



This Month's Sunday Services

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

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

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

All are welcome

Pandemic restrictions were lifted on March 21. Attending services in person is now encouraged for those who are comfortable doing so. **See more on page 2.**

You can also continue to join us via Zoom or YouTube. Services start at 10:30. Join us between 10:20 am and 10:30. To join online, use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVEtjUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09>
Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch the service live, or later on our UUCH YouTube channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

Theme for April: Awakening

April 3 — Awakening on the First Day

A poem by Linda Pastan poses this question: You tell me to live each day as if it were my last... but why the last? I ask. Why not live each day as if it were the first—all raw astonishment, Eve rubbing her eyes awake that first morning. Hard to sustain, no doubt... but do awakenings need to be sustained? Today we explore this idea. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

April 10 — The Age of Enlightenment and the Birth of Modern Humanism

The 17th century Age of Enlightenment was an awakening that changed everything including the Christian religion. Modern Humanism is the result and today we celebrate that achievement of the human spirit. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

April 17 — Easter Sunday: Thoughts on our Theme of Awakening

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to share moments in their life of “awakening” to a new appreciation of life. Such moments may be related to an experience in nature, a birth or a death, a life-changing book or movie or other transcendent experience. Please share your thoughts on awakening with Rev. Norm Horofker at nhorofker@aol.com.
Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker

April 24 — To Honour the Earth

Your Climate Crisis Team will present this service on what is, or should be, the most important day of the year! **Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith**

Our Theme for May: Nurturing Beauty

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 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 April Fool's Day 	10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch 
3 10:30 am service	4	5	6 7 pm RE Team Meeting	7 7 pm Shared Ministry meeting 7:00 pm UUCH online gathering	8	9 10 - 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch
10 10:30 am service	11 7 pm Worship team meeting	12	13 6:30 pm  Board meeting	14 2 pm Building Comm meeting 7:00 pm UUCH online gathering	15 1 pm Brunch team meeting	16 10 - 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch
17 Easter Sunday  10:30 am service	18	19 7 pm Caring Comm meeting	20 Emerging Lens Films Apr 20 - 23 7 pm Climate Crisis team meeting	21 7:00 pm UUCH online gathering	22 	23 10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch
24 10:30 am service	25	26 Newsletter deadline  7:30 pm Dismantling Racism session	27	28 7:30 pm Membership team meeting 7:00 pm UUCH online gathering	29	30 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch 7 pm Soulful Sunset 

Church Services and COVID

Restrictions were lifted on March 21st but masking and social distancing are still recommended by the Nova Scotia Department of Health. Individuals should take the precautions that they decide will keep them safe. In addition, anyone with symptoms or a positive rapid or PCR test still needs to self-isolate. If anyone believes they are a close contact, they should refrain from attending and should get tested.

Minister's Notes



Hello! My name is Olive Marjorie Preston, age 2 days at the time of this picture with your minister. Grampa was not ready to go back to work and he asked me to write his notes this month.

So... let me tell you about your theme this month "Awakening". First, you don't get to choose the time or place of your awakening. That's probably a good thing or I might have hung on for a few more months, but I think my Mom would not have been happy about that.

I mean, I was born a day after the "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine began. Give me a break! I may not know a lot, but I know an invasion when I see one. My great-great grandparents on my mother's side fled what became Ukraine in 1905 to come to Canada.

And Climate Crisis... time we all woke up to that. And COVID-19... and inflation... and racial oppression... Well you get the picture—quite the welcome you guys prepared for me.

Not that I want you to feel sorry for me. There is so much out here that is absolutely beautiful and amazing. I try to not listen to the news and I like to nap near a sunny window. There are all kinds of birds and squirrels and chipmunks outside the patio doors and we even had a mated pair of 4 foot tall sandhill cranes at the little bird feeder today.

