



This Month's Sunday Services

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

902-429-5500
mail@uuchurch.ca
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Cell 902-229-9239

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

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

Troy Saulnier
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
10:30 am
Presented Online

All are welcome

Children & Youth
Education

Note: All services in April are available online via Zoom, and in person in our sanctuary, subject to Department of Health COVID-19 regulations. Please join us between 10:20 am and 10:30 on Sunday. All services start at 10:30. To join online, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVtUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09> Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670.

You can also watch the service live, or later, on YouTube on our UUCH Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

Our Theme for April: Becoming

April 4 *Metaphors of Spring and Easter*

Spring is a season too magnificent for literal description. Today we explore some of the images and metaphors for the season of rebirth... "When you're in a dark place, you sometimes tend to think you've been buried. Perhaps you've been planted." (Christine Caine)

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Leader: Page Wakarchuk

April 11 *The Crooked Path*

We are all on different paths, each path unique. Author Paulo Coelho tells us we must love our path, for without this nothing makes any sense.

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Leader: James Morris

April 18 *Earth Day*

A service to honour the Earth – the beauty and the challenges. This service will be presented by the Climate Crisis Team.

Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith

April 25 *Becoming Older*

"Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death." (Anais Nin)

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

The Theme for May: Story

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 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7 pm Religious Exploration team meeting	1  7 pm UUCH online gathering	2 3 pm Truth & Reconciliation meeting	3 10 - 11:30 am Saturday Brunch Take-out 
4  10:30 am Online & on site service Passover ends at nightfall	5	6 7 pm Worship Team meeting	7 6:30 pm Board meeting 	8 2 pm Building Committee meeting 7 pm UUCH online gathering	9	10 10 - 11:30 am Saturday Brunch Take-out
11 10:30 am Online & on site service	12 	13 Ramadan begins, evening; (ends May 12)	14 7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	15 7 pm UUCH online gathering	16 1 pm Neighbourhood Brunch meeting	17 10 - 11:30 am Saturday Brunch Take-out
18 10:30 am Online & on site service	19	20 5 pm Caring Committee meeting	21 	22  7 pm UUCH online gathering 7:30 pm Membership meeting	23	24 10 - 11:30 am Saturday Brunch Take-out 7 pm Soulful Sundown 
25 10:30 am Online & on site service	26	27 Newsletter deadline 7:30 pm Dismantling Racism session	28	29 7-8 pm Thursday Night Online Chat	30	

Sunday services: Attendance is currently limited to 13 people in the sanctuary and another 10 people in the ballroom where we have a TV monitor. To attend in person, please pre-register in advance by contacting Margaret Galbraith at margalbraith@eastlink.ca or 902-835-3767. Also please remember to wear a face mask, practise social distancing and use the hand sanitizer when you arrive. You will have to answer the COVID protocol health questions and give your name to Colin Kerr, who is keeping track of the participants. Thank you for keeping us all safe.

Minister's Notes



April's Theme: Becoming

I celebrated my 72nd birthday at the end of March and one thing I know for sure about becoming, (our theme for April) is that I am becoming older. We are all becoming older of course. For a child becoming older is something to be celebrated, a sign of growth and new strengths. For others like me, becoming older has a different set of implications.

There is no standing still for any of us, we are all becoming something. In the words of a chant that I learned from a colleague... "Changing changing, everything is changing... everything is changing nothing stays the same."

The idea of becoming can put a positive spin on the inevitable change that we face. We can not prevent change, but we have some control over what we are becoming... I can become a sour and grumpy old man, or I can become a grateful and fun loving grandfather.

(As many of you know I became a grandfather twice over the past year. The perspective that becoming a grandfather has given me is helping me in my quest.)

Our congregation is also subject to inevitable change... our congregation is also becoming. And we can have some control over what we are becoming if we engage in the life of the congregation. Congregations, unlike individual human beings, do not need to become "old." Commitment to a congregation can grant us a connection with immortality, with something that can grow and become long after we as individuals are gone.

There are many changes underway, and how they will affect who we become as a congregation will depend on the engagement of our members

and leaders. I will cite just a few changes underway as examples, in no particular order.

First, our Board is considering a name change to drop the word Church from our name after 184 years. Up until 1960 our legal name was still "The Church of the Redeemer." Name change is not new, but a name change also provides an opportunity to become something new. If we are not a church, then what are we becoming?

Second, we used to be a congregation that met exclusively in our building each Sunday to participate in a service and socialize over coffee hour, and often do the business of the church once those two events were over. In the last year we have been forced to learn how to meet virtually, online, over the internet. While we will certainly be back in the sanctuary in person, there is no going back to the way things were. The online presence allows us to do things we were never able to do before and to reach people we were never able to reach. We are becoming a community that is both present in person and present online.

Third, you may have noticed that we have revitalized membership engagement through a reorganization of our many committees related to the mission of our congregation. If you look elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a table listing ten active committees meeting monthly. This is the result of subtle changes in the way we think about the governance of our community and the role of shared ministry. These teams provide every member of the congregation with an opportunity to become more engaged with our collective mission. This is still a work in process, but I am personally excited by the potential that this structure brings to our shared ministry.

