



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

## Welcome to February Worship!

The Zoom link stays the same from week to week.

ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670

## Our Services this Month

### February 4 – Thriving and Surviving

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. Join Amy Moonshadow for thoughts on how we can all help each other and thus help ourselves to thrive. **Service Leader: Amy Moonshadow**

### February 11 – What Sustains and Inspires Us in this Climate Emergency?

We are facing multiple climate crises. It can be frightening and dispiriting. How can our values and practices sustain and inspire us – as individuals and as a Unitarian community? How can we get from despair to hope? **Speaker: Rev. Meg Roberts; Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith**

### February 18 – Heritage Day 2024 and the context of William Hall, VC

Each year in Nova Scotia, Heritage Day honours a different person significant to our history. The 2024 honouree is William Hall, the first Nova Scotian and the first Black person awarded the Victorian Cross, the highest award for bravery in the British Empire. This service illustrates the complexity of individuals in the context of their history.

**Service Leaders: The RDR Team**

### February 25 – Justice and Equity in Song

Soul Matters is a collective of UU congregations who follow the same monthly worship themes. February's theme is Justice & Equity. The Afterchoir will lead and perform a selection of favourite songs on that theme. **Service Leader: James Morris**

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.

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>CUC Month</b> 		<b>Black History Month</b>  William Hall		1	2 <b>Groundhog Day</b> 	3 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
4 10:30 service	5	6	7	8	9	10 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
11 10:30 service	12	13  7 pm Worship Team meeting	14 Valentine's Day  6:30 pm Board meeting	5  Flag Day 	16	17 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
18 10:30 service  Noon Humanist Group 	19 Nova scotia Heritage Day 	20	21	22	23	24 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
25 10:30 Service  Noon BYOL Convo 	26	27  Newsletter Deadline! 	28 	29 		

**Seek and Find. See inside for what's happening on these dates:**

Feb 5th at the Central Library. Feb 7th: Wow, you should go! Feb 8th, also at the Central. Feb 9th, online. Also Feb 9th, uplifting! Feb 10th, song & poetry. Also on the 10th, peaceful easy feeling. Feb 11th, Meg is on it. Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, more song & poetry. Feb 22nd, beautiful noise. Feb 26th, a deadline. Every day in Feb on FaceBook. March 15th, another deadline. May 26th, big event!

## Notes from Pam . . .



My goodness, January has flown by and February is upon us, which means that spring is just around the corner!

The Board didn't meet in December as everyone was busy with their own lives so there was nothing to say for the January newsletter.

Many thanks to Pam Berman for leading our annual canvass. We have pledges for \$102,930, \$1,070 short of the \$104,000 goal. Don't pledge monthly? It's never too late to contact Pam B or Molly Hurd to make the monthly arrangements directly from your bank account.



There have been many glitches in the major project to upgrade our website. We've agreed to hire someone to get the new website done and hope to launch it in the next few weeks!

**UUCH.CA**

### Future projects:

- Upgraded equipment in the Sanctuary/Worship room to facilitate sound both on Zoom and for in-person equipment. A small group has met and are looking into the immediate purchase of both new and (good) used equipment.
- I have reached out to the NSCAD Student Union in hopes of getting a lead on an artist that can help with our vision of our front yard. We also need to update our signage in the front of the building, both to reflect our name but also for better visibility.
- We are looking into applying for grants to help with the cost of equipment, website renewal, and the new sign.



The herbal medicine workshop on January 20 was successful with registration very quickly filling up. I personally am looking forward to the spiritual retreat on February 10 (advertised elsewhere in this newsletter).



CUC resolutions were received recently, and I am including them in a separate article. If you would like the full document of either of these (which includes background information), please email [president@uuch.ca](mailto:president@uuch.ca). UUCH has the right to two delegates to the CUC AGM in May. Please consider attending. We will hold a general meeting of UUCH in February (date TBD) to discuss the motions and elect the delegates.

**Pam Griffin-Hody**  
**President**  
**UUCH Board of Directors**



## From the Climate Crisis Team

*A UU Focus on the Climate Crisis*

### From our January 21st service:

Links for Dr. Hannah Ritchie's work: TED Talk on YouTube played during the service titled *Are We the Last Generation or the First Sustainable One?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kl3VVrggKz4>

There are also several other podcasts and interviews on YouTube.

Book: *Not the End of the World: How We Can Be the First Generation to Build a Sustainable Planet.* On order in the Halifax Library system

### Coming up on February 11th:

*Meaning Making in Liminal Times – What Sustains and Inspires Us in this Climate Emergency?* Service by Rev. Meg Roberts. See list of February services for outline.

