

This Month's Sunday Services

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street
Halifax NS B3H 1J8

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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Cell 902-229-9239

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

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

Troy Saulnier
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth
Education

You are invited to attend services in person or online. If you plan to attend in person, please check the next page for the current protocol on COVID-19 protection. Join online through Zoom or YouTube between 10:20 and 10:30 am. Services start at 10:30. The Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVtUjM1EdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09> Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch live, or later, via our UUCH YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

Our Theme for December: Opening to Joy

December 5 — The Order of Good Cheer – Humour a Social Lubricant

Samuel de Champlain knew something about the importance of joy in our lives, especially as winter begins in Nova Scotia. This morning we will retell the story of the Order of Good Cheer and explore what parts of that story we might incorporate into our lives over 400 years later.

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: TBD

December 12 — Freudenstranen – Tears of Joy!

Tears come associated with many different emotions and situations. But “tears of joy” reveal something uniquely human. The Germans have a word for it... that emotion when we are overcome with joy and tears flow freely. In a month when we are open to joy we will celebrate these special tears. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistant: TBD**

December 12 — Blue Christmas at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs — 7 pm

This evening we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Blue Christmas service in a blues bar. The event will not be live streamed, so you need to plan to attend in person. You should arrive early to get a good seat and maybe have dinner before the service starts. Come to enjoy the company, the readings, poetry and music—and to participate in our candle lighting service. Along with our Afterchoir we will be featuring the music of Morgan Davis who was part of our first Blue Christmas service. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

December 19 — Candlelight Service — 4 pm

As we approach the longest night of the year, we will have a special candle lighting service at 4 pm in place of the morning service. It will include readings, reflections and music related to this special season and will celebrate the anticipated return of the light. If you are unable to attend in person and are joining online, you are invited to have a candle ready at your home.

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistant: TBD

December 26 — Ebenezer Scrooge as Role Model

Charles Dickens gave us the gift of the ultimate UU Christmas story. Today we celebrate that gift as we consider old Ebenezer Scrooge as our teacher. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: TBD**



Our Theme for January: Living With Intention

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 pm RE meeting	2 7 pm Shared Ministry meeting 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	3 3 pm Truth & Reconciliation meeting	4 10–11 am Brunch take-out 11-2 Holiday Bazaar 
5 10:30 am Service	6 Hanukkah ends (started Nov 28) 6:30 pm Board meeting	7	8 7 pm Climate Crisis Team (one week earlier than usual)	9 2 pm Building Team meeting 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	10	11 10–11:30 am Brunch take-out
12 10:30 am Service 7 pm Blue Christmas at Bearly's	13 	14 7 pm Worship Team meeting	15	16 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	17 1 pm Brunch Team meeting	18 10–11:30 am Brunch take-out 
19 4 pm Candlelight Service 	20	21 First day of winter	22	23 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	24	25 
26 10:30 am Service 	27	28 Newsletter Deadline 	29	30 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering	31	January 1, 2022 

HEALTH PROTECTION DURING FAITH GATHERINGS AT UUCH

Faith services are deemed “essential services” by Public Health. As such, proof of vaccination is not *mandatory* for services. ***For our added protection however***, for in-person attendance, our Board has decided that we *must* show either proof of vaccination, **or** of an official COVID test taken within the previous 4 days. In order to attend without either one or the other, we must take a rapid test at church (which takes 15 minutes to show results).

By law, all other church activities require proof of vaccination, and mask wearing in the building is still mandatory at all times. Please watch for any further announcements.



Minister's Notes

**On December's
theme:
Opening to Joy**

During my first winter in Halifax in 2012 I read a story about Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs in the Chronicle Herald by John DeMont. I was curious and dropped in one day. While sitting there absorbing the atmosphere (that can be described as unpretentious) I realized that I wanted to do a church service in this special place... a church service that would acknowledge that the holiday season invokes many different emotions and memories for us, not all cheerful.

I got a list of local blues musicians and started making cold calls to see if I could find someone willing to be part of this vision. I would start my introduction by saying that I was a Unitarian Universalist Minister... "but please don't hang up"... because we are a different kind of church. I got a warm response from most, but everyone had other commitments for the time until I called Morgan Davis.

