Live Our First Principle
Youth: Spirituality & Me | Moral Compasses

Oct 27 Multigenerational Service: Samhain

Children (Ages 4 - 8)

Love Surrounds Us curriculum connects the love inside the Unitarian Universalist Principles with the love children can find & create in their communities. Through story, activities, and relationships, children come to understand how they are fashioned to feel loved, as well as to surround others with love.

Youth (Ages 9 - 13)

Amazing Grace curriculum helps youth understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding. Spirituality & Me sessions let youth experience different paths to spiritual feeling, explore the nature of spirituality and how this also relates to right and wrong.

Family Outing

Interfaith Houses of Worship: Hindu Temple

This month we will be visiting a Hindu Temple as an introduction to the rich diversity of world religions.

We would also like to provide small care packages to those who are hospitalized and welcome donations of new lip balms / chapstick, travel size lotion, aloe infused tissues, mints, hand sanitizers and/or tea bags. The RE program will put these together into colorful packages with a card for those who could most use them.

I would like to thank those who have approached me, either individually or during the volunteer fair to offer their help and enthusiasm with the program. Having congregants join us for Spirit Art or in family outings to share their interests or their heritage is a wonderful means of connection and offers myriad opportunities for creativity. I look forward to exploring these together!

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration Program

UUs Strike for Climate

Worldwide, it was the largest climate change demonstration ever seen. Local UUs across Canada rallied to show support for the youth-led *Global Climate Strike*, and Halifax was no exception. About a dozen UUs and friends made signs then carried them amongst the throngs of marchers, many of us wearing our yellow 'On the Side of Love' T-shirts.



UUs at Victoria Park for Climate Strike



Climate Strikers at City Hall, filling the Grand Parade

Halifax Regional Police estimate about 10,000 people marched from Victoria Park down Spring Garden and on the Nova Scotia Power headquarters. The march began at 11 am and continued for a couple of hours before finishing up with speakers at the Grand Parade. This was the largest climate protest in Halifax history.

Protestors of all ages came out for the cause, but the march was organized and led by youth. Students were out in large droves and spoke passionately about the environment and the need for change, inspired by 16-year old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg who herself marched with 500,000 in Montreal. Halifax's climate strike was one of at least

eight in Nova Scotia, including rallies in Truro, Middleton, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Sandy Cove, Baddeck and Sydney.

With the latest dire IPCC Report ("*The Oceans & Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*"), elections approaching in many countries, and crucial UN talks this season, climate actions will continue this autumn. The next rally will be on October 7—stay tuned.

Andy Blair
for the (ad hoc) Social Responsibility Committee

About the IPCC

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

The IPCC provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations.

The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO. The IPCC currently has 195 members. Thousands of people from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC. For the assessment reports, IPCC scientists volunteer their time to assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary of what is known about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how adaptation and mitigation can reduce those risks.

Read all about it at [ipcc.ch/about/](https://www.ipcc.ch/about/)

