



**Theme for January 2018: Prophecy**

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

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

Rev. Norm Horofker  
Minister  
Office Hours  
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3  
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson  
Office Administrator  
Office hours  
Mon, 9-3 (lunch 12-1)  
Wed, Fri 10-3

Deborah Wiggins  
Music Director

RE Director  
Tanya Bilsbury

Kim Turner  
President

Newsletter  
Etta Hamm  
Sylvia Mattinson  
Sandra Jamieson

**Sunday service  
10:30 am**

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education  
Child care available

**January 7**

***Prophecy in the Unitarian Universalist Tradition – the Theoretical Foundations***

Prophecy is not about predicting the future. It is about interpreting the morality and ethics of what is happening in our world right now. What are the roots of prophecy for Unitarian Universalists?

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

**January 14**

***Prophecy in the Unitarian Universalist tradition – the Reality***

Our congregation, like most UU congregations has a deep commitment to Social Justice. Today we will explore how that commitment is manifest in the real world.

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Leader: Anne Knight-Gorman

**January 21**

***Making Sense of 2017***

The stories we tell ourselves affect our world view. What did 2017 mean to us? Whether it was good, bad, or a mixed bag, useful guidance can be found when we pause to listen to ourselves on what we did and what we hope to try next. (This service will include a fifteen-minute personal writing exercise.)

Presenter: Martha Wilson; Service Leader: Troy Saulnier

**January 28**

***The Joys and Sorrows that Shape our Lives***

The sharing of joys and sorrows is an important aspect of the services in most Unitarian Universalist congregations. Today several individuals from the congregation will reflect on personal milestones that have moved their lives in different directions. (This is the first of our Young Adult Sundays, which from now on will take place on the last Sunday of each month.)

Presenter: Members of the Congregation; Service Leader: TBA

**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.**



## JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3 pm Memorial Service for Louise Malloch	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 am Choir Noon: Worship Comm.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>11</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10 am–noon UU Brunch 2 pm Memorial Service for Pearl Spurr Northwood Penthouse
<b>14</b> 9:30 am Choir Noon Social Responsibility 12:30 Long Lake Hike	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>18</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10 am–noon UU Brunch
<b>21</b> 9:30 am Choir Noon Humanist Group	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>25</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10 am–noon UU Brunch
<b>28</b> 9:30 am Choir Noon Intro to UUism with Rev. Norm Noon RE Committee	<b>29</b> 10 am Newsletter deadline	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir			

### Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse Friday, February 9th

**Excitement is heating up again for our Annual Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse! Time to ensure that the date is on all your calendars from your kitchen wall to your virtual wall.**

**As usual, it's from 7 to 10 pm, with a free-will offering at the door. Please invite your friends and family for some wonderful mid-winter fellowship.**

**To all performers, it's time to dust off those shoes, costumes, voices and/or instruments and start rehearsing! You must let me know, in advance, if you wish to share some music, poetry, dance, comedy, a skit, or other talent, for the pre-scheduled, family-friendly line-up.**

***Deborah Wiggins***  
***Music Director***



# *Minister's Notes*

## *Renewal...*

We celebrate the beginning of a new year on January 1, thanks to a decree of Julius Caesar in 46 BCE. (The oldest New Year celebrations were in the spring!) Since the time of Julius Caesar, January has been a time for renewal and new beginnings. I will be participating in this tradition in two significant ways early in the new year.

From January 22 to January 26, along with 360 other ministers, I will be attending “The Institute”—a retreat for ministers sponsored every three years by the Unitarian Universalist Minister’s Association. The intent is to promote “excellence in ministry” and this year for the first time the event is open to religious professionals from all faith traditions. This year it is being held outside Tampa, Florida. (I know it is a long way to go, but I am prepared for the necessary sacrifice.)

The retreat features extensive workshops on a variety of themes related to ministry. I expect to come back to Halifax with new ideas, insight and renewed enthusiasm... watch out!

After five years as your minister, I will be taking a one-month sabbatical leave during the month of March. I enjoy what I do as your minister, and I honestly find it hard to plan on staying away from the church for a full month, but I think it will be good for me (and good for Janet). In my absence, the Worship Committee will be planning the services for March.

With all this renewal going on, you may not recognize me by April!

I wish you all a very Happy New Year. May our beloved congregation be a source of strength for each of us for whatever fortune comes our way in 2018.

***With Love... Norm***

## The Caring Column

**Louise Malloch** first came to our church in 1989 and officially joined in 2006. She was very involved with the children in the Religious Education program and also sang in the choir. One of her great loves was music; she took singing lessons and often shared her voice with us at morning services or coffee houses. After she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer she lived each day with realistic optimism. She was a true example of dying with dignity. Louise passed away peacefully on December 22, 2017. She was just 44. Her memorial service will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax. Heartfelt condolences go out to Louise's loving family.



We send our condolences to **Mary Spurr** and her family on the loss of her mother Pearl Mary Spurr who passed away December 7, 2017 at the age of 91. A memorial service will be held in the Penthouse at Northwood Centre, Halifax, at 2 pm on Saturday January 13th with Rev. Norman Horofker officiating. Any who wish may make a donation in Pearl's memory to Northwoodcare or a charity of their choice.

We send our condolences also to **Doug Fevens** and his family on the loss of his mother. Phyllis Fevens passed away in Overton, NS on December 7, 2017 at the age of 97.

**Deborah Wiggins** is excited to announce that she will be a grandmother early in the summer. Her son Curtis Murphy and his wife Carly Gaylor are expecting their first child.

**Thank you!** The Caring Committee thanks the many, many people in the church community who helped us in so many ways in 2017. We and the people you helped truly appreciate you and your kindness.