When I called Morgan, he stopped me before I could begin to explain how Unitarian Universalist congregations were special. Morgan said...

"You don't have to tell me about Unitarians. I came to Canada over 40 years ago without hardly a nickel and the Unitarian Church in Toronto put me up and provided work painting the church. For forty years I have felt that I owed the Unitarians something and now is my chance to pay back. I will be happy to be a part of the service... but I don't do Christmas music." That was all I needed to hear!

And now, for the 10th Annual Blue Christmas at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs, Morgan is back to celebrate with us.

So I don't know how you are feeling about the holiday season, but I suspect that a night out with friends, good music and time to reflect on our

blessings while acknowledging the difficulties we have faced... just might add to your enjoyment of the season.

The program will start at 7 pm but you are advised to come early to get a good seat and maybe enjoy dinner of ribs or Filipino specialties. And by all means, bring a friend.

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HALIFAX'S

10th Annual BLUE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 12 | 7 PM

BEARLY'S HOUSE
OF BLUES AND RIBS
1269 BARRINGTON ST

AN EVENING OF
REFLECTION,
LAUGHTER &
MUSIC

KITCHEN & BAR
OPEN

*Featuring
Morgan Davis*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
NHOROFKER@AOL.COM

In this, my last "notes" for 2021, I wish you all a joyous holiday with time for relaxation and reflection—and appreciation for our small but mighty community and our life together.

With Love... Norm



Board Buzz

I am writing this monthly report on Board activities as your newly appointed Secretary of the Board. It has been a busy month as we move into a new stage in the pandemic and as we look forward to and prepare for the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) meeting this coming weekend where delegates will vote on adding an 8th principle to the 7 we have already.

But it's also our annual Canvass drive, kicked off on Nov. 7th. By now you should have been contacted by your friendly canvasser about how you can contribute financially to the day-to-day running of our community. The theme for the canvass is "Because We are Here" and our goal is \$120,000. The canvassers this year are: Marilyn Shinyei, Margaret Galbraith, Etta Hamm, Scott Wood, Darla Muzzerall, and myself. Our kick-off Sunday service featured the The Afterchoir, and Marilyn who spoke about the wonderful people that the Refugee Committee has sponsored and brought to Halifax. "They are here", she said, "because we are here." As of Nov. 21, we had reached about \$105,000 in pledges, which is 87.5% of our goal—impressive, but we're not quite there yet!

This past while, the Board has been looking at the issue of the addition of an 8th principle. The Dismantling Racism Study Group, created at the CUC AGM in 2019, brought forward recommendations including their own wording of a proposed 8th principle at the CUC AGM this last May. A motion to adopt this principle was incorrectly approved at that meeting and then declared illegal, a final decision to be decided at a special meeting on November 27th. Congregations were encouraged to discuss the issue preparatory to November. Our own Dismantling Racism Committee including the two delegates to the CUC AGM, Pam Griffin-Hody and Scott Wood, made a strong presentation in favour of accepting the 8th principle at the Semi-annual General Meeting in late October. Members of the congregation were given an opportunity to respond, and although many were in favour, a few spoke out with concerns, mainly around the process that has been

UUCH Board of Directors

2021 - 2022

President	Troy Saulnier
Vice-president	Pam Griffin-Hody
Past President	Margaret Galbraith
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Treasurers (co)	Marilyn Shinyei Darla Muzzerall
Members at large	Katelyn Everson Avard Woolaver

followed—and/or feeling that anti-racism is already covered in the 1st principle that asserts the "inherent worth and dignity of every person". After these discussions, the wording of the 8th principle was amended based on the feedback from congregations across Canada. It now reads like this: *"We the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions"*.

At the last Board meeting on Nov. 1, we voted to direct the delegates (Scott and Pam) to vote in favour of adopting the 8th principle. But the Board also wanted to make sure we'd heard from all voices, so a small survey was sent to every member asking them one question: Do you or do you not support the UUCH voting to adopt the 8th principle? Based on the responses we received, a large majority supported it, so our delegates will be voting in favour of it on Saturday, November 27th. By the time you read this it will have been decided and the Dismantling Racism Committee will be working on the next steps.



