



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

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

Sunday services  
start at 10:30 am

Our congregation is  
lay led at present

Jessica Friesen  
Music Director

Pam Griffin-Hody  
Board President

Etta Hamm  
Newsletter Editor

All are welcome



**Welcome to September!** With September we start another UUCH programming year, beginning with our Ingathering Service on September 10. 2023/24 will look a bit different since with the early departure of Rev. Israel Buffardi, we will be lay led.

### **Accessing our services remotely:**

Click here for the [Zoom](#) link which is the same every week. The link can also be found at the top left of our webpage at uuch.ca. ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. Or you can watch the service (live or later) at: [UUCH-YouTube](#)

**An invitation from the Worship Team:** The Worship Team would love to welcome new members. The Worship team looks after planning the services, but you won't be forced to lead a service unless you feel called to do so. The upcoming meeting is on Tuesday the 12th at 7 pm. Please contact Pam Griffin-Hody or Mary Lu MacDonald if you are interested.

## **Services this Month**

### **September 3 – Labour and Protest Music Sing-along**

On the day before Labour Day, join us for a mostly music service as we explore labour and protest songs, most of which are in our hymnbooks. We will also share personal reflections on the songs we sing. **Pam Griffin-Hody**, former President of CUPE 2424, will facilitate.

### **September 10 – Ingathering**

Together we will reflect on community and welcoming, our theme for September. You are invited to bring some water and stones with you to participate in a ritual of ingathering to mark the start of our programming year.

### **September 17 – Search!**


Our ministerial search committee will lead today's service.

### **September 24 – Keeping Faith in a Time of Climate Change**

The Rev. Charles Bull, a retired Anglican priest, will be our guest speaker today. He will engage the congregation on the uncomfortable topic of climate change, and a realistic hope that empowers us to be a force for good.

**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.**

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:30 am service Protest Songs	4 Labour Day 	5	6	7 First day of school  7:00 pm Online gathering	8	9  5:45 pm Singalong at St.Andrews
10 10:30 am Ingathering Service 	11.	12  Noon to 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch  7 pm Worship meeting (see front page)	13	14  7:00 pm Online gathering	15 12:30 Global Climate Strike, Grand Parade  Evening: Rosh Hashanah begins. Ends Sunday at sundown.	16
17 10:30 am service Search committee presenting  Noon: Humanist Group	18	19  Noon to 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch	20	21  7:00 pm Online gathering	22	23  First day of fall 
24 10:30 am service Guest speaker, Rev. Charles Bull	25	26 Newsletter Deadline   Noon to 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch	27	28  7:00 pm Online gathering	29	30    Orange Shirt Day  Tomrrow Treaty Day

## Notes

- We are not showing committee meeting dates in this issue. Committee chairs, please inform your members of meeting dates.
- Due to an insurmountable software problem, two pages show large blank spaces that could not be filled. We apologize for this but no crucial information is missing.

## Notes from Pam



Anglican Church, Grand Manan

I am writing this from a motel room in Grand Manan, New Brunswick where I am visiting my aunt. Through my window I see, across the road, an Anglican church on a hill. It is that church, that my parents were married in; it is that church that as an infant, I was brought to from Halifax to be christened; and it is in that church that my grandmother played the organ and my grandfather mowed the lawn of the graveyard where they and my parents lie.

I'm never as close to my roots as I am on this island. I've never lived here. My parents left in 1940, my 16 year-old mother heading off to secretarial school in Saint John with my 18 year-old father following her like a besotted puppy dog. In 1943, newly married, and my father in the Air Force, they moved to Halifax; but Grand Manan was always considered "home". Halifax is my home and I've spent most of my 60+ years within a few blocks of 5500 Inglis. But Grand Manan holds me close and when I'm here there's a very odd feeling of being "home" in this place my parents left 83 years ago.

UUCH will undertake its own journey this year without a minister for the first time in over a decade. We didn't expect to be without a minister in this second year of the between-settled-ministers period; the unsettled period, if you will. But to be unsettled can be a good thing, an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and where we want to journey as a community together.

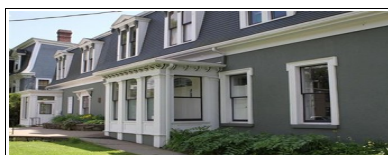
Our Search Committee has been meeting this summer to start their work. Our Worship Committee has been meeting to plan a year of lay led services. Our Caring Committee is planning their work with no minister. Our Fellowship Team is planning various activities to strengthen us as a community. Our Board is working with all our community.

Just as my journey is a long way from that little wooden church on an island hill, so too is UUCH's journey from a group of people who met over coffee (it had to have been coffee) in the fall of 1837 to talk about the message of universal salvation and the teachings of Hosea Ballou who later built the magnificent Church of the Redeemer on Brunswick Street (shown here). Those are our roots and the memory of that community still holds us close.



This is the year for us to define who we are and where we want to travel on our journey together. This is the year where we will find our wings.

**Pam Griffin-Hody**  
**UUCH Board President**



*"roots hold me close, wings set me free"*

## Retreat, Aug 19: The Report



On Saturday, August 19, we met as a community in retreat for the first time since 2019. There were nearly 30 in attendance -- nearly half of our entire membership!

