



## Welcome to October

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

October 22nd brings us the first service in a series of six online services we will enjoy over the next six months from different Canadian UU ministers. The remainder of services will be held in our sanctuary.

To access our services remotely click this [Zoom](#) link which is the same every week. The link can also be found at the top left of our web page at uuch.ca. ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch the service live (or later) at [UUCH-YouTube](#)

## Services this Month

### October 1 – A Mi'kmaq Perspective on Treaty Day

On Treaty Day in Nova Scotia, we honour our collective commitment to the Peace and Friendship treaties of the 18th century. Today we welcome guest speaker Sulia'n William Johnson to share his perspective as one Mi'kmaq man on the meaning of "Treaty" and how we can live with it today.

### October 8 – Complaints, Compliments and Community: A Thanksgiving Conversation

Join Mary Lu MacDonald and Pam Griffin-Hody in a conversation about the ways in which an intentional community is like a family and the ways in which it is not.

### October 15 – Search!

Our Ministerial Search Committee will lead today's service. They will present findings from the Congregational Survey and invite responses to the conclusions it is drawing from the data.

### October 22 (online) – Meaning Making in Liminal Times: Can We Give What We Get?

Saskatoon Unitarians and six UU Ministers are hosting a series on "Meaning Making in Liminal Times" from October 2023 to April 2024. Loss and change have diminished our feelings of well-being and amplified anxiety. How does our Unitarian Universalist faith sustain us? What commonly held values can we call on to inform our responses and provide some ease? Speakers: Rev. Debra Faulk and Rev. Danielle Webber.

### October 29 – The Enterprise of Community

Join Joe Britto, our Service Leader today, for a spirited service about community and our collective part in building and maintaining it.








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

# October 2023

## MI'KMAW

### HISTORY MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 am Treaty Day guest speaker Sulia'n William Johnson	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Noon Lunch Bunch	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  7-8 pm Online gathering	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch  
<b>8</b> 10:30 am Service	<b>9</b> 3:00 pm   Thanksgiving Potluck	<b>10</b>  Noon Lunch Bunch  7 pm Worship Team meeting	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm Board meeting	<b>12</b>  7-8 pm Online gathering	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  10 – 11:30 am Brunch
<b>15</b> 10:30 am Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Noon Lunch Bunch  7 pm Caring Team meeting	<b>18</b>  7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	<b>19</b>  7-8 pm Online gathering	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch  
<b>22</b> 10:30 am Online Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Newsletter Deadline   Noon: Lunch Bunch		<b>27</b>  7-8 pm Online gathering	<b>28</b>  10 – 11:30 am Brunch	
<b>29</b> 10:30 am Service  Noon SAGM	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Noon Lunch Bunch  	Please note that not all monthly meeting dates and times are shown on the calendar.			



## Notes from Pam . . .

Sometimes when I write these notes I am inspired by the view from my window, which on that side of my house is very rural, trees, a creek, a lake. I can easily delude myself into forgetting that new houses are being built on the other side of my house and in new subdivisions behind. I can easily forget that I am frequently being woken up by the sound of heavy equipment as a house is being built next door only a few meters from my driveway.

So much change.

In fact, as I write this, I'm in the office at 5500 Inglis where none of the neighbouring houses are younger than 100, and this house is 200. And I'm pondering heritage and what that means.



On Thursday, September 28, the city installed this municipal heritage plaque on the front of this house, commemorating it as the "Tremaine House, 1823" (words indiscernible in the photograph's dark space). Jonathan Tremaine was the

man who originally built the house in the early 1800s. This was the outskirts of the city then, and he ran a rope factory on Bland Street. Mr. Tremaine's ropeworks didn't last long, coming nearly at the end of the age of sail (not to mention the dwindling needs of the British Navy following the Napoleonic Wars) but his name will remain.

Shown above right are Heather Watts and me standing below the plaque just after it was installed. Heather, our archivist and historian, compiled and wrote the booklet "On the Road From Freshwater Bridge" that tells the story of our building's beginnings—and "Universalism in Nova Scotia" mentioned on the following page.

September/October is such a crossover time. Most of September still feels like summer. And then, with little notice, it starts to change. I close windows that have been open for months. I start to dress more warmly in the evenings. I light a fire. The trees are changing colours.

