



This Month's Sunday Services

Everyone is welcome in the sanctuary in person but please respect the space of those who are wearing masks and/or social distancing, both of which are encouraged. Services start at 10:30 am.

You can also join us via **Zoom** between 10:20 and 10:30 am using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVEtjUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09>
Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670.

Or you can watch the service (live or later) on our UUCH **YouTube** channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

Our Theme for November: Change

November 6, 13, 20

The Path of Change

Rev. Israel will give a sermon series on the spiritual dimensions of change. We will explore change as an individual, communal, and universal process.

We will also reflect on the complications and confusions brought on by travelling its path, and we will ask how to develop resilience in the process.

The series will also draw from the changes we are considering to the ways we gather and relate to one another as a congregation.

November 27

Advent

Members of the worship committee will lead us in a service of music, readings, and reflection on the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Together we will approach Advent from a uniquely UU perspective, as a celebration of anticipation and spiritual deepening that can be born in each of our hearts.

Theme for December: Wonder

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.

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Rev. Israel Buffardi
Interim Minister
minister@uuch.ca

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

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

Pam Griffin-Hody
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
10:30 am

All are welcome



November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pledge Drive Month 		1	2 7 pm RE Team meeting	3 7 pm Online Gathering	4	5 Brunch? Volunteers?  Fall back ... 2 am ⇨
6 Back to Atlantic Standard Time 10:30 am Rev. Israel	7	8 7 pm Worship Team meeting	9 6:30 pm Board Meeting	10 Building Team Time TBA 7 pm Online Gathering	11 Remembrance Day 	12 10--11:30 am Brunch? Volunteers?
13 10:30 am Sunday Service Rev. Israel	14	15 4:30 pm COSM 7 pm Caring Team meeting	16 7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting 7 pm El Jones, book launch, Alumni Hall, King's U	17 7 pm Online Gathering	18	19 10 –11:30 am Brunch? Volunteers?
20 10:30 am Sunday Service Rev. Israel	21 	22	23	24 7 pm Online Gathering 7:30 pm Membership Team meeting	25 Newsletter Deadline 	26 Bazaar?  Volunteers?
27 10:30 am Sunday Service Worship Comm, Advent	28	29	30			

Minister's Availability

Rev. Israel is available to meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 4 pm—and Sundays from 12-1:30 pm. To schedule an appointment email minister@uuch.ca. Monday is usually his day off, and Saturday is usually reserved for writing and reflection. He makes every effort to respond to emails within 48 hours, although emails received over the weekend might not receive a response until the next week.



Greetings from your Interim Minister

Our Movement

You are all going to continue hear me talking about change, and in fact our theme for the month of November is The Path of Change. I find this an appropriate focus for UUCH as a Universalist heritage congregation. It was Lewis B. Fisher, beloved dean of the Universalist Seminary at St. Lawrence University, who, when asked to explain where Universalists stood on a particular issue, was noted to often respond, “we do not stand at all, we move.”

I believe that he was describing the flexibility, curiosity, and adaptability of progressive expressions of religion. Indeed, many theologians in present day Unitarian Universalism refer to us not typically just as a faith, but as a movement. I feel that since we moved beyond placing our primary emphasis on landing on correct beliefs and have chosen to focus on the evolution and understanding of just and loving behaviour, we have set our sights specifically on change as a movement. It is at the core of who we are.

We are sort of like the Starship Enterprise of religions. We exist to explore the human condition, to make contact with unknown ideas and people, to boldly proclaim idealistic and equitable visions for our world in the face of the unknown.

Of course anyone who has any knowledge of the Star Trek Universe knows that going boldly into the unknown is not a leisure cruise. You need to prepare yourself; you may need to develop skills, technologies, and courage in order to move beyond what is familiar and comfortable. Strange new ideas are likely to be encountered as well, ones that might make a person question their assumptions and beliefs. Conflicts and misunderstandings are possible, and yes, it can sometimes be dangerous.

Yet the benefits are an expanded circle, a wider worldview, resilience, and ultimately a future for subsequent generations. Together, may we do the work of preparing ourselves to travel that path, may our spiritual practices help us to gather the courage we need to embark, and may our cultivating of relationships allow us to practice integrating new and expansive worldviews and ideas that challenge us to continue to adapt and grow.

Rev. Israel

Board Buzz

The chaos is slowly settling. The deck is finished, and we have done it again; the final cost is 50% higher than planned. Something very similar happened with the kitchen reno some time back. Makes us sound like government building a highway or something. But when you start renovations on a 200-year-old building, the problems emerge. And then we kept thinking of more work we should do while we were at it, such as rebuild the stairs to the second floor, which were unsafe and not to code. We are very fortunate to have a healthy Building Reserve Fund to draw on. Next project – replacing the roof – wonder what we will uncover there!

