



Theme for April 2019: Emergence

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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uuchurch@eastlink.ca
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Office hours
Tues, Wed, Fri, 10-3
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon, Wed, Fri, 10-3
Lunch-12 to 1pm

Interim RE Director
Marie-Claude Leroux

Margaret Galbraith
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

April 7 Covenant: At the Heart of It

Sometimes people ask me how Unitarian Universalist congregations can function when we don't share a theology. My answer is covenant. Of course, the next step is asking ourselves what that means and how we make it part of our congregational life.

Presenter: Rev. Linda Thomson*; Service Assistant: Troy Saulnier

*Rev. Linda is the CUC's Congregational Life Lead for Central & Eastern Canada.

April 14 Changing Cultural Norms around Death

In keeping with the theme of Emergence this month, I would suggest that new views are emerging around death. As UUs we have been on the cutting edge of changing how our culture deals with death. Is there still a role for us to play in continuing that change? Presenter: Marilyn Shinyei; Service Leader: Mary Lu MacDonald

April 21 Easter Sunday and the Eve of Earth Day – A Hopeful Time

In recognition of Easter, the Christian celebration of rebirth, of Earth Day on April 22nd, and of the actual return of spring to Nova Scotia—this service will reflect on our current climate realities, the state of the environmental movement, and the possibility of hope. Please come! Presenter: Susan Stevens*; Service Leader: Dean White

*Susan Stephen is a former member of this church, a former organic farmer, and a recently trained Climate Reality Leader. She splits her time between Nova Scotia and Nebraska.

April 28 A Young Adults* Perspective on Emergence

Sometimes our expectations and underpinning beliefs can be shattered, but from the pieces something new, something perhaps imperfect, but something beautiful can emerge. Presenter: Young Adults; Service Leader: Jean-François Turcotte

*Our Young Adult group has been meeting bi-weekly at the church since January of 2018. Come and show your encouragement and support.

Theme for May: Creativity

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.



APRIL 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April Fools Day 	2	3 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	4 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	5	6 10 am-noon Neighbourhood Brunch Congregational meeting. Time TBA
7	8 9 pm Young Adult Check-in	9	10 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	11 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board meeting	12	13 10 am-noon Neighbourhood Brunch
14	15	16	17 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	18 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	19 Passover begins	20 10 am-noon Neighbourhood Brunch
21  Noon: Humanist Group	22 	23	24 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	25 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	26	27 10 am-noon Neighbourhood Brunch Passover ends
28	29 Noon: Newsletter deadline	30				

Special Congregational Conversation, Saturday April 6

Our congregation needs your participation in an important conversation to be held Saturday afternoon, April 6. Watch for more details, start time, etc.

As part of our minister's sabbatical month, Reverend Linda Thomson from the Canadian Unitarian Council has accepted Norm's invitation to come to Halifax and meet with the Board and with the congregation to explore where we are in our journey as a faith community. This will help Norm and the Board to shape our programs and services as we go forward.

Please attend this session if at all possible to support our minister and our Board in their important work.

UUCH Board of Directors

Minister's Notes



Anticipating Sabbatical

I just turned 70... some would say I am an old man, and some would say 70 is the new 50. Whatever your perspective, 70 is a milestone year. At 70 I am more aware now of the beauty of life, of the fleeting nature of our lives and of the mystery of it all. I am more thrilled by the potential of youth than I was as a youth... and I am more respectful and loving toward seniors than I have ever been. The journey from birth to death is all that we have, and the lucky ones, like me, get the total experience.

My default response to the wonder-filled opportunities that our short life provides has been to try to pack as much doing into every day as I possibly can. Time is precious and to spend a day without accomplishing something makes me uncomfortable. Despite that, it happens a lot... like everyone else I run out of energy from time to time, but I never really enjoy days when I am not productive, and I invariably go to bed with the affirmation that tomorrow will be different... I will get a fresh start on whatever needs to be done. This approach to life has served me well. It is how I have affirmed the gift of life and health and the opportunities that have been presented to me. It is my way of acknowledging the sacred and the holy in life... to use the short time given to me as productively as possible.