Just as the seasonal changes continue to both surprise and awe us each year as though we are seeing them for the first time, at 5500 Inglis, we



return to our regular programming year. And we discover firsthand, the resilience of our community.

On the first Sunday of September, dedicated to music, our Music Director was home sick. The Afterchoir stepped in with only a few hours' notice; we sang some songs completely acapella, and we had a lot of fun while still having a spiritual connection with each other and with ourselves. Our Ingathering on the 10th furthered our connection to one another – and we "winged it" on the 17th due to post-storm recovery issues that prevented our entire Search Committee from attending their own service! These 'rescues' show us what we can do with imagination, compassion, creativity and love -- in the moment.

For many years, we have had many discussions about the word "church". It has become increasingly clear that the will of the collective is to rid ourselves of the word "church" and to use something short and pithy that will be welcoming.

Starting at Ingathering, we started trying out a new name. I like to call this a "common usage" name. We aren't planning on legally changing our name from "Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax" but we have been trying out "Halifax Unitarians" following some discussion and a quick and dirty straw poll on "Halifax Unitarians" at our August retreat.

Of course, that's a big step. And an incredible step filled with passion, imagination, and creativity. We need more than a straw poll. We need to formally vote on a name, even a common usage name. That

*continued on next page . . .*

## Notes from Pam . . .

name is the one that we will be using on social media, on signage outside our building, and in conversation with Haligonians.

When we were writing the formal motion to be presented at SAGM, some of us pondered the word “Universalist”. There wasn’t any real discussion about that, and any talk of the word “church” only appeared to conclude that a simple change from “church” to *congregation* or *fellowship* would still be problematic.

When you receive the motion for the SAGM, there will be two choices, one of which will retain the word “Universalist” (possibly just as UU).

History is important. Words are important. I just reread the first couple of chapters and the last in Heather Watts’ book “Universalism in Nova Scotia”. (There are several copies in the office and library if you want to read it). This faith, this liberal religion, in Halifax, has as its origins: a group of people, moved by faith that had little to do with a fear of divine punishment, combined with a desire to serve the community fought against great odds and great prejudices in the early 19th century just to exist. The more I think about it, it feels disrespectful to wipe them out in the common usage of what we call ourselves. I think Halifax UUs might serve the modernity of usage as well as keeping the faith with our Universalists ancestors in this city.

My own research into the churches we find as calling themselves XX Unitarians (Vancouver and Calgary) were originally Unitarian churches. UU Estrie was originally (and still legally) the Universalist Church of North Hatley. (They have a very well-done history of Unitarianism and Universalism on their website if anyone is interested in going down my rabbit holes; see <https://uuestrie.ca/about/history/>).

There are many reasons why we want to change our name, firstly to get rid of the word “church” which is a source of unease to many, both inside and outside our community. Secondly, to change the common usage name is to remove barriers and to talk to Halifax. We have been talking (and have had some difficult conversations) with Halifax since 1837, as Universalists.

So yes, I am leaning one way; but I’m only one vote. When the motion options are sent through UUInfo, read them, and ponder the options.

Come to the SAGM the 29th prepared to vote and to debate, or at least offer your opinion. It’s an important decision, one that will be made by the will of the members of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax. I also stress that although only official members

can vote, all voices are welcome.

**Pam Griffin-Hody**  
**President, UUCH Board of Directors**



### **The Semi-annual General Meeting of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax will be held at noon on Sunday, October 29.**

The meeting will conduct the following business:

1. Business arising from the minutes of the May 2023 Annual General Meeting.
2. Receive and approve reports from the various officers and committees.
3. Adoption of a budget for the 2024 calendar year.
4. Adoption of the Annual Financial Campaign.
5. Motion to change the common usage name of UUCH.
6. Changes to the Board (new Treasurer and Secretary).
7. Other business as may be raised before or at the meeting.

Reports should be sent to [president@uuch.ca](mailto:president@uuch.ca) by October 19.

We will have a limited number of paper copies of the agenda and reports at the meeting.

The reports and agenda will be sent electronically before the meeting.

The meeting will be also available by Zoom.

Members-only vote on motions, but non-members are most welcome to attend.

