



Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Halifax  
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Marie-Claude Leroux  
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Sunday services  
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth  
Education

### ***This Month's Sunday Services***

**Please note:** In-person attendance restrictions in relation to COVID-19 are likely to change in mid-September. Watch for news via UUinfo. In the meantime, please join us every Sunday via Zoom or YouTube between 10:20 and 10:30 am. All services start at 10:30. To join on Zoom, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVEtjUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09> Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch live, or later, on YouTube on our UUCH Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

### ***Our Theme for September: Embracing Possibility***

#### **September 5**

**Rev. Julie Stoneberg**, Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, is featured as the last of our summer series services

***The Eighth Principle: What it Means and Why it Matters*** The Association of UU Congregations across Canada (the Canadian Unitarian Council) is sponsoring a series of discussions leading up to a national meeting in November to consider the adoption of an 8th Principle focussed on dismantling racism. Rev. Stoneberg was co-chair, with Beverly Horton, of the CUC's Dismantling Racism Study Group. **Service Leader: Jessica Friesen; Service Assistant: Brian Gifford**

#### **September 12**

**Our Annual Blending of Waters Service officially begins a new year.**

***A Celebration of Water and Life*** Whether attending in person or online, you are invited to bring a small sample of water that is meaningful to you... from a bird feeder, a favourite lake or stream or your kitchen tap. You are also invited to forward one or more pictures that feature water in your life over the past year... all of this to celebrate the miracle of water and the symbolism of our blended community. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant James Morris**

#### **September 19**

***Embracing the Possibility That We are Mistaken*** Our theme for September "Embracing Possibility" may at first sound like an optimistic acceptance of a new and wonderful future but there is a shadow side as well. How do we embrace the realization of our limited perspectives and the errors that inevitably result? **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marie Welton**

#### **September 26**

***Embracing Possibility Through the Eyes of a Child*** At times the adult in us becomes jaded and cynical... oh then to have the gift of a child's vision of a world new and filled with unimaginable possibility. Can we, as adults, embrace that vision again? **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Pam Griffin-Hody**

### ***The Theme for October: Cultivating Relationship***

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



## September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7 pm Shared Ministry meeting 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering	3 3 pm Truth & Reconciliation meeting	4 
5 10:30 am Service: Rev. Julie Stoneberg on 8th Principle process	6 Labour Day Rosh Hashanah (6th to 8 <sup>th</sup> ) 	7 	8 6:30 pm Board meeting 7 pm RE meeting (usually 1st Wed)	9 2 pm Building Committee mtng 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering	10	11 10–11:30 sm Neighbourhood Brunch take-out resumes 
12 10:30 am Ingathering and Blending of Waters ceremony 5 pm CUC: Connect and Deepen	13 9 pm CUC: Gathered Here	14 7 pm Worship Team meeting	15  (15th, 16th) 7 pm Climate Crisis meeting	16 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering	17 1 pm Brunch Team meeting	18 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch take-out
19 10:30 am Service RE resumes 8 pm CUC: 8th Principle Forum	20 Federal Election 	21 7:00 pm Caring Committee mtng	22 First day of fall 	23 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering 7:30 pm Membership meeting	24	25 10–11:30 sm Neighbourhood Brunch take-out 1 pm CUC: Leaders Roundable
26 10:30 am Service After the service: Guest Carl Duivenvoorden on climate crisis 5 pm CUC: Connect and Deepen	27 	28 7:30 pm Dismantling Racism meeting	29 	30 <b>Orange Shirt Day</b> 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering		Coming up Saturday Oct 2 CUC: Serving with Spirit work shop Register Sept 26 latest. <a href="http://cuc.ca">cuc.ca</a>

### ATTENDING SUNDAY SERVICES

At present we are still allowed to have up to 50% of our capacity for services. However, attendance is still **limited to 15 people in the sanctuary** since we must also continue social distancing. Please also wear a face mask. This is how we keep everyone safe!

**To attend in person, please pre-register in advance** by contacting Margaret Galbraith at [margalbraith@eastlink.ca](mailto:margalbraith@eastlink.ca) or 902-835-3767. You will have to answer the COVID protocol health questions when you arrive and give your name to Colin Kerr, who is keeping track of the participants.

# Minister's Notes



## ***On September's Theme: Embracing Possibility***

I begin by admitting a desire to procrastinate rather than write these notes... I am not ready to give up on summer just yet!

Given the continuing pandemic, it has been a good summer for Janet and me. We spent a week in Toronto with our eldest daughter, her husband and our 16-month-old granddaughter Beatrix, followed by a week in Milwaukee with our other daughter, her husband and our 11-month-old granddaughter Millie. We are blessed indeed.

