



Theme for February: Perseverance

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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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

February 3

Water Justice

This is our annual "Sharing our Faith Sunday" organized by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). The service is intended to foster a sense of community and connection among our member congregations. The theme of the 2019 Sharing Our Faith package is Water Justice, and we will explore what this means for us in Nova Scotia... think drinking water, paper mill effluent, water use to create natural gas storage caverns in salt domes, protection of fish stocks and marine life, etc. Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Mary Lu MacDonald

February 7, 7 pm (Thursday)

Welcoming Service for United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week

See page 2 for details.

February 10

Why Do we Persevere? How Does it Make You Feel?

Before we can address why we persevere we need to unpack the meaning of the word. It can bring up connotations ranging from righteous altruistic suffering to stubborn egocentric self-justification. How does the call to persevere fit into living a good life? Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Elinor Egar-Reynolds

February 10, 2 pm (Also Sunday)

UN Interfaith Harmony Week service presented by UUCH

See page 2 for details.

February 17

How Does Our Sense of Spirituality Enable Our Perseverance?

If we accept that perseverance is an important characteristic, at least in some aspects of our lives, how then can our sense of spirituality support us when our perseverance wavers? Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Leader: Carole McCarville

February 24

Arrangements for the speaker for this date were still being finalized at press time.

Presenter: TBA; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith

Theme for March: Balance

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.



February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Black History Month					1	2 Groundhog Day 10–11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch
3 12 noon Intro to UU with Rev. Norm 1-4 pm Truth & Recon.	4	5	6 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	7 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12 noon Tai Chi 7 pm Interfaith service. See below.	8	9 10–11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch
10 2:00 pm Interfaith Harmony service at Halifax Public Library. See below.	11 9 pm Young Adult Online Check-in	12	13 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir 6:30 pm Board Meeting	14 Valentine's Day 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12 noon Tai Chi	15	16 10–11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch
17 12 noon Humanists	18	19	20 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	21 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12 noon Tai Chi	22	23 10–11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch
24 12 noon Congregational Meeting 1-4 pm Truth & Recon. Final Session	25 12 noon Newsletter Deadline	26	27 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	28 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12 noon Tai Chi		

INTERFAITH HARMONY HALIFAX
Welcoming Service at UUCH
Thursday February 7, 7 pm



For ten days during Interfaith Harmony Week (a UN initiative) a number of religious houses of worship are open to the public to allow better understanding of the diversity of faiths in Halifax. This is our chance to shine. In past years attendance has varied from a half dozen to over 40.

The abbreviated service is followed by informal discussion and it helps to have some of our members to welcome our visitors.

Note: There is a final wrap-up for the week-long program at the Paul O'Regan Auditorium at the main public library on **Sunday February 10 at 2 pm featuring our Afterchoir.**
 Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith



Minister's Notes

Looking for a way to get involved?

This month I highlight an opportunity that could enhance your experience of our community:

Exploring Spiritual Themes

We set out last September to find a way to involve more people in planning and participating in our Sunday Worship. We started with a workshop that was led by the Reverend Wayne Walder from Neighbourhood Unitarian Church in Toronto. This initiative has grown and continues to evolve.

We already had the basis for a communal experience in planning Sunday worship using the resources of "Soul Matters." Soul Matters is an organization of over 150 UU congregations in Canada and the United States who share monthly readings, videos, poetry, sermons etc. that relate to a different theme each month. Soul Matters produces three packets on each theme, one for Worship, one for Religious Exploration for Children, and one for Small Group discussion.

We share these packets before our Worship Committee meeting so that we can begin thinking about elements we would like to include in our services. Here is a link to the worship package for March on the theme of Balance:

https://theuniver-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/nhorofker_theuniver_onmicrosoft_com/EchbSRdLg75BjXktY_WiRgBeYlm3KTLQV6VQAas_zFj7Q?e=xzpwUg

(If you have trouble opening this link, try cutting and pasting it, or email me and I will attach a copy to an email for your use.)

