



Universalist Unitarian
Community 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



April Worship

April will see the final presentation of the *Making Meaning in Liminal Time* monthly series by different Canadian UU ministers.

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.

Our Services this Month

April 7 – Thriving and Surviving (postponed from February 4)

For many people, survival itself is a difficult enough goal, whether the individual or collective problem is related to poverty or financial issues, health, or family crises. But it's not enough. We need to ensure that we collectively and individually thrive. Come join Amy Moonshadow for thoughts on how we can all help each other and thus help ourselves to thrive. **Service Leader: Amy Moonshadow**

April 14 – Who do we choose to be?

That we live in unprecedented times is a refrain we hear too often these days. All the ways of living and being in the world have fallen away. As we begin to make our way forward into who knows what, how is it that we can love ourselves, our congregations, and our communities into a new wholeness. What do we want to be remembered for? Who do we choose to be in these times?

Speaker: Rev. Samaya Oakley; Service Leader: Pam Griffin-Hody

April 21 – When We Search

The service will focus on Michelle Huneven's novel *Search*, about a California UU congregation's quest for a new minister. The book is a tender, funny, aching portrayal of some issues in which you're sure to recognize your UU friends and acquaintances—and yourself. **Service Leader: Martha Wilson**

April 28 – Earth Day

It is a time to celebrate the Earth – let's do it with stories. Sean Kelly of the Climate Story Network will be our presenter, assisted by the Climate Crisis Team.

Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith and the Climate Team

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.

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 10 - 11:30 am Brunch 
7 10:30 Service: Thriving Surviving, Amy	8	9 7 pm Worship Team meeting	10 6:30 pm Board meeting	11	12	13 10 - 11:30 am Brunch 
14 10:30 Service: We Choose, Rev. Samaya. 	15	16	17	18	19	20 10 - 11:30 am Brunch 1:00 pm People's Climate March
21 10:30 Service: Search, the novel, Martha Noon: Humanist Group	22  Passover begins at sundown.	23	24	25	26	27 10 - 11:30 am Brunch 
28 10:30 Service: Climate Team Speaker Sean Kelly  BYO Bag Lunch conversation	29	30 Passover ends after nightfall.				

Getting to Know Rev. Ben Robins

The following are condensed excerpts from Rev. Ben's application, shared with his permission, to further introduce him to you. Submitted by Linda Cherry, a member of the Search Committee.



My Goal for Ministry: To help a congregation be fully alive: soulfully grounded, spiritually open, intellectually rigorous; engaging and interweaving multiple outlooks, balancing beloved traditions and excellence with creative experiments, honouring the full range of

the human experience, and pushing the envelope of what is possible in changing lives, communities and the world.

Leadership Style: I have a down-to-earth, relational presence. I bring curiosity and compassion. I am collaborative and adaptive. From my physics background, I bring disciplined analytical thinking. From my improv dance background, I bring creativity, artistry and playfulness. I journey with you through life, individually and collectively. Remind you of who you want to be. Look at life from every angle and encourage you to do the same. I meet you where you are, and show that I understand and respect you, before inspiring or challenging you to change.

Sharing the Work

My role: To remind the congregation of who you want to be. Inspire you to live authentically, fully, and generously. Challenge you to grapple with the questions of life. Officially responsible for Sunday services. Open to being responsible for adult programming.

In partnership: In practice, Sunday services are collaborations among worship leaders, musicians, minister and congregation. Pastoral care is often done in partnership with the minister, the caring committee and informal relationships, each playing a part.

The congregation: Decides its vision and commitments. Governs itself. Fulfills its commitments through volunteer work, personal growth, showing up to share congregational life.

Incorporating Creativity

I love music, the arts and creativity. My musical background includes 8 years of classical piano, time in several community choirs, and singing around the campfire at Unicamp. I like spontaneous music jams, circle dances, playing with rituals.

And from Rev. Ben, earlier

Hello UUCH, I am so glad to be joining you. My wife Tanya and I are about to start a retreat in the high desert, so for now I will simply say that I have enormous respect for your history, enormous respect for those of you I have already met, and enormous respect for your vision as the world enters a future full of both challenge and opportunity. I look forward to knowing you deeply, sharing life, and doing the shared work of UU ministry.

From the Caring Committee



A Celebration of the Life of **Ella Wilson**, a long-time member of our congregation, was held at UUCH on March 16th. Her daughter Rose gave the eulogy, with Ella's two sons also present. Family and friends lingered long afterwards at a lively reception in the Ballroom Gallery, where some of Ella's paintings were hung as a tribute to her life as an artist.

Cynthia Marshall is recovering at home following a heart attack in late December. We wish you well in your recovery, Cynthia, coinciding with the rejuvenation of spring.

Glenda Butt is still in the hospital. We light a candle for you every Sunday, Glenda, and send our best wishes.



The Caring Committee:
Faith, Shripad and Sylvia

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. ~ Leo Buscaglia



From the Climate Crisis Committee

Ways to Address the Climate Crisis

The news can be overwhelming these days: melting ice shelves, banks defying the push to defund the fossil fuel industry, droughts out west, a potentially calamitous wildfire season etc., etc.