I don't feel any need to justify speaking of my grandchildren, but if I did, our theme for September – Embracing Possibility – would be the perfect excuse. Watching a child learn to grow, to crawl, to walk and talk, to trust and to love, is an overwhelming spiritual experience that speaks to our theme this month.

Two years ago, few of us were considering the possibility of a pandemic, but when it struck, we had little choice but to embrace new possibilities good and bad... all challenging.

So here we are at the beginning of a new year. Not only have we survived, but we have flourished thanks to your support and to the leadership of our Board of Directors. And we begin a new church year with the leadership of Troy Saulnier and Pam Griffin-Hody and a solid team.

We have learned how to do Sunday services in a format that allows people to attend in person, or to join via the internet. We have embraced the possibility of a church without walls.

We have the best staff that we have ever had. Marie-Claude, our Director of Religious Exploration, never missed a beat during the pandemic, alternating between online services and outdoor field trips for our children and young families.

Jessica, our Music Director, adapted to online services and the technology, becoming the person responsible for set-up before services and then taking over the services for the entire summer. We adapted services from across Canada giving everyone a chance to hear from UU ministers from several different congregations.

Stephen Butler has kept the building and grounds in shape and I know he is anxious to have more people back using the building.

Although not paid staff, John Piccolo and Paul Galbraith have been essential volunteers. None of our online services would have been possible without their technical support. I am in regular contact with several ministerial colleagues, and they are in awe of what our volunteers have been able to do.

We completed a 10-month online religious exploration program for adults called UU Wellspring "Sources". All eight participants are enthusiastic to see us continue the program. Watch for your opportunity to participate with announcements forthcoming soon.

We have ten active teams meeting each month dealing with a wide variety of topics related to the mission of our congregation. Have a look at the schedule posted elsewhere in this newsletter for details, and consider joining one or more of these teams. These teams offer an opportunity to learn, to socialize and to make meaningful contributions to our mission.

We are a small community, with an important message for our time... a time of spiritual problems and possibilities: housing, income disparity, racialization, mental health, drug abuse, climate change and more. We are a community of some 90 adult members in a city of 400,000 people. As your minister, going into my 10th year of service, I feel more confident in my abilities than ever.

In this year ahead, I commit to embracing the possibilities contained in our faith tradition. I hope you will join with the Board, the staff and your minister to do the same.

***With Love... Norm***



## From the Climate Crisis Team

### We have no planet B

#### Code Red for Humanity

In case you missed it, a new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report was published on 9 August. It gives the strongest warning yet, that unless we take immediate action, climate warming will soon become unstoppable. Human life will become untenable. Read “six key takeaways” and scroll down for a great video [here](#)

#### Summer sizzle

We are all aware of the summer heat wave out West, resulting in record forest fires and drought. Other countries are also experiencing major shifts in climate, e.g., frightening fires in Greece and Turkey and devastating floods in Europe.

#### Look North

It rained recently, for the first time ever, above the Greenland ice sheet which is melting faster than ever; the Labrador sea ice was too thin to travel on this past winter; the Arctic Ocean is forecast to be ice-free in summer by 2035. All of these events illustrate exactly what the climate scientists are telling us: the climate is heating rapidly and time is running out.

#### Provincial Election

A public opinion poll showed that the environment was the second most urgent election issue for Nova Scotians. However, none of the three major parties named it as a top priority! My conclusion: our political leaders continue to demonstrate a uniform deafness to the urgency of the climate meltdown. This is despite decades of scientific data showing that we are very close to losing any chance of preventing runaway climate heating.

How will we respond? Here are both individual and communal ideas:

- Monday 20 September Federal election. Please keep the climate crisis top of mind before voting and encourage your friends to do likewise.
- Global “Fridays for Future” rallies, led by school students, have not been possible in Nova Scotia due to COVID 19 restrictions. However, the last one saw 10,000 participate in Halifax. The next scheduled rally is on 24 September if gathering restrictions allow. Anyone can attend as a supporter. Will UUCH be there in numbers?
- Workshop, Sunday, 26 September, following the service, Carl Duivenvoorden will be our guest speaker on Zoom. Here is a father who has made “green” commitments to his young son. Preview his ideas [here](#)

**Leslie Robinson**

**Climate Crisis Team member**

CUC eNews, August 24

## Forums on Dismantling Racism and the 8th Principle Process



Over the summer and into the fall of 2021, roundtable discussions and forums provide spaces for UUs to reflect on and ask questions of ourselves about what it means to “accountably dismantle racism in ourselves and our institutions.”