We now have a Worship Committee mailing list of 18 people and an attendance of 8 to 9 people at each of our monthly meetings. During the meetings we choose topics for Sunday services and assign volunteer Service Leaders and Assistants. We discuss previous services and feedback that we have received, and make appropriate changes to the service. But more than organizational tasks, the Worship Committee meetings have become a pleasant social time to explore spiritual themes with friends in a wide-ranging discussions that help us to see our Sunday services as part of something much bigger.

If you would like to attend a Worship Committee Meeting you would be welcome, no strings attached. Or if you would just like to be included in the mailing list to "test the waters," that too would be welcome. In either case please contact me by phone or email.

With Love, Norm

902-229-9239

nhorofker@aol.com

Board Buzz

Hi all!

We opened our first Board meeting of 2019 with the responsive reading of the Board Covenant, written almost twenty years ago but still relevant today. It is a reminder of the commitment that we, the members of the Board, make to the congregation and to each other.

As a democratically governed faith with congregational polity, our elected leaders are chosen by the congregation to represent and serve the membership, to be trustees of the assets, and to provide strategic leadership and coordination of Church activities. We have been chosen and have agreed to take responsibility on behalf of the congregation.

We are also charged:

- *To care for the well-being of each other and ourselves;*
- *To deliberate with care, to listen to each other and to the congregation;*
- *To speak the truth in love, with both frankness and kindness;*
- *To keep in mind the spiritual context, the ethical values and the long range vision within which we must give attention to practical concerns;*
- *To never lose our sense of humour even with the most serious of deliberations;*
- *To remember that the power this congregation has given us is to be used for the good of the congregation and of the community.*

We, the elected members of the Board of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, agree to work together and with the committees under our charge to fulfill the mandate and trust this congregation has given us.

As leaders we have a special responsibility to encourage spiritual growth and right relationship. We agree to help the congregation grow in depth, in wisdom, and in justice-making, being guided by the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

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

We agree to learn from our work, opening ourselves to growth from the experience of serving and to open ourselves to the ideas, the hopes and the enthusiasm of this congregation. This do we pledge to ourselves, to each other and to the congregation.

It was good to read this together. Most of our meetings do involve a lot of discussion around our role of *trustees of the assets* and our last meeting was no exception:

financial assets - how to work within the budget resulting from our canvass campaign,

property assets - plans of the building committee for repairing the deck, ways to manage the library without a committee,

human resource assets (not an accounting asset, but definitely one to a church!) - details of hiring an Interim Director of Religious Exploration.

For more long term projects we have ad hoc committees: the future of our church music, the appropriateness of our mission, hosting the CUC ACM in 2020, development of a 3-year plan for financial stewardship, committee structure.

We do become engrossed with the details! It was good to be reminded by the covenant of why we are doing this work.



Margaret Galbraith
President
UUCH Board of Directors



The Caring Column

Tanya Bilsbury has decided to conclude her work as our Religious Exploration Director, and also to suspend her PhD studies in order to focus on her continuing medical difficulties. She reports that she is recovering and doing well. We send best wishes to her as she continues on her journey to good health.

Ella Wilson, longtime UUCH member, recently enjoyed visits from Etta Hamm and Faith Piccolo. Both report that Ella was in very fine spirits despite her continuing health challenges.

Elinor Egar-Reynolds tripped and fell while out walking on Saturday January 26th, resulting in an ambulance ride and 8.5 hours in the ER. She reports that all staff were wonderful, however. She is now recovering from a big black eye and a broken bone in one hand requiring a tensor bandage. Best wishes, Elinor.

Congratulations to **Leela Pendse-Shaw** who graduated in December with a Masters degree in Speech Pathology from the University of Queensland. She has taken a position with the Department of Education there, working in primary schools. Proud parents are longtime UUCH members Shripad Pendse and Elizabeth Shaw.

Anne Kuersten rolled out another successful Truth and Reconciliation Reflection session on Sunday January 27th, and flew out that very night to join her mother in Ottawa where she will start a new life. Anne was instrumental in the creation of our Truth and Reconciliation Task Group resulting in the group's 12-session Reflection Series winding up in February. Anne was also a faithful, cheerful hands-on cook for the church's Neighbourhood Brunch on Saturdays. Best wishes, Anne, in all your new pursuits!

Sylvia Mattinson

Welcome, Marie-Claude!