Molly Hurd
Secretary,
Board of Directors



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, December 4, 11 am to 2 pm

We are looking for:

Donations of new or gently used items valued at \$5 to \$20.

Dishes, serveware, ornamental items, Christmas decorations, etc., all in good condition.

Art, well-crafted items. Handknitted wear.

Ladies' or gents' accessories. No clothes, please.

**Bake table goodies: Bread, squares, cookies, muffins, pies.
Jams, jellies, preserves.**

Books published in the last 10 years, like new only:

Two categories ONLY: Fiction & Non-fiction,

Hardcover—or trade paperback (large format, soft cover.)

Please, no cookbooks, art books or text books.

CDS and DVDS in good condition.

Please bring your items to the church:

on Sunday Nov 28,

or between 1 and 3 pm on Wednesday or Thursday (Dec 1 & 2),

or after 10 am Friday Dec 3.

Contact Janet Horofker for other times.

No admission charge.

Coffee or tea by donation.

COME WITH YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!



Proof of vaccination is required.

Please wear a mask.

And bring your own bags!



Left over food, books, giftables, etc.,
will be available for purchase on Sunday Dec 5.

The Caring Column

A lovely celebration of the life of **Elvira Welch, wife of Philip Welch**, long time member of UUCH, was held on Saturday November 20th at St. Andrews United Church, Halifax. Our thoughts are with Philip and the family.



On November 23rd **Barbara Harsanyi** celebrated her 88th birthday in the company of her sister Beatrice who was visiting from Detroit. On her birthday they had lunch with one of Barbara's "ancient Hungarian" friends and visited Rodney in hospital. Barbara asked me to give her best regards to everybody at UUCH. Many happy returns Barbara!

Glenda Butt continues to make progress in her recovery from kidney problems and at least for now, is not expecting a kidney transplant. In the meantime she is currently recovering from carpal tunnel surgery on her right hand, to be followed by the same surgery on her left hand sometime soonish. Best wishes Glenda!

Allyn Clarke reports that he's getting settled into his new residence, a one-bedroom apartment in the new Berkeley Building on Pepperell Street. He says that the apartment is perhaps bigger than the one he had for four years at sea on the Hudson, has cheerful staff and is comfortable. All the best in this new chapter in your life, Allyn!

Ann Wood tells me that she is doing "not badly at all." She was pleased that her daughter was able to visit in September. She joins our church services by Zoom but really looks forward to when she'll be able to attend them in person—a sentiment shared by many of us!

Sylvia Mattinson



Dining out With UU Friends

Enough of isolating ourselves and having no fun—your Caring Committee has a new COVID blues busting idea! If you are double-vaccinated and would enjoy eating out and reconnecting with UU friends in the relaxed atmosphere of restaurant dining, this notice explains the plan, parts of which may vary over time.

A small group of six would eat out on Sundays after church services, eg., at 12:15, on a recurring monthly basis, say on the second Sunday of the month.

In order to keep things uncomplicated and affordable we thought of the Resolutes Club which is less than a block away from our building (club interior pictured below).



As a private, non-profit organization, the club's menu prices are lower than those of commercial restaurants. The club is a well-run establishment with clean premises and COVID protocols in place. There is table service offering hearty Canadian fare, and the atmosphere is always friendly.

We asked Etta to coordinate the outings and she said "Glad to do it!". As a "Rez" member, Etta can sign in up to five guests per visit, so there's a ready-made small gathering. If there is another Rez member in the congregation who wants to participate, then we could sign in more guests.

Contact Etta to get your name in **during the week leading up to the event including Saturday evening the day before**—but keep in mind that it will be 'first come, first served' so spots may be filled very quickly. The first outing will be on Sunday, **December 12th**. Etta will be waiting for those calls and emails. *See you at the Rez.*

Sylvia Mattinson, Shripad Pendse
for the Caring Committee



From the Climate Crisis Team

*Christiana Figueres:
a stubborn optimist*

Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica (pictured on the right) attended the international climate crisis gathering known as COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland, Oct 31-Nov 12. Ms. Figueres is the former executive secretary of the United Nations Climate Convention, and she oversaw the creation of the Paris Agreement in 2015.