Rev. Israel's office is slowly coming together with new flooring and paint and comfy, cozy furniture. It is turning into a very welcoming space.

Our first Thanksgiving Potluck in 3 years was a success with about 50 people in attendance.

Hurricane Fiona contributed to the chaos too as we were unable to hold our retreat. Instead, we will have 3-4 sessions after church over the next few months, where we can talk about our hopes and dreams, and our priorities for our church. The first of those took place on Oct 16th.

This Sunday, October 30th will be our Semi-Annual General Meeting where we will look at our budget for the 2023 year. This is an important first step towards setting a canvass goal. The following Sunday will be Commitment Sunday where we will start gathering your pledges (promises) for what you will contribute in the coming year towards meeting the budget, and thus show your approval for our 2023 priorities.

Marilyn Shinyei ***for the Board of Directors***

UUCH Board of Directors

Officers

President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Vice-president	TBF
Past President	Troy Saulnier
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Co-Treasurers	Marilyn Shinyei Darla Muzzerall

Members at large

Avard Woolaver	Page Wakarchuk
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Share the Plate Resumes

The board has decided that since we have more people returning to church on Sundays, it's time to revive the board's *Share The Plate* sub-committee and resume sharing our plate collection with worthy organizations outside our church walls. We will donate to one charity per month.w



The sub-committee comprises non-board member Etta Hamm (from before) and board member Page Wakarchuk. Our mandate is to select the recipient organizations, provide the required information (all found on the internet) to the church treasurer—and to present our selections to the congregation before the offering is taken up on the third Sunday of each month. As much as practical we'll take turns doing these tasks, all the while helping and informing one another. Our selections will include organizations we've donated to in the past as well as new ones.

Here is a small sampling of organizations with whom we shared our plate from January 2018 to February 2020 (some, more than once): the Aphasia Society of NS, Barry House, Big Brothers & Sisters, the Brunswick Street Mission, the Dartmouth North Community Food Centre, East Coast Environmental Law (a climate justice org), the Ecology Action Centre, Family SOS, Hope Blooms, the Hospice Society of Greater Halifax, Out of the Cold, L'Arche Halifax, the Parker Street Food Bank, the Phoenix Youth Project.

Suggestions from congregants are welcome. We'll check to ensure that organizations fall within our official requirements, i.e., that they are a "Registered Canadian Charity" with activities falling within our Eight Principles, and that there is obvious need. Preference is given to local charities/activities.

To encourage congregants to come prepared to give generously (as able, of course), the selected charity will be announced in the Sunday order of service. For tax receipts, envelopes will be provided for your contribution. Many letters of sincere thanks have accompanied organizations' official tax receipts to UUCH. Our giving helps us live into our principles, as these worthy organizations work within theirs.

Etta Hamm, Page Wakarchuk

From the Caring Team



Rev. Ren McFadyen has sent us this happy note:

“Dear family and friends: Last week, in Rochester, MN, I married my best friend and the love of my life, Shelly Rohe. With two friends as witnesses, and my colleague, Rev Luke Stevens-Royer officiating, we were wed in a simple ceremony on October 14th.

Shelly and I have known each other for several years through work with Unitarian Universalist disability groups and events, and had been planning this union for some time.

Next action for us is to apply for Shelly to immigrate to Canada so we can live at our house in Trenton, NS. This may take a long time, so meanwhile we will have cross-border visits and use the time to improve house access.

We hope to have a celebration with friends and family some time next year. More on that event to come. — Love, Ren & Shelly”

Ella Wilson is now living at an adult care home. She would be delighted to receive cards and friendly notes from UU members she has known over the 15 years that she was active at UUCH. Her address is Saint Vincent's Nursing Home, 518–2080 Windsor Street, Halifax, NS, B3K 5B2.

Barbara Harsanyi sends greetings to all, and would love to receive cards, visits and phone calls from UU friends. Barbara's address and phone: Room 314, 3 Centre, 2615 Northwood Terrace, Halifax, NS, B3K 3S5. Phone: 902-493-5678.

Dr. John Baros-Johnson is now again enjoying visits from Irene and Nick following a 14-day period of COVID quarantine on his floor at the QEII Halifax Infirmary.

Sylvia Mattinson
viasyl100@gmail.com

TLC
It's important

From the Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Team

Nocturne (Oct 13-15) included several wonderful exhibits including many by and about Mi'kmaw and Black Nova Scotians. A newspaper clipping dated Nov 29 1783 on display at the Central Library had been transformed by “erasure art” from a dehumanizing ad to a message of empowerment. See below.