We are very happy to welcome Marie-Claude Leroux as our Interim Director of Religious Exploration for Children until June 30th. Marie-Claude brings a wealth of joy to the learning experiences of children. Be sure to say hello and make her feel welcome as she starts her journey with us.



Margaret Galbraith

We Love Coffee!

I love coffee too! I am sipping a cup of Just Us 'Rise Again' as I type (a hazard to my laptop). And I love chatting over coffee at church.

After all the people who signed up on January 27th to help with Sunday coffee detail, I'm starting to love the coffee roster as well.

We do need one more early coffee volunteer, however (for set up), for **February 17th**—the only coffee vacancy until April—thank you all so much! If you can set up the coffee, arriving at 10 am on Sunday February 17th, please let me know asap!

Pam Griffin-Hody

Truth & Reconciliation Reflection Series at UUCH

The following sessions remain:

Feb 3, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Feb 24, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Participation is now limited to those who attended earlier sessions.

New collection envelopes coming soon



Just a year ago we introduced our new collection envelopes along with the Share the Plate initiative. Those envelopes, however, have proven to be frustrating for your Treasurer and are not really doing the job. "Why not?" you ask.

1. We recently learned, thanks to a CUC financial webinar, that we are supposed to save the envelopes as part of our financial records. And the envelopes must contain certain information that you as the donor could easily provide rather than requiring the person counting the money to write it on.
2. The envelope's purpose is to provide the information required to give the donor a tax receipt. Sharing the Plate has been hugely successful but week after week people were sealing coins or bills in the envelopes without adding their name, so they clearly did not want a tax receipt.
3. If you don't want or need a tax receipt, please put your cash on the plate WITHOUT an envelope. ALL LOOSE MONEY AUTOMATICALLY GOES to the Share the Plate organization or UUCH program announced for that Sunday.
4. There was way too much wordage on the envelopes, making it difficult for people to read and comprehend in time for the collection plate's arrival. *Mea culpa!*
5. The Board wants to make it clear that sometimes we may not be able to use a designated donation in the manner for which you intended it.

Hoping to have the new and improved envelopes in place by early February. If it would be helpful, you are welcome to take a handful home to prepare ahead for Sunday mornings. We will leave some out for that purpose.

Your Treasurer, Marilyn Shinyei

Still learning and improving after all these years!

Endowment Fund

UUCH established an Endowment Fund in 2013 and so far over \$60,000 has been collected.

The fund must reach \$100,000 before any disbursements to assist the church can be made. We urge you to consider a Legacy Gift to the fund, should you find yourself in a position to do so.



Please approach any member of the Endowment Committee for more information.

The Endowment Committee:

**Jim Morrison, Anne Knight-Gorman,
Kathy Anthony**

Online Church Directory

Help us save costs, paper—trees! Subscribe to the members-and-friends' password-protected church directory on the church's website. At all times, no matter where you go, be internet-connected to **subscribed** members' contact information. Help me build up the Online Directory this month simply by sending your contact info to me at **troy.saulnier@gmail.com**.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the March newsletter is 12 noon, Monday, February 25th.

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



CUC Annual General Meeting: Proposed Motions

On May 11, 2019, the CUC AGM will take place in Toronto. UUCH can send two voting delegates to this event, which can now be attended either in person or online. Please speak to me if you have any questions about being a delegate.

Each year in February congregations are asked to provide feedback on the proposed resolutions for that year's AGM and then to instruct their delegates how to vote a month later when the final versions of the motions are circulated. The delegates then take this responsibility to the actual AGM in May of that year.

Since 2015 the motions have been primarily about CUC Board issues, so we have not brought them to the congregation's attention. This year, however, in addition to two "housekeeping" motions, there are also two about our financial commitment to the CUC, which the Board will be discussing, and another one proposing a study group to look at aspects of an 8th principle.

MOTION 3: Study Resolution on an 8th Principle

Be it resolved that a study group be struck to:

1. research and recommend a protocol for amending the CUC principles.
2. Draft a proposed 8th Principle, relevant for the Canadian cultural and historical context, calling for the CUC and its congregations to accountably dismantle racism in our institutions and within ourselves. (This may be an adaptation of the UUA's proposed 8th principle.)
3. Produce a report and/or resolution to be considered at the 2020 CUC AGM that serves as the basis for a subsequent adoption of an 8th Principle.