But there is another ritual way of affirming the gifts of life. It is part of virtually every religion and culture around the world. That is a day of rest... a time set aside to acknowledge the holy,

the sacred in our lives... to just sit with and appreciate the gift of life. In our UU tradition it comes down to us through the observance of Sunday as a day set apart. This in turn comes to us from the Jewish tradition of Shabbat, and that seems to have been adopted from earlier middle eastern religious roots like Zoroastrianism. Independently it arises in Buddhism and Wicca and in some indigenous North American traditions.

This is on my mind now as I nervously prepare to take a month of sabbatical leave, derived from the same root as Sabbath. I will be completely out of contact with my beloved congregation for the month of April and separated from the work that has given my life meaning every day, seven days a week for the past six and a half years. I have always felt blessed to spend my days doing what I love doing... but I am now forced to consider the benefits of a time away, a time of reflection, a time without *doing*.

I don't know if this old dog can learn new tricks but just maybe I will find an additional way to give meaning to my life... maybe my sabbatical will lead to the observation of a weekly Sabbath as well. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you on my return.

And now an ask. Rev. Linda Thomson will be in Halifax from Friday April 5 to Sunday April 7. I have asked her to come, with the support of the Board, to get an outside opinion on how our congregation is doing in living its mission. This is very important to me and I look forward to hearing Rev. Thomson's impressions when I return in May. So my ask is that you take every opportunity to hear her message and to share your perspective on our congregational life. In particular she will lead a town hall style meeting at the church on Saturday April 6. Please attend and participate if you possibly can.

With Love, Norm

Board Buzz

The Board has met twice since the last newsletter. We held our postponed-by-snow meeting on February 28 and our regular meeting on March 21.

The Interfaith Week was successful with 25 guests attending the UUCH service, and UUCH was included in the general wrap-up event

The Board is close to completing the strategic initiative of revamping the church committee structure—stay tuned.

The Interim RE Director is quickly settling in. The Music Committee is gearing up for recruitment and hiring of a new Music Director in the next few months. We will also be advertising for the appointment of a permanent Director of Religious Education.

The Board approved a new donations policy as recommended by CUC following Canadian tax regulations. Also approved were needed repairs to our deck.

We noted the successful completion of the Truth and Reconciliation Reflection series with the acknowledgement that the work only starts from here. Expect to hear more in upcoming months about new initiatives. The CUC has started a series of movies and discussions which anyone can sign up for. The first one was held on Saturday March 23, *Trick or Treaty*, with a group watching together at the church.

The Board continues to hear updates on the CUC AGM to be held in Halifax in 2020 at the University of King's College on Coburg Road. This will ramp up in the fall but the CUC is now seeking volunteers via an online form.

UUCH Board of Directors June 2018 - May 2019

Officers

President	Margaret Galbraith
Vice-President	Troy Saulnier
Past President	Kim Turner
Secretary	Shripad Pendse
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

Members at Large

Pam Berman	Mia Huh
Ginny Girard	Pam Griffin-Hody

UUCH Board 2019-2020. Some members terms are ending in May. If you think that this is something that may be of interest to you, please contact us.

The Board held a discussion on access to our library and decided that for the near future the bookcases will be opened by the late usher on Sundays during coffee hour. If someone wishes to take out a book but does not know the procedure, please ask any board member.

The Board has been busy helping to plan for Norm's long-earned Sabbatical in April. The first weekend, Rev. Linda Thomson from the CUC will be coming to deliver Sunday's service. She will also facilitate a visioning workshop the afternoon of April 6th—and also meet with the Board.

It is extremely important that no one contact Norm during the month of April. Instructions on who to contact can be found under *All Things Sabbatical* on the next page.

Pam Griffin-Hody
Board Member-at-large

All Things Sabbatical

Our minister, Rev. Norm Horofker, is going to be on sabbatical leave for the month of April.

What does this mean? It means that this is his time for renewal, study, and spiritual reflection. **Under no circumstances is he to be contacted.**

A Sabbatical Committee has been meeting since early February to discuss all those items which are normally looked after by the minister and for which various volunteers need to be found for the month of April.