Some are hesitant to adopt this 8th Principle, stating that the existing Seven Principles include and imply actions for dismantling racism and other oppressions. Others are concerned about the process, and some have issues with the wording and that it may not be complete or accurate. Others are worried that it commits us to accountability when the other principles don't have similar 'accountable' phrasing, and that there is no offered definition for 'being accountable.' Still, others are enthusiastic about a principle on dismantling racism that is regarded as long overdue and desperately needed.

Four forums this fall are designed to guide us through a process of reflection on our visceral responses to dismantling racism and the proposed 8th Principle, with the goal of preparing us for the Special Meeting. Using the chalice as a symbol, each of the four sessions poses questions that urge us to examine some (challenging) realities within ourselves and our UU communities and the work ahead.

Who should attend the forums? Board members, leaders, youth, young adults, ministers, religious educators, those who are invested in the outcome, those who want to do the work of dismantling racism, delegates to the Special Meeting on November 27, those who have uncertainties.

Forums are on Sundays, September 19 and October 3 and 17, at 8 pm AT.

**Roundtable conversations complement the forums** and are held on the last Saturday of each month. These are opportunities to ask questions, express concerns, state affirmations, and have respectful dialogue with each other.

Roundtables are on Saturdays, August 28, September 25, and October 30, at 1:00 pm AT.



## Religious Exploration



UUCH children, adults of our future.

### Welcome to a new church year of Religious Exploration!

Our goal this year is to have our children and youth better acquainted and involved with our church's outreach via our various committees. These will be the Saturday Brunch; Truth, Healing and Reconciliation; Dismantling Racism; and Climate Crisis committees. In age appropriate ways, we will learn about their goals and the means to achieve them as individuals and as a community.

I welcome anyone interested in sharing your connection to any of these committees and topics to join us. Our community is strengthened and enriched when intergenerational bonds grow.

Programming starts on Sunday, September 19th although the board is assessing whether transitioning to in-person exploration is the most responsible choice for our families, I look forward to spending time with our religious exploration community again, whichever platform we may find ourselves using.

**Marie-Claude Leroux**

**Director**

**Religious Exploration for Children & Youth**



## Refugee Committee News

Worldwide turmoil continues and worsens. COVID 19 is calming down here but developing countries have little access to vaccines. Whether this is the reason or not, we are still not seeing refugee travel. We have received notices that a handful of people are getting ready to travel, but so far, no arrival dates.

And now Afghanistan! Trudeau promises to take in 20,000 Afghans but clearly there is no real plan or idea of how to get people out of Afghanistan, let alone admit them to Canada. We are waiting to hear what, if anything, we can do—and we have a number of sponsors for Afghan people already clamoring to do something.

The two families that did arrive this year have some health challenges but are being extremely well taken care of by their fabulous settlement groups.

Still hoping to get busy this fall with arrivals. There are 171 people for whom we applied in 2018, 2019, and 2020 who are yet to arrive!

**Marilyn Shinyei**

**UUCH SAH Co-chair**

## Three Sisters and their Mom



L-R, Zainab, Rand, Sawsan and Hind. These lovely Iraqi sisters and their mom think Halifax is really beautiful and have been enjoying sightseeing, picnics at Peggy's Cove and so on. Don't be surprised if you see them at church one day soon as they live near the church, just around the corner on Lucknow.

## The Caring Column

**Norm Sabowitz**, a formerly active member of UUCH, recently enjoyed a visit from Rev. Norm and Marilyn Shinyei at the Parkland at the Lakes residence in Dartmouth where he lives. Together they celebrated his 83rd birthday. Marilyn regularly visits and looks out for Norm in various ways. We all wish him well.



**Dr. Philip Welch**, who also lives at Parkland at the Lakes, enjoyed a visit from Rev. Norm on the same day. Rev. Norm had not visited either Norm or Philip since pre-COVID time, and was "pleasantly surprised to see how well each of them is doing, although short term memory is a problem". Shown above, Philip with his daughter Alison who visits regularly, and his son Anthony who was visiting from Toronto.

**Rodney Vaughan**, husband of Barbara Harsanyi and UUCH member, has been in The Infirmary, Room 8.2 for some time. While his condition has improved, he is not yet ready to return home. Our thoughts are with Rodney and Barbara.

The celebration of the life of **Peter Onno**, a long time UUCH member, is planned for September 25th at 1:00 pm. Depending on health regulations, attendance in the sanctuary will be limited, and the service will be on Zoom for friends and family near and far. Watch for more details closer to the date.

