



This Month's Sunday Services

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

902-429-5500
mail@uuchurch.ca
uuch.ca

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

See page 2 regarding regular (10:30 am) services in relation to pandemic restrictions.

Theme for March: Renewing Faith

March 6

International Women's Day

We are centered daily on our lives as Canadian women. With the help of Marilyn's refugee contacts we will honour International Women's Day, hearing three women from other cultures talk about their lives.

Service Leader: Mary Lu MacDonald; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

March 13

COVID and the Terrible Twos

March 15, 2020 marked the last "normal" service for UUCH. On this two year anniversary, we reflect on the last two years, what we have learned, and how to put into spiritual practice our souls' difficult journey.

Service Leader: Pam Griffin-Hody; Service Assistant: TBA

March 20

Protecting the Precious Liquid of Life

Reflections on World Water Day.

Service Leaders: Troy and Danielle Saulnier

March 27

It's Maple Syrup Time!

We will be joining with the UU Society of Bangor, Maine again for our annual celebration of all things maple, and spring.








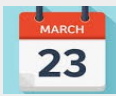


Service leaders: Rev. Norm Horofker and Rev Andrew Moeller

Our Theme for April: Awakening

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.



March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  7 pm RE Team meeting	3 7 pm COSM meeting 7 pm Gathering	4	5 10 –11:30 am Brunch take-out
6 10:30 am Sunday Service	7	8 International Women's Day 7 pm Worship Team meeting	9  7 pm Climate Crisis meeting	10 2 pm Building Team meeting 7 pm Gathering	11	12 10--11:30 am Brunch take-out  <i>Spring forward</i> ↻
13 <i>Daylight Saving Time in effect</i> 10:30 am Sunday Service	14 March Break this week	15 7 pm Caring Team meeting	16  6:30 pm Board meeting	17  7 pm Gathering	18 1 pm Brunch Team meeting	19 10 –11:30 am Brunch take-out
20 1st day of spring! 10:30 am Sunday Service	21	22  7:30 pm Dismantling Racism meeting	23 Newsletter Deadline 	24 7 pm Gathering 7:30 pm Membership Team meeting	25	26 10 -11:30 Brunch take-out
27 10:30 am 'Maple Syrup Service'	28	29	30 	31		

Church Services in relation to Pandemic Restrictions (changing again!)

Starting Feb. 28th, in line with changes to the Public Health COVID-19 provincial restrictions, we will not have to show proof of vaccination to attend church.

We will however, still need to wear masks, and to observe social distancing as much as possible **until March 21st when all restrictions will be lifted.**

We will maintain the Zoom and YouTube services for the foreseeable future.

Services start at 10:30. Join us via Zoom or youTube between 10:20 and 10:30 am. Use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVEtjUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09>

Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670.

You can also watch the service live, or later, on YouTube on our UUCH Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

Board Buzz

As you can imagine, the Board is still really buzzing as we move ahead with plans for our transition to a new minister. As reported last month, the plan is to call a contract minister and that application must be sent to the UUA by April.

In order to address your concerns and answer questions about what lies ahead, we will hold a congregational meeting following the Feb 27th church service.

Decisions that were left from our February meeting have now been made. Given all that lies ahead of us with finding, welcoming and adapting to a new minister, we have decided to say no to hosting the 2023 CUC Conference.

Contrary to last month's Board Buzz, we are going ahead with a Capital Campaign for the deck. You will hear more about that very, very soon.

Wietske's suggestion that donations in her memory be allocated to the deck has resulted in almost \$2,600, amazingly well over 10% of the goal of the Capital Campaign.

Construction of the deck will get underway this summer, the end goal being completion in time for an ingathering barbecue in September.

Marilyn Shinyei
for the Board of Directors

UUCH Board of Directors

2021 - 2022

Officers

President	Troy Saulnier
Vice-president	Pam Griffin-Hody
Past President	Margaret Galbraith
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Treasurers (co)	Marilyn Shinyei Darla Muzzerall

Members at large

Avard Woolaver One vacancy

Ex-officio

Rev. Norm Horofker



From your Climate Crisis Team

HalifACT Action

In case you missed the excellent talk by Taylor Owen and Tara Day last Sunday (Feb 20) and the follow-up UUinfo message later that day, here is the brief version of why all residents of HRM should contact their councillor in the next few weeks.

HalifACT-Act for the Climate Together is an excellent award-winning program created for the Halifax Regional Council in order to take the essential actions needed for our city to combat the climate crisis. There are 46 separate actions, with varying degrees of involvement by HRM alone, or with other levels of government, business, and other organizations. It was approved unanimously in June 2020, but so far the pieces that needed to be started immediately have been seriously underfunded and understaffed.