As noted in Board Buzz, the service on April 7 is being taken by Rev. Linda Thomson from the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) and supported by the Worship Committee. The other three services are being looked after by members of the Worship Committee. Additional duties of Services Assistants in April will be to ensure the coordination of the Service Leader with the accompanist. Rev. Thomson will also be facilitating a visioning workshop on April 6 as well as meeting with the Board.

Other matters of importance:

Saturday Neighbourhood Brunch has April co-convenors: Faith Piccolo and Angela Van Amberg who will look after all elements from shopping to volunteer coordination.

Pastoral issues should be forwarded to the Caring Committee, Sylvia Mattinson; **Building Issues** to the Property Chair, Allyn Clarke; and **any other matters** to the Board President, Margaret Galbraith. All of these people are being fully briefed by Norm.

Pastoral Issues:	Sylvia Mattinson viasyl100@gmail.com 902-454-4142
Property Issues:	Allyn Clarke allyn420@aol.com 902-420-0632 902-483-4731 (c)
All other Matters:	Margaret Galbraith margaretgalbraith@eastlink.ca 902-835-3767

We all wish Norm a happy and restful sabbatical and look forward to welcoming back his renewed spirit and body in May.

Pam Griffin-Hody
Board Member-at-large

The Caring Column

We were saddened to learn that **Faith Piccolo's brother**, Ignatius Crotty, died in St. John's on March 10th, one hour after Faith arrived. We extend our sympathy to Faith and all her family in this time of sorrow.



Get-well wishes go out to **Ella Wilson** who is in hospital recuperating from hip surgery following a fall in her home. She is her usual cheerful self despite some pain, and sends greetings to her UU friends. Her son will take to her any notes or cards addressed to her home address.

In keeping with our March theme of balance, **Irene Baros-Johnson** reports that she and John like to attend the Thursday noon Tai Chi sessions at the church when they can, appreciating that the exercises teach how to move in ways that help to maintain balance.



After the church service on March 31st we'll share cake with **Rev. Norm** to wish him a (belated) happy birthday—and a hearty 'bon voyage' to him Janet for stimulating European travels while on sabbatical leave in April!



Congratulations and best wishes also to **John Paterson** on his 80th birthday on March 31st!

Sylvia Mattinson

Church Directory Update

EGAR-REYNOLDS, Elinor
New address: 412-5732 College Street
Halifax, NS B3H 0B3
New email: elinorrey1935@gmail.com

UU-UNO Matters

I'm happy to let you know that UUCH has met all the criteria for **Blue Ribbon status** as a congregation supporting the UU-UNO for 2018-2019. Thanks to everyone who joined this effort.



Donations were received in memory of Valerie Chapman, Kay Smith, Karl White, George White and Amy Lewis.

Also, the plaque recognizing our Blue Ribbon status for 2017-2018 has arrived. I will place it in the church where everyone can see it.

Postcards in support of Nigerian women: A few weeks ago on our UU-UNO collection day (held in conjunction with International Women's Day) we distributed postcards you could write and mail to several Nigerian women who are active in the political realm there. Not everyone who wanted a postcard got one. If you would like to send a postcard, let me know, and I will get one to you. They are already addressed and stamped. Help us to help the women of Nigeria.

Jane Wilson

UU-UNO Youth Envoy for UUCH

Endowment Fund

Thinking of leaving a legacy? Our church has an Endowment Fund that makes it very easy to do so.



A legacy gift is a gift of cash, securities or other property that is realized after you die. This is done through a beneficiary designation or your will. We have pamphlets that let you know all about this form of gift giving. Please feel free to pick up one. They are in the pamphlet box and are available to all. Or see one of the committee members for further information.