### CUC news:

Vancouver Unitarians are proposing a complex motion about defunding fossil fuels for the CUC AGM in May. See further details elsewhere in this newsletter. We have until March 15th to send feedback.

### Down the road:

The Ecology Action Center is planning another parade to celebrate Earth Day, April 22nd. Watch for the specific date and further details.

**Margaret Galbraith**  
**For the Climate Crisis Team**



## February is CUC Month



CUC Month is held every year in February. One of the CUC's activities during this month is to post a daily CUC fact on the [CUC Facebook page](#). Let's look for those; we could learn something we never knew!

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is the national organization for Canadian Unitarians, Unitarian Universalists, and Universalist Unitarians (UUs) in Canada. The CUC is made up of member congregations to which it is accountable. It is a voice for our vibrant, liberal faith community, within the interfaith community in Canada, and within the international UU community. The CUC, through its small but dedicated [staff](#), provides support for UUs and [congregations across the country](#), fostering growth and outreach, particularly in the areas of lifespan religious education, spiritual growth, and social responsibility.

The CUC's Social Justice Team has an overarching role in Canadian UU social justice work. It is responsible for identifying social justice issues to be acted on, recommending action plans and initiatives, and helping connect congregations and individuals to each other.

The CUC [board of trustees](#) is elected by delegates from member congregations at the [Annual General Meeting](#), hosted by a Canadian congregation each year.

This year's AGM will be on May 26th.

Would you consider attending?

Contact Pam at [pam\\_griffin-hody@carleton.ca](mailto:pam_griffin-hody@carleton.ca)

### Gathered Here (a CUC online event)

**Friday, February 9, 3 pm**

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

Join other UU 18-35 year-olds on Zoom (a video conferencing platform) for sharing of joys and sorrows, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process the events of our lives with a spiritually grounded community.

These are drop-in style gatherings, so you don't need to sign up in advance and there is no fee. More information is available [here](#).

# CUC Resolutions for CUC AGM, May 2024

There are two resolutions from congregations for the upcoming CUC AGM, one regarding fossil fuels and one with a language update to the 2023 resolutions on the Doctrine of Discovery.

## From Vancouver Unitarians:

RESOLVED that the CUC and member congregations:

1. Be in solidarity with those Indigenous Peoples who oppose fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure on their traditional territories; and
2. Oppose individual and bank investment in fossil fuel extraction, refining, transportation, and marketing leading to fossil fuel consumption and Global Heating; and
3. Who bank at the five major Canadian banks are encouraged to move their financial business elsewhere; and
4. Similarly encourage all holding mutual funds and other investment vehicles with significant investments in 1) fossil fuel corporations, or 2) in the five major Canadian banks which fund them, **to move their investments** to financial instruments with lower or no investments in 1) fossil fuel corporations, and 2) the five major Canadian banks; and
5. Encourage boards of trustees to consider communicating this resolution to elected officials, Indigenous Peoples, and journalists, as well as financial, environmental, IBPOC, social justice, and faith groups in their geographic location(s).

## From Toronto First:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Regarding the **Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery** motion passed at the 2023 CUC Annual Meeting:
    - i. The words “and the doctrine of *Terra Nullius*” be appended to the phrase “the Doctrine of Discovery” (or “the Doctrine”, as the case may be); and
    - ii. The remainder of the resolution be amended to reflect that it now refers to two doctrines instead of one; such that the amended resolution reads:
      1. The Canadian Unitarian Council formally repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery and the doctrine of *Terra Nullius*, and urges its member congregations to do the same;
      2. The CUC will add our name to the list of faith organizations who have already repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery and the doctrine of *Terra Nullius*, and this will be communicated to the member congregations;
      3. The CUC advocates for legislation to formally enact the repudiation of both doctrines nationally and within Canadian legal systems;
      4. An Action Group be set up immediately to plan the implementation of these repudiations.
  2. The **Action Plan** proposed at the same meeting to enact the above resolution be modified so as to incorporate the doctrine of *Terra Nullius* in the same manner as the Doctrine of Discovery, such that learnings and recommendations can be included in the report of the Action Group anticipated to be delivered at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
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Universalist Unitarian  
Community of Halifax

# ***SPIRITUAL RETREAT***

Join us for a day of

- reflection
- guided discussion
- meditation
- journaling
- and more!