~~“RUN away on the 27th inst. a Negro man named Dick (belonging to Mr. Benjamin Douglass, late Ensign in the Kings Carolina Rangers) about five feet eight inches high, stout made, had on when he went away a red coat turn'd up with blue, white waistcoat and breeches, aged about twenty seven years. Whoever will apprehend said Negro and bring him to Mr. Andrew Thomson of Halifax, merchant shall be handsomely rewarded.”~~



El Jones, a well-known local author, poet, black activist, and professor, will launch her new book *Abolitionist Intimacies* on Wednesday, Nov 16th at 7 pm at Alumni Hall, King's Campus, 6350 Coburg Road, Halifax. Jones will be in conversation with Lynn Jones (a life-long human rights activist, speaker and educator), and Damini Awoyiga (a dynamic 15-year old activist, writer and spoken word poet). From the publisher:

“Through characteristically fierce and personal prose and poetry, and motivated by a decade of prison justice work, Jones observes that abolition is not only a political movement to end prisons; it is also an intimate one deeply motivated by commitment and love. “

We hope to see UU members and friends at the launch.

The Reconciliation & Dismantling Racism Committee will meet less often over the coming months. We aim to let congregation members know of cultural events that can deepen our connection with Mi'kmaw and Black communities.

Brian Gifford
for the RDR Team

Commitment Sunday
(a.k.a. Pledge Drive or Canvass Kick-off)
Sunday, November 6 after the service

Cultivating Community is the theme of the 2023 UUCH Pledge Drive.



Come and gather with fellow UUs and friends, enjoy the soup lunch, the live entertainment from our After Choir, and the inspiration that helps us to continue our thriving from year to year to year. Hope to see you there!

Pam Berman
2023 Canvass Organzer

Volunteers needed
for Commitment Sunday, Nov 6



Nov 6th is Commitment Sunday. We will be serving a soup lunch with sweets on that day, and we need volunteers to help us make this happen. What can you bring to the table from the following?

- A pot of soup (meat or vegetarian)
- Bread or rolls
- Sweets (cookies, squares, pie, cake)

Please contact me before Nov 4th.
Your contribution will be very much appreciated!

Faith Piccolo
fapic6@gmail.com

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for contributions for the December newsletter is **Friday, November 25.**



Please send your items to Etta at braeside@eastlink.ca

Church Directory Updates

HARSANYI, Barbara
Room 314, 3 Centre
2615 Northwood Terrace
Halifax, NS B3K 3S5 902-493-5678

WILSON, Ella
St Vincent's Nursing Home
518-2080 Windsor Street
Halifax, NS B3K 5B2



Masks are highly recommended in the sanctuary during Sunday services as COVID rates in Nova Scotia are still high. Let's keep each other safe.



A gentle reminder that out of respect for the sanctity of the Sunday service, we ask you kindly to refrain from drinking coffee in the sanctuary during services. You are welcome to coffee in the reception area following services. Thank you.



From the Climate Crisis Team

The Role of the United Nations

We would normally have celebrated the work of the UN on October 23rd, but we had a different celebration for our congregation that day. However, the work of the United Nations is hugely important for the future of the planet, and we all need to recognize and support its role.

As the only body on earth to which virtually every nation belongs, and which operates in as democratic a fashion as possible, it is the only centre we have for tackling the issues that involve all nations. And we now have the most important issue that humanity has ever experienced - the changing climate.



Annually, for over 27 years, the UN has hosted a Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, now COP27 – which takes place November 6-18 in Egypt.

Here is the UN website <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop27> – that will tell you all about these meetings—who will be there, what the goals are this time, what to look for as the heads of state, ministers and negotiators, as well as thousands of activists, journalists, youth and faith leaders meet and talk.

There is also a Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) website, offering a series of discussions before and during COP27 to make it all more meaningful: https://api.neonemails.com/emails/content/RaF9Bjw_Egb5CZsrWnUEsgaUH34YdRUBSzo_IZXu4as =>

But the UN doesn't just host meetings. They are working in a range of ways to encourage action on all the various pieces of our world that will be affected by a changing climate. One of the most useful for us could be a section of their website called Act Now, <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/> which has a number of ideas that individuals can do to reduce our own greenhouse gases and do our part to fight climate change. Check it out!

***Margaret Galbraith, Leslie Robinson
for the Climate Crisis Team***

Brunch Volunteers Urgently Needed!

UUCH has been offering a Saturday Brunch to neighbours and others in need of food and/or fellowship for over ten years, including moving to a boxed lunch for over two years of public health Covid-19 restrictions.

It takes many hands to cook, set up, serve food, wash dishes, and tear down.

At present we do not have the volunteers to continue on a weekly basis and have already had to cancel once.