Committee: Kathy Anthony, Chair; Jim Morrison, Anne Knight-Gorman

Update on UUCH Refugee Work

On February 28th we received 18 spaces, our annual allocation from Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada. We have since determined the refugees to be offered those spaces. If we can get those applications in quickly enough, there is an opportunity to request more spaces by summer. In the meantime, at least 12 of our 15 candidates whose applications were submitted in 2018 have been contacted to go for their interviews at the Visa Offices in Ankara or Beirut. We also have about a dozen LGBTQ+ cases which we are trying to move on, encouraging other UU congregations to take them on, etc. Those refugees do not require spaces, thanks to the federal Rainbow Refugees Assistance Pilot Program. At the same time there are 5 people whose applications were submitted in 2016 who have still not arrived.



Lucy's children, l - r: Alfred, Emanuel, Jemoni, Abulus, Mitiya

As you may have heard, one of the large African families (pictured above) is moving to Moose Jaw, SK on March 28th which will be better for them and a big relief for everyone as it has been a very challenging situation. In Moose Jaw there is a community of Sudanese people who speak the same dialect and are very excited to welcome this family and support them—support that will be there for them well beyond the 12-month settlement period.

The other families are doing fairly well. We will meet with all the team leaders again in April as part of our monitoring role. They have been here for 4 months as I write this. Much has been accomplished with and for them and many lessons learned!

Continued, bottom right

Share the Plate

For over a year our congregation has successfully supported a wide variety of charities through the Share the Plate initiative. Our outreach has supported those more vulnerable members of the community such as Laing House, Phoenix House, the Canadian Red Cross, and many more. We have also supported organizations such as the Ecology Action Centre, the Mi'kmaw Friendship Centre, and the Chebucto Community Orchestra. As well as providing much needed additional funds to these charities, it also lets people outside our congregation become aware of the generosity in both mind and spirit of the UUCH.

The guidelines for Share the Plate also include supporting direct activities of the UUCH. Twice a month the donations go to the Saturday Brunch program, and funds have also gone to support the Truth and Reconciliation sessions.

If you have any suggestions for charities you would like to see us support please let me know. The charity must be a registered Canadian charity and must fit within our Seven Principles.

We are currently looking for a non-board member of the congregation to help with the choosing of the charities.

I can be reached at ggirard@bellaliant.com or 902-999-3103.

Ginny Girard
Board Member

You all know Nawras and his mom Sharifa. You can imagine how happy they were to welcome their father and husband in late February. Andy Blair has helped Nawras and his dad, Nabil, to incorporate a construction company and they are already swamped with work. Sometimes our support for and friendship with our newcomer families goes on well beyond the first 12 months!

Marilyn Shinyei, Co-chair



SOMETHING BIG IS COMING TO UUCH

Something we've never done before.

And it's gonna be BIG.

Think ... things *emerging* from the ground,
taking on lives of their own.

Pumpkins could be involved.

Oh shoot, the cat's out of the bag already.

But yes, pumpkins.



BIG ONES!

There's bound to be serious involvement,
strategies, fun, possibly some wild competition!

Keep your ears to the ground ...

Religious Exploration

As we welcome spring, the children and youth in the RE program have wrapped up the Tapestry of Faith curriculum they've been following since September. Over the past seven months, the children have been exploring the Unitarian Universalist value of welcoming others. They have gathered in this spirit of welcome, in friendship and in faith and have explored the gift of welcoming others into our lives – be it strangers, family, peers, neighbors as well as animals and nature. And how do we welcome others into our lives? By sharing intangible gifts, the positive qualities that reside within each of us.



The children were introduced to the concept of intangibles: qualities that cannot be seen or held but have tremendous value. They have been guided in identifying the intangible gifts we all bring to and receive from others. Through stories and activities they explored intentional ways to relate to one another, how they use these gifts and just as importantly, how they receive them.

The program opened with the gift of love. When and how do we get love from others? A story demonstrated that although you cannot see or touch love, you can give and receive it by expressing kindness, offering acceptance, and sharing time with others. Children explored the concept of covenant as a gift we give and receive in community and made a covenant to guide their

time together. Forgiveness was introduced as a gift with power to heal friendships and restore peace. The children considered how they could respond if someone breaks the covenant they agreed upon.