So this has been the experience of my first big awakening... but if I pay attention, it will not be my last. Each of us, even my 73-year-old grandfather can

wake up and see the world in a new light. In fact he told me that my birth was one moment of his awakening, and a moment when he felt very happy to be retiring. He said that looking at me and at my sister Millie and cousin Beatrix made him feel that his work here was done, another kind of awakening I suppose.

My grampa talks to me a lot. He says that life is an amazing gift but much shorter than I can imagine. He tells me that I shouldn't believe anyone who tries to tell me why I woke up in this particular family or why I am here. He says I will have time to figure that out for myself, if I keep watching and learning and using my special gifts and talents.

Grampa says that If I can awaken often to the sense of love that I feel all around me now, and grow that love and share it with the world, then the rest will be easy.

You can't choose the moment of your awakening, but if you prepare for it, something he calls serendipity will happen and you will have more and more moments of awakening. That's what he says and Grampa knows a lot.

I hope you all can feel as loved as I feel on my first awakening. But it's hard to sustain that great feeling, and why, I guess, we need to keep waking up again and again. After a while you can take it all for granted and that, it seems to me, is when you need to rest, which is what I am going to do now.

Yours truly,
Olive Marjorie Preston

We live between the act of awakening and the act of surrender. Each morning we awaken to the light and the invitation to a new day in the world of time; each night we surrender to the dark to be taken to play in the world of dreams where time is no more. At birth we were awakened and emerged to become visible in the world. At death we will surrender again to the dark to become invisible. Awakening and surrender: they frame each day and each life; between them the journey where anything can happen, the beauty and the frailty.

John O'Donohue, from *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*

Board Buzz

Our Board met at its new time, on the third Wednesday of the month. Rev. Norm was away on his vacation but he had left us with a long list of his many contributions to our church life, so we spent most of our meeting discussing how we would manage the various aspects of his ministry when he retires at the end of June. **We will need a number of volunteers to step up to fill in some of the gaps, so please consider how you would like to contribute! We will be advertising for specific positions closer to the time.**

UUCH Board of Directors

2021 - 2022

Officers

President	Troy Saulnier
Vice-president	Pam Griffin-Hody
Past President	Margaret Galbraith
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Treasurers (co)	Marilyn Shinyei Darla Muzzerall

Members at large

Avard Woolaver	One vacancy
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Ex-officio

Rev. Norm Horofker

We also discussed **the return of in-person church attendance**. Now that all restrictions have been lifted, we hope to see many more of you in the sanctuary on Sundays. Many of us will still be wearing masks, but social distancing is an option, so there is lots of room. As a reward for coming out on Sunday, March 27th, and as part of our maple syrup celebration, we offered a pancake lunch following the service for the brave souls in attendance! The Zoom option was still available—but it's hard to eat pancakes that way! (Thank you, John and Faith Piccolo, for organizing the pancake lunch.)

We also made plans for our **capital campaign to raise funds for the new deck** to be built this summer. The campaign was announced on Sunday the 27th—and the details are well written up by Marilyn Shinyei on the next page.

We decided to continue with the **brown bag lunches** for the Saturday Brunch program until it finishes at the end of June. A new team of volunteers would be required to serve hot meals—and to change back to that for only the few weeks until summer didn't seem practical. The whole program will be assessed in September.

Other items discussed: details of holding a full audit as now required by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for our Sponsorship Agreement Holder (Refugee) Committee; the need for volunteers to reorganize the library; the complications for service leaders of putting on hybrid services without Rev. Norm's expertise; and the combining of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Team with the Dismantling Racism Team, since the membership overlapped, and the original TH&R team lead, Wietske Gradstein, has passed away.

It was another busy and fruitful UUCH Board meeting!

Margaret Galbraith
for the Board of Directors



The Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3H 1J8

March 21, 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

IT'S TIME TO DECK THE CHURCH!

Surprisingly it is eight years since our last Capital Campaign and it's time to do it again. Last time around we built a completely new kitchen, repaired the front entry and added accessible doors there.