She came away from Glasgow with mixed feelings, recognizing the shortfalls in the final agreement and yet noting that definite progress was made on several fronts. While many people feel growing despair over the slow pace of change to reduce global warming, Ms. Figueres demonstrates a different philosophy. Here's how she explained her ideas to Matt Galloway on CBC Radio, "The Current", 15 November 2021.

A stubborn optimist

"I am stubborn in the sense that I don't give up on this process. I don't give up on any country. I don't give up on any industry. I don't give up on any person. I don't give up because we have to do this. I don't think we have an option... because the consequences of not doing so are so dire.

So, for me, I just don't give up on any efforts and I'm an optimist because I choose. It's not because I close my eyes to reality and think that things are going to be fine. No, I choose, and it's a daily choice to dig into myself and consequently, to everyone else, and emerge with the conviction that we have what it takes, that we have the technologies we have, the finance we have, we know what the policies are and if we want to, we can actually accelerate this and to be able to address it in a timely fashion.

So I'm an optimist with respect to the potential that we all have to do this. And I'm stubborn because I don't give up on anybody and I expect everybody to put their full potential on the table.

Muddy Boots

I hold on to this because I think of myself as having very, very muddy boots and the boots are in the mud with all of the bad news, with the science that is so clear with the expert experience that these low-lying brothers and sisters are having with the experience of vulnerable people. That's where my boots get very muddy. And honestly, in a lot of grief and a lot of pain. But that's my boots. My eyes are on the stars. My eyes are toward a world that is much better, that is much safer and that is much more equitable."



A mother's wisdom

Ms. Figueres has two daughters in their thirties and this is her advice to them and to us:

"We know from history that no truly fundamental social, economic or political change has occurred without at least peaceful civil disobedience and without a lot of pressure. Think about the Vietnam War and think about the civil rights movement. We need that pressure. So, my first message is: don't give up, and continue to exert that pressure.

My second message is if you want to give yourself some relief from the pain, engage in some climate action that actually reduces emissions so that you can feel that you are personally contributing both to the solution, as well as putting pressure on others who have to contribute more."

You can listen to the full CBC interview [here](#)

***Leslie Robinson
for the Climate Crisis Team***

One planet. One people

REFUGEE COMMITTEE NEWS

We are still not seeing much refugee travel. We have had a total of 22 people arrive in 2021 with two more scheduled for December. Half of the 22 is one large extended family pictured here who just arrived on November 3rd. This family group is a joint initiative of ours along with Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada based in New Brunswick.



To my right are Dave and Jen, a wonderful couple with *United We Win*, Halifax, who we have worked with on other settlements. To my left is the matriarch of this family, Latifa. Beside her are her son and two daughters. Standing are the two daughters' grown children. A younger daughter and a husband are missing from the photo. The new family will reside in Bedford. Latifa's son is Samer Al Jokhadar who owns Booza Emessa on the Bedford Highway. Do stop in some time for ice cream.

This visit is a great example of a strange bonus the pandemic has brought to me. With only six refugees having arrived in all of 2021 thus far, I have been able to be very involved with several of those. All of them have great settlement groups whose role is to work directly with them; ours is usually just a supervisory role. But this year I have been more hands-on and feel very connected to the families—and privileged to get to know these wonderful people.

There are 162 people for whom we applied in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and are yet to arrive—potential new Canadians for all of us to welcome and get to know.

Marilyn Shinyei
UUCH SAH Co-chair

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

This past month, in our aim to be Allies & Activists, the RE program focused on food security and the role the UUCH Saturday brunch team plays in helping feed our neighbors.



Offering nourishment and company is at the forefront of the Neighborhood Saturday Bagged Lunch (formerly Saturday Brunch), an important program at UUCH. A few families and I took advantage of PD days that fell on Fridays in November to join the Saturday Brunch Team in helping prepare the week's neighborhood bagged lunches. The kids assembled juice, fruit, treats and napkins as well decorated the bags. Older youth helped in the kitchen, assembly line style in preparing the sandwiches.