**Pam Griffin-Hody, President**  
**(for the Secretary)**  
**UUCH Board of Directors**

## Ministerial Search Committee Needs Your Survey Completed!



The deadline to respond to the Ministerial Search Congregational Survey is Sunday midnight, **October 1**.

Your link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HUMinisterSearch>

*Paper copies* of the survey, for those who need them, are in the drawer of the welcome table in the ballroom. Please leave completed paper surveys with Mary Lu, or in the office mailbox by close of business October 1.

As of September 27 we had received 30 responses. The number is increasing, but we need many more to consider the findings representative of the entire congregation.

Thank you from the Search Committee to those who have and who will participate in this vital component of the search for a contract minister.

We look forward to sharing the findings with you on October 15.

**Ministerial Search 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

## Volunteer Opportunities!



There are many opportunities to volunteer here. Working together is what makes us a beloved community.

As a lay-led congregation, our most urgent need for volunteers are with:

### The Caring Committee

(Lead, Sylvia Mattinson)

- Visiting people in long term care
- Driving people to appointments
- Talking on the phone to members and friends in need
- Baking, cooking where help is needed
- Helping at Celebrations of Life

### The Building Committee

- People who can do odd jobs in the building
- People who know the difference between an odd job and a project

### Worship Committee

(Lead, Mary Lu MacDonald)

- Help to plan lay led worship services
- Assist in services
- Act as Service Leader

### Fellowship and Membership

(Lead, Linda Cherry)

- Greeters on Sunday morning
- Coffee maker(s) for Sundays

No one has to do *everything* on any of these committees; but if you can help in any way, please contact the lead or Pam Griffin-Hody at [president@uuch.ca](mailto:president@uuch.ca)



## **HALIFAX UNITARIANS/SAH TEAM ARE HIRING!**

### **Office Administrator / Refugee Sponsorship Assistant**

#### **Job Description**

1. To carry out UUCH office administration tasks.
2. Work with refugee sponsorship groups both pre and post-arrival, as well as monitoring newcomer groups.

#### **Hours**

20 hours per week, at least 15 of which are to be spent at UUCH.

#### **Qualifications**

Good English verbal and writing skills, computer literate, good with social media, attention to detail, cross-cultural understanding, and commitment to ongoing learning and development.

#### **To apply**

Send resume and cover letter to [molly.hurd@gmail.com](mailto:molly.hurd@gmail.com)

**Deadline to apply:** October 5, 2023

**Starting date:** October 10, 2023

UUCH commits to paying the Living Wage for Halifax (CCPA-NS, 2023)

#### **Our Mission**

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

## From the Climate Crisis Team



Strong winds are blowing and it's not just those autumn gusts. At a recent Climate Crisis Team meeting, there was a buzz about new wind energy projects in the province. During my career in communications I've had the opportunity to work as a community engager on wind projects, first with a local private developer and now as a consultant with Nova Scotia Power. There is a lot that goes into developing these projects, from assessing the resource, to engineering design, financing, environmental permitting, community and Mi'kmaq engagement, and more. A wind project takes years to develop before shovels break ground, and some never make it that far.

The provincial government has set a goal of **80% clean energy by 2030** as part of the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act. Wind energy will be part of that mix, along with solar, battery storage, and a new large transmission line (called the NS-NB Reliability Intertie) that will connect Nova Scotia to New Brunswick and tap into other sources of energy.

So where are we right now with wind development in Nova Scotia? There are projects under development "onshore" plus ambitions for future offshore wind. Over the last year, **we saw the award of five low-cost onshore wind projects that will provide up to 12% of our total electricity consumption and each of these projects will be majority-owned by one or more Mi'kmaq communities.** Most of these projects now have approved Environmental Assessments and will be providing energy by 2025. Learn more here: <https://novascotiarbp.com/updates>.

Another way for onshore wind developers (and solar ones too) to develop their projects is through the

province's new **Green Choice Program** which will give large energy users the ability to buy power directly from a new batch of renewable energy projects. Projects approved under this program would be up and running by end of 2027 and we won't know the winners until some time in 2024/2025. See <https://novascotiagcp.com/home>

While there are already over 300 onshore wind turbines in Nova Scotia, offshore wind is a new opportunity for Nova Scotia and is only starting to get a lot of attention. The provincial government released a draft **Offshore Wind Roadmap** in May and announced a goal to offer sea-bed licenses for 5 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2030. For perspective, 1 GW of offshore wind can power ~ 750,000 homes. This electricity could be used regionally to meet our clean energy needs or exported elsewhere if converted to green hydrogen. It is still early days for offshore wind, but the NS government is currently consulting with Mi'kmaq communities, the fishing industry and the broader public and is planning to release information on the offshore wind supply chain by Fall 2024.