Joe Britta led us in small groups, which later came together, to first establish the **current view (CV)** of ourselves, and then to take this and work out a **radical view (RV)** of where we would like to take ourselves. In the afternoon, the board met in retreat to take these views and to start establishing priorities, a working plan, for 2023-24.

There were many commonalities within the small groups and then the larger groups. The **current view (CV)** helped us to see what we are.

Many of these were seen as **our strengths**:

- Love
- Community
- Diversity
- Inclusivity
- Spirituality and Humanism
- Music
- Questioning and the search for truth
- Refugee work

There were **some common fears**:

- Loss of our community builders, our elders
- The unknown future
- Decreasing number of active volunteers
- Finances and keeping the lights on
- Dispersed congregation

And some clear **issues that need to be addressed**:

- Classism (the assumption that all members of our congregation are educated and well off)

- Disconnect between governance and the congregation.

All of these were taken back into the small groups to answer three questions to establish the **radical view (RV)**:

**What can we be?**

- Charging station for activists (but activism is not a requirement)
- Happy place
- An open, safe, accepting place to explore beliefs (spiritual or not)

**What do we want to do?**

- Make volunteer roles less cumbersome.
- Ask ourselves "why are we here? and why would others want to come here?"
- More fellowship and more fun
- Get rid of guilt and commitments.
- Revisit church language
- Host a hub of activities.
- Think about marketing and claim our identity.
- Central coordination (admin, leader)

**What do we need to be?**

- Welcoming ambassadors
- BIGGER – more people
- Focused
- Retention through engagement

The Board took all these conversations and through the afternoon discussed ways and means.

**In the near future, look to see:**

- More social/fellowship activities planned for all demographics and interests.
- Clear movement on the church naming conversation
- Revitalization of RE (children and adults)

*Details to follow.*

**Submitted by Pam Griffin-Hody**

## From the Caring Committee

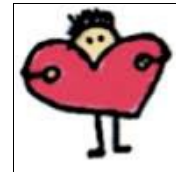


We are sad to report that **Marie Davis**, age 95, died peacefully at Northwood on August 9th, with her children and special friends at her side and much love surrounding her. As she said, she'd had a long and happy life and was ready to go. Marie was a true pleasure to spend time with. We extend our sympathies to her children, Glenda and Arthur and family.

Marie was an active member of UU congregations in Toronto and Montreal and became a long-standing active member of our own UUCH after she, Barry and the children relocated to Dartmouth in the late 1960s. Marie continued her early childhood education and community building work here and was proud to be a 'Raging Granny' involved in advocacy including the fights for women's, children's and environmental rights. She was a strong supporter of Dying with Dignity and was pleased to avail herself of medical assistance in dying (Maid).

A Celebration of Life is planned for 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 7th at UUCH. Marie's detailed obituary can be found at [www.coleharbourfuneral.com](http://www.coleharbourfuneral.com) where online condolences may be left for her family.

The August newsletter included information about the results of the disastrous floods in Lr. Sackville in late July whereby the home of **Katherine and Adam Hutka and their family, shared with Sarah Bent and her family**, was so damaged it was unlivable.



Katherine has reported that Sarah and family are now settling in their new "nearly perfect" home in time for the beginning of the school year. Katherine and her family however, are still staying with family until power can be restored in late September. The good news is that, after a month of not knowing, the insurance company has confirmed that they will cover the cost of restoration of their home. Good news indeed!

Katherine thanks everyone at UUCH who, through our "sharing the plate" over two Sundays, donated funding to support the two families' immediate needs, and adds, "We feel the care and the love from our UU community and it means so much to us."

Lastly, I'm sorry to report that our talented **newsletter editor, Etta**, has caught a bad case of the dreaded COVID. So if the newsletter is a little late (or under par in quality, she says) you'll know why. Feel better soon, Etta!

**Sylvia Mattinson**  
**Chair**



## From the Climate Crisis Team

### *Updates and Action*

We have all witnessed, and perhaps personally suffered from, the devastating effects of the fossil-fuelled climate crisis as it has played out over the last few months here in Halifax, let alone across the country. We have had forest fires before and floods, but the dramatic swings between drought and drenching rain, and the ferocity of the resulting catastrophic events is frightening. We are now living in the era of man-made climate change.

But you all know that. Many of us feel rage and grief at the losses, the devastation, the personal tragedies and the destruction of whole ecosystems. There is a feeling of hopelessness and despair, but we are human. We can take action and do our best to mitigate the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

There are many small actions we can take to change our own lifestyles, and a number of ways to influence the governments who must take the larger actions we need. Two of them are listed below.