What is a person to do?

One good thing to do is to read articles on the **Climate Story Network**. These are good news stories about climate action projects in Nova Scotia which can be found at <https://www.climatestorynetwork.ca>.

Our speaker on April 28th, Sean Kelly, a member of the network's Board of Directors, will share the network's goals and how it works.

CSN is an initiative of *Climate Focus*, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to covering stories about climate solutions.

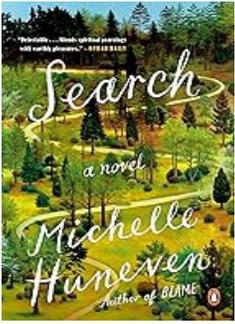
There are also a number of options for action during **Earth Fest, April 18th to 22nd** this year. I will be out of town so am not available to organize the People's Climate March that we participated in last year, but there will be another one, on Saturday, April 20th. If anyone wants to participate you are free to organize a UUCH one or join another group. For more information: <https://ecologyaction.ca/get-involved/events/peoples-parade-life-earth>

There will also be a calendar of the various events for the whole of Earth Fest, available soon.

For those who want a more science-based project, join the Climate Crisis Team and Rev. Charles Bull for a facilitated workshop called **Climate Fresk**. In just three hours this collaborative workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action. Even if you think you know all about the science, most participants find more details they weren't aware of, and are able to work together to find climate solutions. See more information at <https://climatefresk.org/> and watch for the date of the workshop, anticipated to be in May or early June.

There is hope in action.

Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team



Search, a novel

"How does the search reflect, or not reflect, a true democratic process and a fair representation of the AUUCC's membership? Where might you have changed the design of the search? Do you feel they struck the right balance

between consensus and integrity in the voting process?"

That's a question from the book club kit of author Michelle Huneven's extremely funny novel *Search*, which will be the **subject of our service on April 21**. The widely praised book was called "delightful" and "wry and thoughtful" by the AP, and the *New York Times* review added, "This novel has plot, character, structure and a delicious, deeply human pettiness that I think most honest readers will relate to."

Is there really sufficient material, in a UU church search committee's year-long quest for a new minister, to sustain a novel? (Oh, is there ever.)

In this gap of time before our own new minister arrives this fall, here's an interesting opportunity for us to consider from a slightly different perspective what it means to be a UU, what kind of community each of us is seeking, and some of the paths that can get us closer to (or further from!) the shared experiences we hope to create.

I will lead a **one-time book club on this title**, if there's interest, sometime during the week of April 15. If you'd like to participate, order or check out a copy of *Search*, and let me know you want to join. I loved the book, and I'm sure many of you would thoroughly enjoy it, as well.

Martha Wilson

Members' Directory Booklets Available

Copies of this year's directory in printed booklet form will be available following services over the next few Sundays. Remember to ask for one if you have not already received your copy. We'd be happy to mail you one as well.

Etta: braeside@eastlink.ca

SeeYaBye

That's how a favorite group of folks closes out significant gatherings. Meaning until I see you again soon.

That's my message to those of you I have come to know at UUCH as I re-establish residency and health care in the USA in April. Were this congregation not in Halifax, relocating here never would have been a consideration! I thank you for welcoming me to your city and province and into your congregation and occasionally your homes.

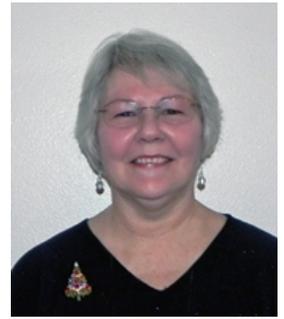
Before my Wolfville family and I decided on this adventure, I was in conversation with a dear friend about moving to Johnson City, Tennessee, where she had established a transitional housing program for teens aging out of foster care. It's a thriving operation now and being involved with it calls to me. My grandchildren are busy, busy as are their parents, so I see less of them at this point. Air travel is coming back so getting here for frequent visits is, I hope, easier than was my first trip in 2021.

Being here has been a great adventure. As do most arrogant Americans, I assumed Canada was a junior version of the USA. So not so!!! And what fun to learn about many of the differences. It does feel somewhat like I am entering the belly of the beast with the approaching US election season, but my vote will be important in the patch of progressive politics that is Johnson City. Send hopeful vibes that sanity will prevail south of your border.

My new address is in the 2024 UUCH Directory and I will stay on the UUinfo email list. Please keep me posted about meaningful events in your personal and congregational lives. I'm hoping to schedule my first return visit in late June and join you for the picnic. Then again in the fall to see the new UUCH under Rev. Ben Robins' leadership.

Wishing you peace, love and joy,

Linda Cherry



**People's Climate March
Saturday, April 20 -- 2 pm**



Last year's march -- fun!

This month:

<https://ecologyaction.ca/get-involved/events/peoples-parade-life-earth>

UUCH Board of Directors

Officers

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Vice-president	Joe Britto
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Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Pam Berman

Members at large

Avard Woolaver Mary Frances Lynch

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions
for the May newsletter is
Wednesday, April 24



Please send your items to Etta Hamm
braeside@eastlink.ca



April 22