A wind developer, *Nova East Wind*, recently announced plans to develop an offshore project off Goldboro, NS; however, they are very early in the process and there is still a lot that must happen before a project like this becomes a reality. Currently, the federal and provincial governments are working to establish a regional environmental impact assessment process for these new offshore wind projects and extensive community and Indigenous consultation has yet to occur, so it will be years yet before we could see wind turbines offshore.

As a congregation, we can learn more about the new offshore wind sector (perhaps an upcoming guest speaker?!) and maybe even participate in engagement sessions for the industry. Stay tuned to the wind!

**Mary Frances Lynch**  
**for the Climate Crisis Team**



**POTLUCK**

**Monday, October 9 at 3 pm**

Our new *Tuesday Lunch Bunch* will host this year's Thanksgiving celebration on Monday, Oct. 9. There is a sign-up sheet near the fireplace in the sanctuary for: number in your party, meal contributions, and volunteer help with set-up, take-down, clean-up, etc.

Please provide your information by Tuesday, Oct. 3. If you need a suggestion, I'm told there is rarely too much mashed potatoes and gravy. Thanks to Faith, Mary Lu and Marilyn for handling the gobblers.

Don't or can't cook? We always need butter, dinner rolls, juice, pickles, cranberry sauce, pies and coffee cream.

If you won't be in the building by Oct. 3, you can email your number, contribution and volunteer offer to me.

Unless something unexpected precludes doing it, we will set up tables in the sanctuary and ballroom on Oct. 8 after the Sunday service. Volunteers will be needed for that.

Dinner seating is planned for 3 o'clock. Please arrive a bit earlier with your meal contributions ready to place on the serving tables – and retrieve your serving dishes as they are emptied. Also remember to bring a take-home container for a share of any leftovers.

Listen for any other details during Sunday service announcements on Oct. 1 and 8.

Thanks!

**Linda Cherry**  
[linda-cherry@att.net](mailto:linda-cherry@att.net)



**November 25?  
Or December 2?**

**Hold these dates  
until we decide!**

We have held a holiday tea and bazaar for many years either on the last Saturday of November or the first Saturday of December. It's our major fundraiser

For the past couple of years, due to Covid, we held it in a reduced format, not offering the former lunch of sweets, sandwiches, tea and coffee. We think it might be time to bring back the lunch aspect of this fundraiser.

The bazaar part is a collection of gently used household items, accessories, toys, arts, etc. We also have a huge book table (only fiction and non-fiction) and no clothes. Sometimes, we have handcrafted items (like knitwear). As well, we have traditional bake table goodies: Homemade bread, squares, cookies, muffins—jams, jellies & preserves. Anything you can freeze you can start baking now!

So...start putting your stuff aside. We start collecting about a week before the bazaar.

Watch UUInfo for more information and how to volunteer.



Following the congregational retreat and the board retreat that followed, the *current and radical* views were put into some concrete "dos":

- The return of Soulful Sundown, November or December
- The return of Coffee House in February
- The Holiday Bazaar and Lunch
- More Pop-Up fellowship opportunities
- Christmas Candlelight Service, Dec 17



## From the Caring Committee



With sorrow we report the death of **Elinor Egar-Reynolds** on September 17th, surrounded by her family. She will be deeply missed by her seven surviving children, two grandchildren and six siblings, as well as her many friends.

Elinor and her husband John Reynolds moved from Ireland to Canada in 1957, lived in various locations across Canada, and settled in Halifax in 1996.

Elinor was a loving, caring person, and a force of nature. While she kept her family at the centre of her life, she was also a rebel with many causes which she pursued with diligence and determination. These included the Voice of Women, Raging Grannies, Council of Canadians, and the Ecology Action Centre. She joined the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax in 2016 and was an active supporter of its activities, especially those related to climate change and social justice.