As you know, this spring and summer we will replace the back deck. The new structure will be completely accessible from ground level as well as have an accessible door off the Ballroom Gallery. Imagine coffee hour on the deck, summer picnics and fall barbeques once again!

We already have a lot of the estimated \$55,000 it will cost. (This figure depends on volunteer labour to demolish the existing deck.)

Grants	\$10,400
Donations	7,400 (early donors plus donations in Wietske's memory)
HST Rebate	4,000
Building Fund	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL	\$46,800

That leaves us with only \$8,200 to raise but let's make our goal \$10,000—a nice round number that allows for the inevitable overruns.

Your contribution can be sent as a cheque to the church address or by eTransfer to treasurer@uuch.ca. Please mention Capital Campaign on your cheque or eTransfer.

Another way to contribute is to pledge a monthly amount over the next six months, April thru September, by which time the project will be completed. Of course, any donations toward the Capital Campaign will be tax receipted.

As always, thank you for your generosity and commitment to our church community.

With gratitude,

Your Board of Directors

Put a little fun in your life – join the UUCH Pride Parade Team!



The paperwork is in. Our application to participate in the 2022 Halifax Pride Parade happening on July 16th has been submitted! Now we need to get organized and we need your help!

Contact me now to be added to the Pride Team email list (see my contact info below).

We would like to hear from not only those who would like to work with the team to be part of planning, but also from those who would like to help decorate the UUCH float (always a crowd pleaser) and other important tasks.

Our first meeting will be in early April.

Pride Parade 2022 will be a time for renewal of our tradition of being an integral part of this proud celebration since its early years. Longtime UUCH member, Kath Anthony, recalls marching in the 1992 Pride Parade with others from the congregation.

Our support of the LGBTQ2 community of Halifax, in fact, goes back at least 50 years! The vestry (now the *board*) meeting of Tuesday, October 24, 1972 approved that the first gay organization in Nova Scotia, the newly formed Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) would be welcome to meet at the church—and without payment. We have much to celebrate this year!

We need to hear from a good large group of fun-loving people who want to celebrate our diverse community, to be *ON THE SIDE OF LOVE*.

Doug Fevens

dgfevens@gmail.com

902-453-9391



Photos from UUCH participation in Halifax Pride 2019.

From the Caring Team



Rodney Vaughan, longtime member of UUCH and beloved husband of **Barbara Harsanyi**, died peacefully in hospital on March 10th with his son and granddaughter at his side. Barbara was able to spend an afternoon with him the day before he died. Our

thoughts are with Barbara and the family.

Barbara remains in the Fisherman's Memorial Hospital in Lunenburg. She said that while feeling sad she is grateful for the forty good years she had with Rodney and hopes to be able to attend the Celebration of Life to be held for him. She said that while hospital staff are looking for a place to move her, perhaps in Halifax, she would love to hear from us. The hospital phone number is 902-634-4286.

At the service on March 20th **Mike Belland** reported that his recovery from surgery last May is going well, but he is looking for new accommodations. If anyone knows of a granny flat available he would like to hear from them, adding that he could offer gardening, light housekeeping and dog walking to augment the rent. We wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life, Mike.

Shripad Pendse, forwarded to us updates he received from **Inga Lawrence's** daughter Christine. On March 18th Christine reported Inga was doing much better and sat in her chair for three hours while they visited. The doctor expected she would return to her apartment in about a week. However, on March 24th Christine reported Inga had had a relapse, perhaps caused by her sudden illness or the combination of medications. She is doing a little better medically but is still frail, and her recovery will take longer than had been anticipated. We hope Inga will soon start to really feel better.

Ralph Martin, longtime UUCH member, reports from Guelph that his daughter **Mariah** delivered a healthy baby boy on February 27th. Zagreus (from Greek myth) or "Zag" arrived with a touch of red hair and weighing 7 lb. 9 oz. Mariah, her husband Todd Sierens, and granddad Ralph (pictured here with Zagreus) are overjoyed. Zag will love Ralph's stories as he grows. Congratulations to this loving family!