I will close with the words of my colleague Kari Kopnick: The things to do have been done... well, for the most part. The people we need are in place... almost. We are ready... or as ready as we will be. May we find the right people to do the right things as we go. May we discover that what we needed was right here all along. And may we remember to stop and marvel at the magic of each moment as it floats by... as we become!

With Love – Rev. Norm Horofker



From the Climate Crisis Team

Building Back Better

Nova Scotians can congratulate themselves on “bending the curve” by reducing COVID-19 cases, but there is another, even more lethal curve we need to bend: our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The world has just nine years (according to international climate scientists) to drastically reduce GHGs if we are to limit global warming to a 1.5 C increase and hopefully avert ruining life on this planet. But Canada’s GHGs curve has stayed flat; an embarrassment and poor example internationally.

Seth Klein (Naomi’s brother), is confident we can turn this around. In his book, “A Good War”, he describes how Canadians have risen to combat crises before: in the Second War World and in fighting the current COVID-19 crisis.

In both cases, with little preparation, the whole country pulled together to meet a gigantic challenge. As we begin to rebuild our lives post-COVID-19, Klein urges a “war-like” mobilization for this next crisis.

Where do we start?

Since most of our GHGs are produced by our use of energy, the UUCH Climate Crisis Team have named this as our priority. We tend to take for granted our various forms of energy use, with little thought to its production, distribution, use, waste and long-term impacts.

So, in the coming months, we plan to feature updates for the congregation by inviting knowledgeable speakers for services and/or workshops, together with invitations for individual and collective action.

continued ...

A Transformed Society

“The endgame here shouldn’t merely be to ‘solve’ the climate emergency. This is an opportunity to emerge a better, more just and more democratic society, to remake a better world, to reset how we approach challenges and to remind ourselves of what we can accomplish together.” Seth Klein.

Here’s “A Message from the Future”:

<https://theintercept.com/2019/04/17/green-new-deal-short-film-alexandria-ocasio-cortez/>

Leslie Robinson

on behalf of the team



Directory Updates

New members (needing the asterisk*)

Joined in 2020

EVERSON, Katelyn*

SILVER, Phil*

Joining March 28, 2021

FRIESEN, Jessica*

WOOD, Ann*

PDF directory users may want to create a Word document to record updates.



Notes from the Counting House

Zoom church has made life in the counting house a bit crazy and has been confusing at times for many. Here's what is actually happening. At the AGM in August, Avarad Woolaver

became the person wearing the Treasurer's hat on the Board while Darla Muzzerall and I have been preparing monthly reports to the Board, and recording your donations for tax purposes, etc. Our bookkeeper, Mary Banks, does the payroll, sends eTransfers to pay the bills, and 'does the books'.

Zoom church has also created a dilemma in terms of **Share the Plate**. When we met in person, each Sunday's collection went to different causes. Two Sundays a month it went to our **Saturday Brunch Program**. During the pandemic, people have really stepped up and donated for that, knowing that some of our neighbours would be in need. In addition to the Brunch program, Rev Norm is using the **Minister's Discretionary Fund** to keep the **Food Box** stocked—and, in place of the loonie, toonie or \$5 bill on the offering plate, people have written generous cheques and have sent eTransfers, specifying either Saturday Brunch or Food Box.

Amazingly, in the two years pre-pandemic, our little church brought in \$8,900 in 2018 and \$7,400 in 2019 for our Share the Plate program (started in December 2017). Roughly half of those amounts went to our Brunch program and half to outside charities. Even in 2020, while not campaigning for money for outside charities, we brought in \$4,400 for Share the Plate, all mainly through very generous donations.

Already since January we have received \$1,100 for the food box and \$1,340 for the Saturday Brunch—an excellent start—thank you!

If you usually donated loose change on the collection plate, and aren't sure how to do that while not attending in person, you could start setting aside your loose change or \$5 bills in an envelope each Sunday during the Offertory. When you have collected a month's worth or more, convert your change to a cheque and mail it to church, or eTransfer that amount to treasurer@uuch.ca. If that doesn't work for you, just save your envelope and bring it in when we resume regular services—which we will, one of these days!

Marilyn Shinyei
on behalf of the Treasurer Team

Regular Monthly Meetings

Group	Schedule	Contact
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 7 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Truth and Reconciliation	1st Friday 3 pm	Wietske Gradstein
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Board of Directors	2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm	Troy Saulnier
Building Committee	2nd Thursday 7 pm	Norm Horofker Colin Kerr
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 5 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Climate Crisis Team	3rd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Saturday Brunch Team	3rd Friday 1 pm	Kath Anthony
Dismantling Racism	4th Tuesday 7:30 pm	Norm Horofker
Membership	4th Thursday 7:30 pm	Pam Berman

Any member or friend of the congregation is welcome to attend these meetings (except for Caring) as observer or participant.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the

May newsletter

is 12 noon

TUESDAY. APRIL 27th

Please submit your contributions to
Etta Hamm, braeside@eastlink.ca



The Caring Column

We are sorry to hear that **Elinor Egar-Reynolds** has been suffering from what she thinks is sciatica. In speaking with her about her painful days recently she said it is part of getting older and her advice would be that we can't ignore it and need to be aware of the

ways that aging affects us. Best wishes, Elinor, on your road to recovery. Hope you're soon ready for action again!