I spoke with Elinor a few days before her death; she told me she loved UUCH and sent her love to us all.

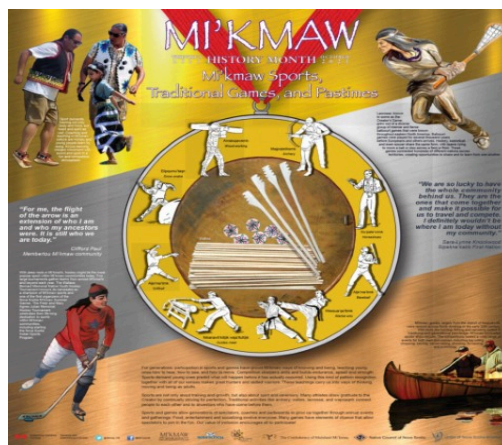
A celebration of Elinor's life will be held in the spring at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax.

**Keeping in touch:** At our last meeting we decided to contact a few people whom we haven't heard from in a while to see how they are doing, so you may hear from us. We would also welcome a call or an email from anyone who may need some assistance or who would be willing to assist others in the UU community.

**Sylvia Mattinson**  
**Caring Committee Chair**

*Kindness changes everything.*

## Mi'kmaw History Month



Immediately following Orange Shirt day on the last day of September we celebrate Treaty Day on October 1st, ushering in Mi'kmaw History Month which is celebrated throughout the month.

Our Sunday service on Treaty Day will provide a chance to reflect on the Mi'kmaw experience with a talk by Sulia'n William Johnson who Margaret met at the North American Indigenous Games in July.

This year's poster celebrates traditional Mi'kmaw sports and pastimes, appropriately enough following the Games.

This is an excellent time to learn about Mi'kmaw history, culture and current issues facing Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw First Nations.

Websites featuring history and October event listings:

- The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre  
<https://mymnfc.com/>
- Membertou First Nation in Cape Breton  
<https://membertou.ca/mikmaq-history-month/>
- The Halifax Public Libraries  
<https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/local-and-family-history/mikmaw-history-culture/>

Members of the Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Team encourage you to take in some of this month's events, and reflect on our history together as residents of this unceded Mi'kmaw territory that we all cherish.

**Brian Gifford**  
**for the RDR Committee**

## Thursday Night Online Gatherings



Now that summer is over and our usual lives are back, why not join us for a break from everything else and take in a casual, usually light-hearted, free flowing conversation with friendly UUs? It's every Thursday night from 7 to 8 pm.

Click here for the Zoom code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85223268277?pwd=QTRRcTQ3eC9qbXdHMDJMUDZuMFJFZz09>

We'd love to see new faces and hear what's on your mind.



## Humanism Is Not Newfangled

Humanist thought and practice have been around for centuries. Irene will lead a review and reflection on the past and movements into the present after the Sunday service on **October 15th**. Curiosity is welcome.

*Contacts: Mary Lu, Linda*

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the November newsletter is **Tuesday, October 24th**.



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

## More from the Climate Crisis Team

Did you hear Rev. Charles Bull's inspiring presentation on Sunday the 24th: "Keeping Faith in a Time of Climate Change"? It is available on our UUCH YouTube channel if you missed it. He has called us to move beyond despair to action, when we are ready, and there are many actions we can all take. One is educating ourselves; you can learn about the growth in renewable energy as described in Mary-Frances Lynch's article on wind turbines elsewhere in this newsletter.



Another action is to join our own Climate Crisis Team. We work to help the congregation take action in a variety of ways, from various household tips for lowering emissions, to supporting progressive legislation at all government levels, to engaging speakers who are knowledgeable on a range of relevant topics. We currently have only four active members, and one is due to have a baby at any minute! Please feel free to contact me for more information.

**Margaret Galbraith**

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

## CUC eNews

The Canadian Unitarian Council's eNews is the digital monthly newsletter of the CUC, connecting and informing Canada's Unitarian Universalists on events of regional and national interest. Once you subscribe to eNews you may be amazed to discover the depth and breadth of CUC values, its proactive social justice advocacy, its commitment of support to its 44+ member congregations—plus the many learning and self-development opportunities it offers to members through online sessions.



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**"Interdependence. Love. Justice"**



*Halifax Public Gardens*