Ella Wilson reports that she is doing well and sends greetings to her church friends. Hi, Ella!

With most COVID restrictions now lifted – Happy Spring!

Sylvia Mattinson
for the Caring Team



Music at UUCH

It has been a joy to bring music into your homes during the pandemic this past year. I now have new hope and excitement however, for enjoying each other's company in person!

We shall sing together, laugh, and commune once again as a community!

Stay tuned for details regarding Soulful Sundown on April 30th at 7pm.

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

jessicafriesen876@gmail.com

204-330-8165





From the Climate Crisis Team

Fund our Future

“Fund our future”

This is the cry of 15 year-old Jane Elliott of Halifax, one of many youth looking for urgent climate action because their future depends on today’s decisions. Spring is the time for budgets to be finalized, by all levels of government, and climate action funding is essential.

Invest in tomorrow

Whatever our governments decide, individuals can voluntarily finance carbon-reducing efforts in distant places, such as developing countries. Anyone can neutralize their own carbon emissions by funding “green” projects elsewhere, in a system called carbon offsets.

Most people in the Southern Hemisphere struggle every day, meeting life’s basic needs, and do not have access to government resources to reduce their carbon emissions. But, with carbon offsets, you can promote sustainable energy use, for the benefit of local people and the global climate.

For example, in Peru, carbon offsets are financing more efficient wood stoves, one of which you can see in this picture.



There are also projects financing mini hydro power, biogas for cooking, biomass waste as green fuel, solar energy, wind farms and sustainable forestry.

Here's how it works

To calculate your total carbon emissions, or to learn how much your recent trip by plane, road or rail, or home energy use has produced in carbon emissions, look at this site, Planet Air, which has a user-friendly calculator:

<https://planetair.ca/>

Click on “Compensate For”

In the beginning, a rough estimate is sufficient. For example, start with the Canadian average of 25 tons of carbon per person per year. As you learn more about your carbon footprint, you can make changes to the way you live or do business to reduce your emissions (including carbon offsetting), and celebrate the ever-increasing positive impact you are having on the climate.

Choose to be carbon positive

Next, take your amount in tons and enter it on the Gold Standard site at:

<https://www.goldstandard.org/>

which has 34 international projects to choose from. Every project here is described in detail and all are strictly managed and monitored to ensure funds are utilized correctly.

Select “Offset your emissions” and then scroll down to find the list of projects. You will receive a suggested dollar amount for becoming carbon neutral, but the amount you pay is entirely voluntary. Perhaps \$1 per day, or as much as you can afford. If you can, double or triple the amount; upgrade from being carbon neutral to being carbon positive!

A biogas project has been very successful in Kenya. Watch a short video [here](#) .

Remember, there is one global climate, and every reduction in carbon emissions, wherever it occurs, benefits everyone. We’re all in this together.

Leslie Robinson

Climate Crisis Team Member

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children. Native American Proverb

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Religious Exploration program has been in transition throughout March with outings and intergenerational church services as we prepare to return to in-person programming beginning in April.

We've been considering the pressing issue of climate change and how it is connected to the many varying concerns the children demonstrated when exploring activism. Our first outing of the season touched on the concerns of pollution, animal welfare, forest fires, logging, healthcare and, of course, climate change. We visited a sustainably managed forest; throughout our walk along a forest trail, we explored empty tree trunks, mossy branches and icy puddles. We also explored the role forests play in habitat, biodiversity and carbon sequestration.



Artworks of our creative, aware children and youth.

The intergenerational service honouring World Water Day on March 20th was thought-provoking and another reminder of the interconnection between our well-being and that of our planet. The children's call to save our oceans reminds us that it is not possible to do so without addressing climate change. That when everyone counts, then everyone should have access to clean drinking water.

As we prepare for Earth Day we will use art to express climate justice and will use our creativity to design solutions to a healthier planet. We look forward to sharing these with you during the Earth Day service.