(and join in on the fun!)

To volunteer please e-mail Page at
page.r.wakarchuck@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch

Nov 20, 12:15 pm

To join our friendly little group for lunch at the Resolutes Club on November 20 (third Sunday) please contact Shripad or Etta to secure your spot.

Shripad Pendse
shripen@yahoo.ca 902-225-9663

Etta Hamm
braeside@eastlink.ca 902-443-8779



(Anyone?)

We have held a holiday tea and bazaar for many years either on the last Saturday of November or the first Saturday of December. Last year we held it in a reduced format, not offering the former lunch of sweets, sandwiches, tea and coffee.

For newcomers, the bazaar part is formed by people donating gently used items (in good condition) valued at \$5 to \$20 such as:

- Dishes, serveware
- Ornamental items
- Christmas decorations
- Art
- Handknitted wear
- Well-crafted items
- Ladies' or gents' accessories
- Books, like new (fiction, non-f. only)
- Toys in good condition
- NO CLOTHES!

Plus the traditional bake table goodies: Homemade bread, squares, cookies, muffins—jams, jellies & preserves.

For this to happen, we need a team lead and volunteers, *soon*. Shall we get get started?

Please e-mail
president@uuch.ca
if you are interested in
helping in any capacity.



Our New Deck!

Our new deck is (nearly) complete! Here we can gather in community and enjoy our wonderful bounty. What or who inspired this magnificence? Many events, both past and present have done so. The concept of a completely accessible deck came from the lived experiences of our beloved Weitske who constantly made us see our physical surroundings through a lens of accessibility. In her memory, many contributed to the new deck. These photos show the grandness of it all.



As well, the deck was funded by our Building Fund, which itself was founded by bequests from former members of our community who live on in our hearts. Twenty-five years ago, a visionary board and building committee decided that there should be a large deck. That deck, built in 2003, was nearly at the end of its life, and had hosted many coffee hours, barbecues and events.

The stewardship of many people over those years of mending and advocating for replacement, most recently with Rev. Norm Horofker leading the charge and Scott Wood for writing grant proposals which resulted in a disability grant for the deck and other grants to free up funds are other shoulders we stand on.

We must also thank Troy Saulnier for overseeing the construction over the summer and into the fall—and Gary Hillier who volunteered to oversee the removal of the old deck in July.



In truth, the inspiration behind our magnificent new deck comes directly from the love in this community. May it be blessed over many decades with memories and love.

Pam Griffin-Hody
UUCH Board President

If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. ~ Isaac Newton

Photos by Etta; the model, Sylvia

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

October was filled with occasions of gathering and connecting. We started off the month with our first outing of the church year at an apple orchard for apple picking, a light picnic of cider, quiche, and cookies as well as a gratitude ritual in honor of the changing of the seasons.

Children enjoyed climbing the ladders to get the best apples at the top of the trees, and racing in the rows of the orchard.



For Thanksgiving we broke bread in the RE room with cranberry tea and corn bread, as we gave thanks while exploring various gratitude rituals across cultures. The end of the month brings Samhain, and as of this writing, I am gathering tokens of autumn's natural bounty for the upcoming intergenerational All Souls/Samhain service—a wonderful opportunity for youth to participate and witness the recognition and honoring of our ancestors.

As well as the many occasions for celebration in October, we explored the challenges and paths of “Courage”, its connection to vulnerability, compassion and action, and how these paths help us to live into our Eight Principles.

We honored the courage of Indigenous communities in their continued quest for truth and reconciliation. We found the courage to look at our country's past, commemorating the truth of our history as an important part of the path to reconciliation with stories, reflection and beaded bracelets.

Through stories, games and art, we challenged the idea that courage is something only superheroes have, and explored the ways that courage can happen on a grand scale as well as on a smaller day-to-day level. We honored the courage of being true to yourself, examining how our unique identity is a gift, and reflecting on how to use courage to embrace our uniqueness.

With the end of the calendar year fast approaching, I look forward to many more opportunities to gather, celebrate and grow together.

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director
RE Program for Children and Youth

Regular Monthly Meetings		
Group	Recurrence	Group Lead
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Israel Buffardi
Board of Directors	2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm	Pam Griffin-Hody
Building Team	2nd Thursday Time TBA	Troy Saulnier
Caring Team	3rd Tuesday 2:00 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Shared Ministry	3rd Tuesday 4:30 pm	James Morris
Climate Crisis	3rd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
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.		

Kindly asking team leads (or a team member) to let me know (as soon as you know so you won't forget) when you are changing your schedule, and whether the change is for one time only or a permanent change. Thanks!

Etta braeside@eastlink.ca