There is not room in the newsletter to reprint all the background for this motion. One important driver of the issue is that an 8th principle is being considered by the UUA. It has been presented by Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), an organizing collective dedicated to expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within the UU faith, and reads as follows:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Motion 3 is to look at drafting a Canadian version of this principle.

Please go to:

cuc.ca/annual-general-meeting-conference/

for all the information on the background and appendices detailing the action plan (a requirement for CUC resolutions) and the congregational feedback forms.

We will hold a congregational meeting after church on Sunday February 24th to ask for your comments on this resolution. This is not a vote on the motion, but an essential piece of the process to help the proponents of the resolution in preparing a final version, which will come back to us later in March for further discussion and a decision before the AGM.

Please contact me at margalbraith@eastlink.ca if you have any questions about any of this process.

Margaret Galbraith
President
UUCH Board of Directors

Sunday Service Volunteer Roster

Persons named have committed.

TBF: to be filled.

Persons named in bold italics are retiring, spaces to be filled.

FEBRUARY	Note	Greeter 1	Greeter 2	Early usher	Late usher	Early coffee	Late coffee
Feb 03		Anne K-G.	Sylvia M.	Ron H.	Janet H.	Marilyn S.	Tristan S.
Feb 10		TBF	TBF	Brian McD.	Mike B.	Peter B.	Danielle S.
Feb 17		Margaret M.	Elinor E-R	TBF	TBF	TBF	Faith P.
Feb 27		Etta H.	TBF	Kathy A.	Sylvia M.	Janet H.	Krista L.
MARCH							
Mar 03		Anne K-G	Sylvia M.	Ron H.	Janet H.	Marilyn S.	Stephen B.
Mar 10		Elinor E-R.	TBF	Brian McD.	Mike B.	Peter B.	Krista L.
Mar 17		Margaret M.	TBF	TBF	TBF	TBF	Faith P.
Mar 24		Etta H.	TBF	Kathy A.	Sylvia M.	Janet H.	Stephen B.
Mar 31	5th Sunday	TBF	TBF	Dean W.	<i>Margaret G.</i> <i>TBF</i>	Angela V.	Faith P.

“Welcome” — words we love to hear

Each Sunday we welcome unfamiliar faces *and* each other to our community.

Do you remember the first time you walked through our church door one Sunday? I do. My boyfriend brought me to hear his mother speak. That I felt welcomed, *and returned*, was in no small way connected to the smiling faces that greeted me that first time. Each time I returned sporadically over 16 years, the greeters made me feel as though I had never left.



Each Sunday we need two greeters so that everyone feels welcome ... and so that a visitor may be shown the coat rack, the guest book; given a name tag if they agree; and to be connected to RE if they have children. Greeting at our church door IS important, as well as easy and enjoyable. Greeters' arrival time is 10 o'clock to be there for the early-comers, to be welcoming and helpful to all, including longtime friends.

You are enthusiastically invited to sign up as greeter for a Sunday or two each month. **Please note that we have NO greeters on February 10th. We need those spots filled, as well as all other “TBF” spots.** You'll get lots of smiles and thank-you's in return, first of all from me! Please see me at church, or email me at pam_griffin-hody@carleton.ca.

Pam Griffin-Hody

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

(A responsive reading. Anon.)

We are individuals each having traveled a different path
to this place.

Here we are a community.

Some of us come here seeking solace from life's crises.

We are a supportive community.

We are free persons examining traditions, questioning
authority.

We are a thinking community.

Some of us come here seeking affable companions.

We are a loving community.

We respect each other's search for meaning in existence.

We are a caring community.

Many inquirers have preceded us. We relish their wisdom.

We are a community with tradition.

All the blessed people of history speak their truths to us.

We are a reverent community.

Humans and natural experiences are sacred and holy to us.

We are a religious community.

We live our religion and worship together in faith, hope
and love for each other.

We celebrate this beloved community.



The inherent worth and dignity of every person * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Unitarian Universalism.