We were shown that there's always a vegetarian option offered to account for dietary restrictions, that raisins are included to offer a small source of iron and yogurt for calcium. The fruit option used to be apples, but after hearing how many of the guests that take home a lunch have dental issues, bananas and clementines have become the norm. We enjoyed a short break and heard stories from the Shakeeb sisters of their refugee experience from Iraq to Canada. Altogether, we had a glimpse into the dedicated and thoughtful work done each week for the neighborhood.

Throughout the month, we used stories to help children understand inequities in food security and inspire them to become watchdogs. Children explored the roots of food insecurity and created a "Hunger Tree" with leaves of actions that can be taken to help alleviate the problem.

Youth learned about the main components of food security and were inspired by the varied local programs that aim to increase access to affordable, healthy, and appropriate foods. They explored the roll of local government and corporations by considering food desserts, and ideas like community gardens and backyard chicken coops.

As we enter the holiday season, we will be decorating cookies to be included in the Saturday lunches. These are small actions to take, but we appreciate being in the company of the many volunteers at UUCH and throughout Nova Scotia who persevere so diligently in ensuring that everyone's right to food is met.



Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Music Page



The holiday season is joyful for some, enjoying family, friends, food, and tradition. For others, Christmas holds feelings of loneliness in an isolated world. No matter where you are emotionally or financially, this winter season should be a time to come together.

Our music this December will bring UUs and the community together. Whether you come to our Holiday Bazaar, Saturday Morning Brunch, Blue Christmas Service, or tune in to a Sunday morning service, you will be surrounded with songs of love and Christmas carols, and filled with your own unique memories of the season.

Blue Christmas

December 2021 marks our 10th year of the Blue Christmas service--an event that no pandemic will stop! On Sunday, December 12th we will hear from musician Morgan Davis at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs. Come on out for some LIVE music, fun and quirky Christmas stories—and candle lighting to celebrate the joys and sorrows of the season.

Music Appreciation Team

Do you enjoy music? How about attending concerts, talking with friends with a similar passion for music, or lending a hand in UU musical events? If this sounds like you, you may be interested in the Music Appreciation Team. The second music event we held featured Nova Scotian singer-songwriter Christina Martin. If you know of any future concerts or musical events happening in Halifax, please let me know.

Soulful Sundown

Robert Campbell will be singing at our next Soulful Sundown on January 29, 2022. Coffee and snacks at 6:30, service at 7 pm. Come on out and relax, reflect, and enjoy some live music.

Music is a world within itself, with a language we understand.



Jessica Friesen

Music Director

jessicafriesen876@gmail.com

204-330-8165

CUC Online Events



There are fewer CUC online events in December because of the holiday season, but if you will check cuc.ca you may still find an event you wish to take in. CUC online events are well designed, thought provoking and inspirational. Be sure to check cuc.ca for registration deadlines, fees where applicable, and Atlantic times. The December offerings are these:

Gathered Here
 Connect and Deepen
 UUBIPOC Space
 Leaders' Roundtable
 Rising Together

Widening the Circle which was scheduled for December 4th has been postponed to the new year. Watch cuc.ca for the new date.

Canadian Unitarian Council
 Interdependence. Love. Justice.

Regular Monthly Meetings

Group	Recurrence	Group lead
Board of Directors	1st Monday 6:30 pm	Troy Saulnier
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 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
Building Team	2nd Thursday 2 pm	Norm Horofker
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 7 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

Some of these meetings are cancelled in December. Please go by the calendar on page 2 or check with your team leader.

Church Directory Updates

New addresses:

CLARKE, Allyn
 612-6240 Pepperell Street
 Halifax, NS B3H 2N9
 Cell only: 902-483-4731
 Land line being discontinued

LAWRENCE, Inga
 113-114 Fairfax Drive
 Halifax, NS B3S 1J5

Newsletter Deadline



**The deadline for contributions to the
 January newsletter
 is Tuesday December 28th.**

Please submit your articles to Etta
 at braeside@eastlink.ca