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

Refugee Committee News



In 2021 we saw a total of 30 people arrive. Now in 2022 we have welcomed a family of 4 and 2 single people. Another family of 4 and a couple are arriving in the next few days. This leaves us still waiting and waiting and waiting for 147 people from pre 2021 and another 141 from 2021.

In late February, the federal government announced their target for admissions in the form of 2022-24 Immigration Levels Plan. It includes 31,255 refugees in 2022 through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (that's us).

We have just been informed we will receive our allocation of spaces by April 30th, months later than usual, but we still don't know how many to expect. In the meantime, we are getting applications ready to submit when the spaces appear.

The dreadful slowness continues with IRCC admitting this is across all streams of immigration. Of course, now both the situation in Afghanistan and that in Ukraine are impacting IRCC's workload. We are responding to the Operation Afghan Safety (OAS) initiative unveiled in December by filing Afghan cases and asking the other Atlantic SAHs to help by taking on some of the cases on our list. At this point each SAH has been given just 10 spaces for Afghans. We now know we will get more after April 30th, but again, do not know how many that will be.

Many people are asking about the Ukrainians. Our best understanding is that they will not be coming through one of the refugee streams but will be granted 3-year temporary visas allowing them to work or study.

In the meantime, we carry on, preparing applications to submit this year as soon as we are able to. While we know the wait will be long for the newest applicants, we take heart from the fact that just knowing their application has gone in, gives refugees hope for the future.

Marilyn Shinyei
UUCH SAH Co-chair

Films Recommended for UUs

The Emerging Lens Film Cultural Film Festival runs from Wednesday April 20 to Saturday April 23. These film showings are -in-person events, and are free admission. The mandate of the sponsoring organization, the Charles Taylor Theatre and Media Arts Association, is to educate, empower and inspire by honouring the influence of African Canadian and other cultural filmmakers and to bring recognition to their work. For more information, see <https://www.theemerginglens.com/>.



The UUCH Dismantling Racism team recommends this festival for UUs. We hope to highlight various events that UUCH members may be interested in, to broaden our connection to, and to gain a better understanding of the local Black and Mi'kmaw communities.

On another note ... we have decided to combine our committee with the Truth, Healing & Reconciliation group and will likely change our name to reflect that. Watch this space for more news.

Brian Gifford
for the Dismantling Racism Team

Thank you from the Climate Crisis Team

Thank you to all who contacted their councillors about supporting the funding for HalifACT, the HRM plan for climate action.

The HRM budget committee has concluded its meetings on the 2022-2023 budget which will now go to the HRM Regional Council for a final vote of approval on April 12th.

With strong public support for funding the municipal plan for climate action, it will surely be included in the final version.

Margaret,
for the Climate Crisis Team

UUCH Directory 2022



Cover photo, UUCH children & youth

Directory Updates

Must include street address

McFADYEN, Rev. Ren
101 Maple Street
PO Box 284
Trenton, NS B0K 1Z0

New email address

MORRISON, Sheila
morrisonsheila84@gmail.com

Directory Booklets Available

Copies of the 2022 UUCH directory in booklet form are still available to members and friends who are 'in the book'.

We can arrange for you to pick up a copy at the church if you plan to attend a Sunday service—or we can mail your copy to you. Please advise your preferred method of delivery (before they're gone)!

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

Regular Monthly Meetings

Group	Recurrence	Group lead
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Committee on Shared Ministry	1st Thursday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Climate Crisis Team	2nd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Building Team	2nd Thursday 2 pm	Norm Horofker
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 7 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Board of Directors	3rd Wednesday 6:30 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Saturday Brunch Team	3rd Friday 1 pm	Kath Anthony
Dismantling Racism	4th Tuesday 7:30 pm	Pam Griffin-Hody
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 contributions for the May newsletter is
TUESDAY, APRIL 26.



Please send your articles to Etta at
braeside@eastlink.ca
Thank you.



Our Beautiful Blue Boat
Earth Day April 22