Happy to report that **Glenda Butt** is "quite delighted" with how well she is doing as she manages her dialysis at home, which gives her more time to "almost keep up with myself." While her struggles are not over it's good to know she is doing much better.

Speaking personally. it's been almost three months now since I had surgery for a new knee. Over that time I was blessed with the help of several generous people in the UUCH community who loaned me equipment for getting around, bought me groceries and a new shower head, provided tasty meals, sent flowers, cleaned up the kitchen, did some vacuuming, and drove me to and from physio appointments. Along with all that were some lovely visits, phone calls and cards. It was all very much appreciated, and I wonder how I would have managed those days without you. So now I'm on the mend, driving and doing well. But again, I do want to express much gratitude to all of you who helped me get here!

Sylvia Mattinson



The Universalist Unitarians of Halifax invite you to

SOULFUL SUNDOWN

REFLECTIVE SERVICE
WITH MUSIC & POETRY

Reflecting on our lives & lifting
each other up through song and
conversation

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 7 PM

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Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

Spring is here, and after the past few months of navigating this new year in a pandemic, the warming weather and return of the songbirds is a balm to the spirit.

The Religious Exploration program honored the spring equinox by learning about and celebrating Ostara, a pagan sabbat. Legend and symbolism combine with realities our ancestors faced in the north when depending on the land for sustenance. Celebrating spring is to celebrate life. Did the children come away with this insight? Possibly not—but they did learn about the symbolism of eggs and hares at this time of year, made connections with the celebration of Easter, planted seeds for their own and for the church garden, and generally gallivanted while noticing signs of spring.

In March, we also gathered at Point Pleasant Park where we discovered and investigated the many ways humans have impacted this natural setting throughout history. From Mi'kmaq ceremonial lands, settler clear-cutting, fortifications and non-native flora, to path creation, invasive beetles, tree planting and forest management, living history abounds. The children particularly enjoyed using the old military batteries as playgrounds and feeding squirrels—the same pleasures I appreciated as a child at the park.



In the spirit of discovery, we also explored the Kearney Lake trail as citizen scientists, searching for old growth trees. Each child found a giant tree to measure and include in a database that keeps track of old growth trees in Nova Scotia. We found many a large Eastern white pine tree, the largest having a diameter of nearly four feet. While scouting, the children climbed boulders and used a frozen bank as a natural slide, an unexpected discovery!

The youth group led by Janet Horofker explored the deep issue of finding and restoring a sacred balance with nature. How do we live in harmony with all other forms of life and rediscover our place in the natural order? A question that deserves much contemplation and discussion, not only for our youth.

This intricate, interconnected web of life is tied not only to the present, but throughout history, with each other, the nature that surrounds us and the seasons that continue to cycle. As we march forward into spring, let's continue to honor it, find ways to restore it, and celebrate.

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Music Page

Welcome to a new month of music!



Spring is here!

As the spring season is upon us, we celebrate a time of renewal and growth. Music is heard through the budding of fresh flowers and the song of chirping birds, guiding us into April's musical theme. The preludes this spring will be classical pieces of the coming of springtime. A time to reflect and begin each service with beauty and contentment.

You can be involved

I would appreciate the congregation's musical involvement as we move forward into the year. If there is an appropriate song based on the theme of "becoming" you enjoy, please contact me and I'll try to incorporate it in a Sunday service.

Thank you

Thank you to The Afterchoir and other performances by James Morris, Jim Morrison, Paul Galbraith, and Norm Horofker. Involvement from our UU community was appreciated and wonderfully presented.

Soulful Sundown

March's Soulful Sundown consisted of poetry and time to reflect on the past month as we shared what we had learned, struggled with, and accomplished. We will see you at our next Soulful Sundown service which takes place at **7 pm every last Saturday of the month** on Zoom and Youtube (found at www.uuch.ca).

To join the Zoom meeting, please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83178577513?pwd=NFA5djM4MThRbVp2ZG9iVFdLRmoyUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 7857 7513

Passcode: i5UC3L

Always remember, music accepts everyone, does not judge, and welcomes you into a safe, therapeutic space of creativity and community!



Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Indian Maiden Story
Sismoqnapui'skwe'j
Sweet Water Maiden
The Legend of Maple Syrup



Written by: **Mary Louise Bernard** Illustrated by: **Ashley Dawn Bernard**



Mary Louise Bernard crafted this M'ikmaq tale based on stories told to her by her grandmother.

You can support her work by purchasing a book to share with your family.

This edition is in four languages: Mi'kmaq, Gaelic, French and English.

To purchase a copy, reach out to Rev. Norm Horofker
Phone 902-229-9239
Email nhorofker@aol.com