In order to provide the necessary funding there is a proposal to increase the residential tax rate by an additional 3.3% for 2022-23, to get the program started properly before it is too late.

We need to start supporting this program now—it will only get more expensive the longer we postpone it. A \$1 spent now will save us \$6 in the future, so it is a matter of paying upfront for long-term benefits for our community.

Please contact your councillor to let her or him know that you support this increase in taxes, and copy the mayor and the city clerk with your letter. This way all of council will see your letter and know how wide the support is across HRM for climate action now.

The Ecology Action Centre is running a letter-writing workshop for HalifACT on Wednesday March 2, 6:30–8:00 — free and online. For more information, contact them at <https://ecologyaction.ca/tell-your-councillor-fund-climate-action-now>

Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team

One planet. One people

Caring



We are very much saddened to learn of the sudden death of **Eileen Ross**, a long time member of our church, on February 17th. Eileen contributed her time, energy and thoughts to various UUCH committees and projects over the years and her presence among us will surely be missed. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Through the intrepid efforts of Shripad Pendse, still in Australia, we have learned that **Inga Lawrence** has been in the Infirmary Hospital for about two weeks. Her daughter, Christine, visits every afternoon and reports that Inga is in heart failure along with related difficulties. Christine expects her mom will be in hospital for some time. She will update Shripad when there is improvement. Our thoughts and hopes are with Inga and with Christine.

And now for some wonderful news. **Rev. Norm and Janet** are “somewhere over the moon and feeling so blessed” with the arrival of their third granddaughter on the evening of February 23rd. Olive Marjorie



Preston weighs 7 pounds 9 oz. and is 19 inches long. The happy parents are Kayla (Horofker) Preston and Andy Preston. Kayla reports they “are all doing great.” Congratulations to all of you!

Blooming snowdrops and the beginnings of sprouting bulbs are appearing so spring should be here soon— an inspiring thought! Enjoy spring when it gets here!

Sylvia Mattinson
Caring Committee Chair



From the Endowment Fund Committee Taking the Long View

As many of you know, the UUCH Endowment Fund passed the \$100,000 milestone some time ago, and it has continued to grow steadily over the past months. We will be updating the plaque that carries the names of donors (except for donors who wish to remain anonymous).



Since many of the people who choose to make a gift to the endowment fund do so in honour or in memory of a loved one, it can be a source of joy for them to notice this reminder again from time to time in our building.

Look for the names being added to our updated plaque this spring if you are able to visit the building again for a church service.

In the meantime, we can feel assured that, despite the exhausting period we still find ourselves in during this lengthy pandemic season, our congregation's commitment to our guiding principles remains as strong as ever. The fund will help ensure that our congregation's presence in the community will still be vibrant far into the future.

Many thanks to those who have chosen to make contributions to the Endowment Fund.

Martha Wilson
for the UUCH Endowment Committee

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

-Nelson Henderson

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Religious Exploration program has continued as online programming throughout February. We've jumped back into the theme of Allies and Activists, by exploring what it means to engage in activism. 'What we might call "social justice" boils down to what children would call "fairness." (Caroline Paul). At the heart of activism is noticing unfairness and caring enough about it to work for change.



With a drawing exercise, we considered what it means to widen our circles of concern. The children were guided to reflect on the unfairnesses that speak to their hearts. Over the last few weeks, the children raised multiple issues: endangered animals such as turtles; the future of polar bears due to climate change; and the plight of koala bears with increasing forest fires. There were discussions led by children about the far reaching impacts of pollution; about the harm of bullying; and the importance of access to books and education for all.

With examples of other activists, past and present, we explored how love and compassion can be a driving force of activism and social justice. The children considered their circles of concern and created a valentine for those issues. For the animals that are losing their habitats and lives. For the entire world impacted by pollution.

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, they considered their dreams for the future. They dream that animals will be treated respectfully, that conflict will be resolved by words, not fists, and that people will think of the planet over profits. Our last Sunday in February will be taking these dreams, these concerns and creating protest posters. We certainly have plenty to work with! I look forward to seeing what our future activists come up with.

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Music Page



Welcome to a new month of music where we celebrate and lift each other up through song.

Coffeehouse

It's time for our annual Coffeehouse! A time where we come together, enjoy our own congregants' talents including the Afterchoir and other musicians in our community. This year's Coffeehouse is about coming together and sharing music with others.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor may also join us in this celebration of music, poetry, and fellowship! It will be the first time we've integrated another UU community in our most popular music event.

Due to Covid regulations, in-person attendance may or may not be permitted, however it will be on Zoom and YouTube.