**Sylvia Mattinson**

## Why we Belong

*Pam Berman, our Membership chair, invites you, our members, to submit brief personal statements focusing on your connection to UUCH for publication in this newsletter. It's simple – just answer the four questions below as Margaret has done. Word count: 270. Please submit your piece to Pam at:*

*[bermanpj@gmail.com](mailto:bermanpj@gmail.com)*

### From Margaret Galbraith

#### When did you become a UU?

We "found" the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton in 1980, and then joined UUCH in December 1981. Our children were small, we were looking for a church to join as we had both grown up in a church community and considered it important for their education. We checked out Anglican and United churches in Fredericton, where we lived at the time, but then found the small community of UUs there much more to our liking. We joined UUCH shortly after moving to the Halifax area in 1981.



#### What attracted you to this community?

We were both disenchanted with the Christian dogma that we grew up with. The diverse community of UUCH felt much more comfortable. The Unitarian principles, the sermons, the discussions, the UU World articles, the friendly questioning community – all seemed to fit.

#### What has kept you here?

Social action with a like-minded group has drawn me back, about 15 years ago. Our children did not enjoy the RE program when we joined in the 80s, and I became very busy on weekends with my Girl Guide volunteer work, so we were not active for about 20 years.

#### Tell us something about yourself that you don't think most people are aware of?

Years before we attended a Unitarian service we were married by an American Unitarian minister. Because I didn't believe in Anglican liturgy, my family's Anglican minister in St. Catharines would not marry us, so I found a Unitarian minister from Niagara Falls, NY, since there were no available Unitarian ministers anywhere between Niagara and Toronto at the time, January 1969!

## Brunch Take-out Resumes

September 11



The ever-popular Neighbourhood Brunch take-out resumes on Saturday, September 11th. The prep crew is set to be in action on Friday, the 10th.

We could use a few more volunteers and you are invited to apply and join in the fun! Please contact me for more information.

The Parker Street Food Bank has been very generous to our Saturday Brunch in providing food items for both our bag lunch take-out and our food box. If you are able, please consider sending some support to Parker Street in recognition of their generosity. See [www.parkerstreet.org](http://www.parkerstreet.org) for ways to give. Thanks!

**Kath Anthony**

## CUC Online Events

More information at [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca)



**Connect & Deepen**, for meaningful discussion, connection and reflection. Sundays, Sep 12 & 26, 5 pm AT.

**Gathered Here**, monthly check-in for UU young adults. Monday, Sep 13, 9 pm AT.

**8th Principle Forums**, 4-part series starting Sunday Sep 19, 8 pm AT. Next dates Oct 3 & 17, and Nov 7.

**Leaders Roundtable**, conversations focus on the 8th Principle process with opportunities to ask questions. Sat Sep 25, 1 pm AT. Next one Oct 30.

**Serving with Spirit Leadership Workshop Day**, ten dynamic presenters, coming up Sat Oct 2, 12:30 to 8:30 pm AT. Registration deadline Sep 26. Sliding fee pricing.

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## Church Directory Updates

### *New*

#### *New email*

MacDONALD, Mary Lu [jbmlmac@eastlink.ca](mailto:jbmlmac@eastlink.ca)

### *Repeats*

#### *New addresses*

DACEY, Barbara  
311-6240 Pepperell Street  
Halifax, NS B3H 2N9

DAVIS, Marie  
Room 121 Center  
2615 Northwood Terrace  
Halifax, NS B3K 3S5

McFADYEN, Rev. Ren  
PO Box 284, RR 0002  
Trenton, NS B0K 1X0

#### *New email addresses*

FREDRICKSON, Bob [refred425@gmail.com](mailto:refred425@gmail.com)

MUZZERALL, Darla  
[uuch.darmuzz@gmail.com](mailto:uuch.darmuzz@gmail.com)

#### *New phone number*

SMITH, Michael 902-707-4211

## Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for contributions to the  
**October newsletter is  
MONDAY. SEPTEMBER 27th**

Please submit your articles to  
Etta Hamm at [braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)

<b>Regular Monthly Meetings</b>		
Group	Recurrence	Team Lead
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 7 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Committee on Shared Ministry	1st Thursday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Truth and Reconciliation	1st Friday 3 pm	Wietske Gradstein
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Board of Directors	2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm	Troy Saulnier
Building Committee	2nd Thursday 2 pm	Norm Horofker
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 7:00 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Climate Crisis Team	3rd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Saturday Brunch Team	3rd Friday 1 pm	Kath Anthony
Dismantling Racism	4th Tuesday 7:30 pm	Pam Griffin-Hody
Membership	4th Thursday 7:30 pm	Pam Berman
Any member or friend of the congregation is welcome to attend these meetings (except for Caring) as observer or participant.		

September 12

Ingathering



and Blending of the Waters