*At the provincial level:*

#### **Provide your input on building code regulations!**

You may never have thought much about building code regulations unless you have been involved in building your own home. However, they are a very important piece of the process of reducing the carbon emissions of buildings and also limiting the energy required to run them. As the Energy Action Centre describes it “the province is inviting written comments on proposed amendments to the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations, due by September 29, 2023. These are part of the province’s commitment to adopt a net-zero energy-ready model building code by 2030”. However, the proposed changes will only bring the standards to Tier 3 of Canada’s 2020 National Building Codes, and the province must adopt Tier 5 by 2030 to achieve the net-zero energy ready model building code. The EAC has a position paper with more information about why we need all five tiers which you can access [here](#) -- and then send in your comments to the Office of the Fire Marshal who has the responsibility for building policies: [ofm@novascotia.ca](mailto:ofm@novascotia.ca)

*At the think globally, act locally level:*

#### **Global Climate Strike Friday September 15, 12:30, Grand Parade**

Let us all join the youth of School Strike 4 Climate and their allies to let our leaders at all levels of government know that we need them to take even more action to address the climate crisis. It is clearly affecting us here in Nova Scotia and it needs to be addressed. Information is on the Facebook page [here](#).

***Margaret Galbraith  
for the Climate Crisis Team***

## Two New Fellowship Activities



*Sojourners  
Pop-Up  
Outings*

As announced recently, UUCH Fellowship is creating a distribution list of members and friends who want to get together occasionally for social outings. Please email me at [Linda-Cherry@att.net](mailto:Linda-Cherry@att.net) if you want to be on this list. Then anyone who discovers an interesting event or activity can distribute the details to the list inviting others to join them. It will be that simple.

The first Sojourners Pop-Up will be the Halifax Fringe Festival's Newcomer Choir Sing-Along on **Saturday, Sept 9, at 6 pm, St. Andrews United Church**. Publicity says: All are welcome to join The Unnatural Disaster Theatre Co. and The Halifax Newcomer's Choir -- to listen or sing along -- to some amazing choral music at a casual, community building, sing-along event open to all ages whether you are a newcomer, a local, or anywhere in between. Digital sheet music will be provided for those who would like it, but no music experience is required! Tickets are \$5-10. Get them [here!](#) Meet outside St. Andrew's at 5:45 to sit together. There are eateries on nearby Spring Garden if folks are hungry after the event. And don't forget to sign up for the distribution list so that we won't be clogging UUinfo with announcements.

### Tuesday Lunch Bunch

Regularly-scheduled *Bring-your-own bag lunch get-togethers* are planned for Tuesdays from noon to 1:30 at UUCH beginning Sept. 12. No agenda, just *how's your spirit today* check-ins and a conversation topic. We'll start with weekly gatherings and see how that schedule works.



**Fellowship Contact:**  
***Linda-cherry@att.net***

## From the Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee meets at least once each year, and we got together in August for the 2023 meeting. All committee members (Kathy Anthony, Margaret Galbraith, Danielle Saulnier, and I) attended. The endowment fund holds around \$130,000 now. Our discussion covered a number of topics related to the endowment and the role it may be able to play in helping UUCH move forward with our mid-range and long-term goals. The cushion our endowment provides is another of our congregation's many strengths. We are fortunate to have this reserve; the current committee members are deeply grateful to those who launched it, and to all who have contributed to it.



**Martha Wilson**  
**Chair**

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions  
for the October newsletter is

**Tuesday, September 26th.**

Please send your articles to Etta at

[braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)

## From the Reconciliation and Dismantling Committee

**Becoming allies** Some of our members volunteered at the North American Indigenous Games July 15-23, and shared their experiences and reflections on being an ally at the August 27 service. Their reports varied but all said it was a rewarding experience and concluded that “showing up” is the key to being an ally.

**Africville Reunion** Other UUCH members attended the open air church service that is part of the annual Africville Reunion July 30, and again welcomed the chance to be present for this event, important to members of the African Nova Scotian community in HRM. An interesting and enjoyable event.

**Next meeting** The Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism committee will meet September 8 to plan the October 1 service about **Orange Shirt Day, Sept 30**, and **Treaty Day, October 1**.

### Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day (always September 30th) was started in 2013 in Lake Williams, BC, to commemorate the children forced to attend Residential Schools. Eight years later, in June 2021, it



was declared a national statutory holiday, which coincides with the Day for Truth and Reconciliation. A new orange shirt is designed each year. Pictured here is this year's design bearing the message

“Every Child Matters”. See [orangeshirtday.org](http://orangeshirtday.org) to learn the story of how it started and about this year's design.

**Treaty Day, October 1** Treaty Day was established in the 1752 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between colonialists and the Mi'kmaw people. It marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia as proclaimed in 1993 by Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. See Treaty Day events [here](#). The link includes the poster for Mi'kmaq History Month. In 2022 it showed us how to pronounce the words *Treaty Day*, *September*, and *October* in Mi'kmaw.

**Brian Gifford**  
for the RDR Committee

## UUCH Board of Directors

### Officers

President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Vice-president	Joe Britto
Past President	Troy Saulnier
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Treasurer	TBF

### Members at large

Avard Woolaver	Mary Frances Lynch
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## Global Climate Strike at the Grand Parade Friday September 15, 12:30

Let us all join the *Youth School Strike for Climate* and their allies to let our leaders at all levels of government know that we need them to take even more action to address the climate crisis, which is clearly affecting us here in Nova Scotia. Let's be heard in large numbers!