**No cost. All are welcome**

**Register here:**

<https://forms.gle/swGQXmL7xkYfEm2V9>



**Saturday February 10, 2024**

**10 am - 4 pm**

**5500 Inglis Street, Halifax**

## From the RDR Committee



*Mark your calendars !  
February is Black History  
Month (aka African Heritage  
Month). Events promise to  
be enlightening, entertaining  
and inspiring.*

**One of the best will be “Poets Breaking Into Song (#11): Saltwater Spirituals and Uppity Blues”,** Saturday, February 10 from 2-4 pm, free, at the Central Library, organized by the irrepressible poet George Elliott Clarke. He says “This will be an unforgettable afternoon of neo-soul spirituals and gospel song, accompanied by heartfelt poetry, which is meant to be a tribute to the resilience borne of faith as well as a testament to Black (Nova Scotian) Excellence.”

Many more free events are listed on the HRM Library website, under Events – African Heritage Month.

Others that sound especially appealing:

1. **Book launch of Walter Borden’s “The Last Epistle of Tightrope Time”** at the Central Library. Monday February 5, 6-8 pm.
2. **Nova Scotia Mass Choir** at the Captain William Spry Library, Wednesday, February 7th, 7-7:45
3. **Book launch of “Black Activist, Black Scientist, Black Icon”** by Dr. Howard D. McCurdy with George Elliott Clarke at the Central Library. Thursday, February 8, 6:30-8 pm.
4. **“Lift Every Voice 9: African Heritage Month Musical Showcase”** at the North Branch Library, Thursday, February 15, 6-8 pm—and at the Central Library, Thursday, February 22, 6-8 pm.

There are also many events for children.

Enjoy!

**Brian Gifford**  
*for the RDR Committee*

### It's not too late!

It's not too late to submit changes to your contact info for our 2024 Church Directory to be released later this month.

If you are new to UUCH and plan to continue with us (which would please us), please know that you do not have to be an 'official' member to have a directory listing. Contact me if you have questions.

Everyone on “uuinfo” will receive the directory as a PDF when all changes are in. Hard copy booklets will also be available

Etta Hamm  
braeside@eastlink.ca

### UUCH Board of Directors

#### Officers

President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Vice-president	Joe Britto
Past President	Kim Turne
Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Pam Berman

#### Members at large

Avard Woolaver	Mary Frances Lynch
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### Food Box Appeal



We still have a food box in the front porch, but since the pandemic started in early 2020, it has sat there practically empty except for the odd item now and then. People still drop by to check, however, hoping to find something to fill their stomachs.

As we are able, let's start building up our food box again!

## From the Caring Committee



When Shripad became homebound for an extended period due to a fracture in his foot, several members of UUCH stepped forward to help him in various ways. Shripad, as a way of thanking us, invited us to a lovely lunch before he left for India and Australia. Shown in the above photo, the helpers were Cea Connor, Jim Morrison, Colin Kerr, Faith Piccolo, Sylvia Mattinson, Sheila Morrison, and Gail Kerr. (Plus Margaret Matthews who is not in the photo). Shripad is now in India and his foot is steadily improving. While he is on the other side of the world he will continue to be involved with members of our community. All the best, Shripad, for your ongoing recovery!

\*

The celebrations of life for Ella Wilson and for Elinor Egar-Reynolds are coming up in March and April, dates to be advised.

The days have just begun to lengthen and we send best wishes to everyone as spring comes closer and closer.

***Faith, Shripad and Sylvia***

“Be kind whenever possible.  
It is always possible.”  
~ Dalai Lama

## From the Refugee Committee

Many of you will have noticed newcomers arriving at the church in the hope or expectation of being able to speak to someone about sponsoring family still overseas. However, there are not always members\* of the SAH team present on Sunday mornings to talk with them.



We will have a leaflet on the Welcome Table which you can give to them with instructions for how and when to contact us. Basically, they need to start with an email to [uurefugees@gmail.com](mailto:uurefugees@gmail.com). From there, either their questions will be answered or they can set up an interview with Andrea on her days in the office.

A quick update, as it's been a while: We had a whopping 167 newcomers arrive in 2023 and are bracing for another record year in 2024. We will already have 12 by the end of January – an Afghan family, an Ethiopian family, a Syrian Kurdish family and a single Syrian man.

\*UUCH members on the SAH team are Andrea Dewar, Molly Hurd & Marilyn Shinyei. Margaret Galbraith has just retired from the team after her 8+ years of service. We will miss her.

***Marilyn Shinyei  
for the Committee***



The submission deadline for the  
**MARCH NEWSLETTER**  
is **Monday, February 26th.**

Please submit to  
Etta Hamm, [braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)