Stay tuned for the date and details through UUinfo and weekly church services. If you are interested in participating please let me know—and we will need volunteers as well as performers.



Jessica Friesen

Music Director

jessicafriesen876@gmail.com

204-330-8165

Music is the great uniter. An incredible force. Something that people who differ on everything and anything else can have in common.

~ Sarah Dessen



THANK YOU to the 40 people who responded to the survey sent out by the Climate Crisis Team. It was gratifying

to see the level of interest in the topic and the degree to which people are already taking action.

We have not had a chance to discuss the results yet as a team, but I would ask that anyone who wants to join an email Google group in order to share news about climate action to please contact me by email. We will be setting that up shortly.

We will follow up as best we can on some of the suggestions.

In the meantime, please see the article about HalifACT elsewhere in this newsletter for a climate action that you can take right now!

**Margaret
for the Climate Crisis Team**

margalbraith@eastlink.ca



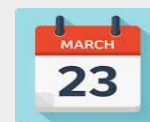
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Regular Monthly Meetings

Group	Recurrence	Group lead
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Committee on Shared Ministry	1st Thursday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Climate Crisis Team	2nd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Building Team	2nd Thursday 2 pm	Norm Horofker
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 7 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Board of Directors	3rd Wednesday 6:30 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.

Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for contributions for the April newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23.**

Please send your articles to Etta at

braeside@eastlink.ca

Thank you.

From CUC eNews, Feb 22

Letter From Vyda

The Year of the Tiger was ushered in on February 1. According to Chinese astrology, there are 12 animal signs; each animal sign lasts for approximately one year, according to the lunar cycle, and begins on Chinese New Year (CNY) also known as Lunar New Year, not on January 1. The tiger symbolizes courage and leadership.



Celebrated by over two billion people globally, the festival centres on hopes for prosperity, good health and good luck, so growing up in Malaysia, CNY was a big deal for my family. CNY lasts for 15 days, and within the Chinese community, preparations would begin weeks before. My mother would make sure the house was scrubbed, that we all had new clothes (primarily in red to signify good luck), and traditional food and desserts were made. On the eve of the new year, our family (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) would gather for a huge meal, and then on the first day of the new year, rounds of visiting would begin. *Ang pows* (red envelopes with money) were given to children to bring them good luck and good fortune, and mandarins, pomelos and cookies would be exchanged. The Chinese are great believers in symbolism and tokens of good fortune!

I've carried much of those early traditions and beliefs with me, unconsciously. When I came to Canada as an 18 year old student many years ago, I was straddling eastern and western cultures and struggled to find my identity. I had grown up in a traditionally Chinese home, but attended a Methodist church, while my relatives were also Catholics and Buddhists. My friends were Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Chinese, and I attended a Catholic school. When I arrived in Canada, I went to a Catholic high school, and then on to university. I struggled to assimilate and to find acceptance, and thought that in order to do so and to minimize experiences of racism, I had to push away my Chinese identity.

Almost ten years later, as a first-time mother, I attended my first Unitarian service in Saskatoon. I immediately felt that I had found a spiritual community, one where

questions were welcome and there weren't necessarily pat answers (I asked a lot of questions in Sunday School). I did notice, when I lived variously in Winnipeg, St. John's, Niagara Falls and now in Toronto, that while Unitarian Universalist communities are more spiritually diverse than other faith traditions, there weren't many people who looked like me.

Fast forward to 2021, and the journey to the 8th Principle. It has not been an easy time, professionally and personally. I have been disappointed by some of the comments and behaviours I've witnessed, and continued experiences of microaggressions and racism. I know that some of this comes out of confusion and fear of change, and as UUs, I hope we can lift ourselves out of this. When the 8th Principle was approved at the November 2021 Special Meeting, I felt relief that delegates and congregations had showed up to affirm that dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion IS a priority.

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.

We are only on the beginning stages of this journey, my friends. We have experienced shifts in the foundation of our congregations, and we've had time to examine ourselves and our attitudes. It's time to create that radically inclusive community we aspire to, and to truly live into the interdependence that calls us to love and justice. In time, I hope, in the words of Rev. Jessica Rodela, "We're gonna need a bigger boat!"

Be well friends,

Vyda Ng
Executive Director
Canadian Unitarian Council
vyda@cuc.ca

CUC Online Events

Every month, the CUC sponsors an impressive, ongoing stream of interesting, educational online events (some in series): webinars, round-tables, workshops, discussion groups and more. Find all the details (dates, times, registration) at cuc.ca. Be inspired, let your-self go, sign up for something!



Mmm, love that maple syrup taffy!