They explored kindness as a gift that can be freely given every day, while learning about the Golden Rule and opportunities to use it. They explored multiple ways to communicate that someone is invited. Even when you do not think you have enough to share or give, you can always give the gift of invitation. They learned that having friends and being a friend are an important part of who we are. That while helping is an intangible gift, it produces tangible results. They explored what it means to share in our families. What we give one another that is tangible and what we give one another that is not. What it means to have the gift of mutual caring with pets and animals. What it means to give the gift of protection for our planet, and how it affects all that inhabit it. They explored the gift of acceptance, of self and others, a particularly important gift because it makes sharing other intangible gifts possible. That it is a gift to learn together and from one another.

The children were guided in recognizing that they each have their own spirit, and that when they bring their spirit into their faith community, they are sharing a gift. They were shown ways to share their spirit, such as singing together and sharing joys and concerns. In recognizing that the gift of ourselves is by being truly present, and that they have given and received the gift of community every day they have been together.

By identifying and practicing a wide variety of welcoming behaviors, we hope the children's capacity to welcome all manifestations of the web of life, including people, animals and the natural environment, continues to grow. By articulating and expressing a variety of intangible gifts, we hope the children have been empowered to share these gifts with others.

Marie-Claude Leroux
Interim Director
Religious Exploration Program



From the Canadian Unitarian Council

Gathered Here: Young Adult Check-in April 8, 9:00 pm, AT

Gathered Here is a monthly online check-in and gathering for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults.

Equity in Action: Gender in an Intersecting World

April 11-13, 2019, New York City

The UU United Nations Office is excited to host this year's Intergenerational Spring Seminar on gender equity in collaboration with the UU College of Social Justice. Programming will be interactive and intergenerational, encouraging participants to challenge their assumptions, connecting their activism with grounding in UU faith, and empowering them with the tools to bring back to their communities to make change locally and globally. Youth participation is encouraged. See the primer for youth and youth advisors to help plan for your youth's participation.

Webinar: Connecting Across the Generations

April 13, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, AT

Churches are one of the few places (outside of our own families) where we can make friends across the generations. How can we use that niche to build a sense of community, trust, connection, and care? Facilitated by Asha Philar, CUC's Youth and Young Adult Ministry Specialist.

Webinar: Photography and Video 101

April 20, 1:30 – 3:00 pm AT

Amber Dawn Bellemare will be covering the basics of photography and video creation in this webinar. Among other topics, Amber will

address what equipment you need and what software, along with providing links to get you started in editing. General guidance and suggestions will be shared to get you up and running. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period.

THR Reconciliation Through Film:

The Road Forward

Registration: April 27–May 22

Watch the film and read the materials: May 22 – June 5. Reflection Group: Wednesday, June 5, 8:00-9:30 pm AT—and Saturday, June 8, 1:30-3:00 pm AT

Margo Ellis

**CUC Communications
and Web Manager**

This just in: Making Waves in Halifax

The theme for Conference 2020 is *Making Waves!* Building on the imagery of The Ripple Effect, the CUC's campaign on water and its related environmental issues, this theme encourages and challenges UUs to make waves that practice radical inclusion, challenge the status quo, and push us to remain relevant into the future.



Doug Fevens taking the winter wreaths down from the dormers. Thank you, Doug!

Sure signs of spring ...



Troy Saulnier making maple toffee for the kids out on the deck. Yum!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the May newsletter is 12 noon, **Monday, April 29th.**

Please send submissions to both:
 Etta Hamm braeside@eastlink.ca
 Sandra Jamieson uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Sunday Service Volunteer Roster — April 2019

Persons named have committed

tbc: to be confirmed

tbf: to be filled

Date	Greeter 1	Greeter 2	Early Usher	Late Usher	Early Coffee	Late Coffee
Apr 07	Anne KG	Sylvia	tbf	tbf	Marilyn S	Danielle/Tristan S
Apr 14	Elinor ER	tbf	tbf	Mike B	Peter B	Krista L
Apr 21	Margaret M	tbf	tbf	<i>Eileen R tbc</i>	tbf	Faith P
Apr 28	Etta H	tbf	Kathy A	Sylvia M	Doug F	tbf