**Mary Ellen Onno, Chair**

## Long Lake hike, January 14



Long Lake in the icy grip of winter. Allyn Clarke

The January hike will take place on Sunday, January 14 and will follow the western side of Long Lake in Long Lake Provincial Park. The hike is designed to accommodate adults, children and dogs.

We will depart the church at 12:30 pm or meet at the parking lot on the left-hand side of St Margarets Bay Road by 12:50. This parking lot is found about 200 metres before you reach the turn-off for the Prospect Bay Road. If you are lost or running late, call me at 902-483-4731.

We will follow the shore of Long Lake until we reach the fast flowing stream that enters the lake. We will follow the stream past the waterfall until we encounter the pipeline road that was part of the infrastructure when these lakes and streams were the water supply for the city of Halifax. We will follow the pipeline road back to our cars. I expect to be back in the parking lot by 4 o'clock.

Along the route, we will challenge hikers to find articles that are native to NS and also use GPS trackers to find food caches enroute. These caches have probably not been raided by bears since they have likely settled down for their long winter's nap.

I hope the weather will warm up a little while still remaining cold enough to keep any muddy sections frozen. The waterfall is a spectacular sight when shrouded with ice.

**Allyn Clarke, Jesse Robson**

# Music Montage

*"Let your heart be the conductor of the beautiful symphony that is your life." ~ Jane Lee Logan*



## **January's 'Singing As We Gather'**

The Gathering Hymn for January is #146 *Soon the Day Will Arrive*. January's theme is *Prophecy*. It's also a month that rings in hope and renewal for a fresh, new calendar year. Hail 2018! Therefore, this hymn's lyrics are inspiring and uplifting, as is its music.

*Some have dreamed, some have died to make a bright tomorrow,  
and our vision remains in our hearts.  
Now the torch must be passed with new hope, not in sorrow,  
and a promise to make a new start.  
Wait and see, wait and see what a world there can be  
if we share, if we care, you and me.*

## **Monthly Music Projects**

January's Themed Music Project will be on Sunday, January 21st.

The rehearsal opportunities for this are:

- Sunday, January 7th, at 9:30 am
- Sunday, January 14th, at 9:30 am
- Sunday, January 21st, at 9:30 am

February's Music Project will be on Sunday, February 18th.

The rehearsal opportunities for this are:

- Sunday, January 28th, at 9:30 am (minister's office)
- Sunday, February 4th, at 9:30 am
- Sunday, February 11th, at 9:30 am
- Sunday, February 18th, at 9:30 am

## **Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse, Friday, February 9th**

It's time again to write the date of our *Annual Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse* in our calendars! As usual, it will be from 7 to 10 pm, with a free-will offering at the door. We encourage you to bring potluck finger foods to share, and please invite your friends and family for this wonderful midwinter fellowship gathering.

And, of course, I want to hear from all those who would like to share some music, poetry, dance, comedy, a skit, or other talent with us. I'll be preparing a program, and it would be terrific for you to be a part of it!

**Deborah Wiggins**  
**Music Director**

# Religious Exploration

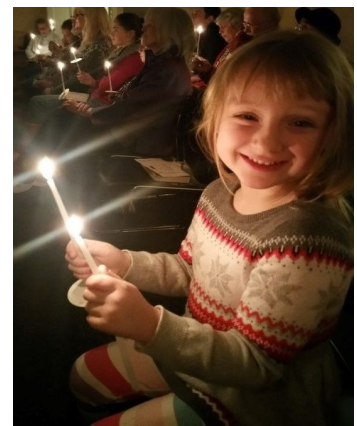
First I'd like to recognize the great contribution that Louise Malloch made to the RE program over many years. It seems like such a short while ago that she was upstairs with the kids, but sadly she lost her battle with cancer last month. In accordance with her wishes, and with the guidance and support of Norm and their parents the situation was explained to the older children who Louise worked with and they had the opportunity to send her farewell videos. The children reflected on the time they spent with her, what they learned from her, and some performed music for her. I will remember her kindness, sweetness, and dedication to the children.



It was Louise who invited me to apply for the position of DRE, a position I started on January 1st, 2017. Every DRE contributes in a different way, bringing their unique skills to the table; for example, Christy Lee, my predecessor, brought her artistic skills, creativity, and spontaneity to the role. Reflecting on the last year, my contribution has been organizational: keeping detailed financial records, meeting, and files in a shared Google Drive folder; building an indexed

library of children's books as PowerPoint slides to be shown on our new overhead screen; working on policies with Norm; and tidying the supply closet so that everything is at hand for volunteers in labeled, clear plastic bins. My next major project is to organize and refresh the Fahs Room which has been neglected for some time and where many RE supplies and resources lay lost in a jumble.

Going forward into 2018, I am grateful to have the support of a truly wonderful RE committee: Danielle Saulnier (chair), Jesse Robson, Pam Berman, and Janet Horofker. Tracy Boyer and Angela Van Amberg are helping Jesse with a sub-committee to plan off-site excursions, which we hope will liven up RE and more effectively engage our older youth.



Looking forward to an exciting (and very well-organized) new year,

**Tanya Bilsbury**  
**Director of Religious Exploration**



## REPORT ON DONATIONS in 2017 — and the 2018 CANVASS

The software we use to document your donations so that we can easily issue tax receipts also allows us to print this lovely summary for the year. I think it is worthwhile to highlight it and give you some explanation of what you are seeing. First of all, yes, our small congregation raised over \$171,000 in 2017. Secondly, this is money that had a name attached to it. There was another \$2,000 on the collection plate without identification. As you can see, the largest portion comes from Pledged Donation. Unpledged Donation, the next biggest number, is that money given by you or visitors with identification attached but not previously pledged.



You also gave to our Capital Campaign, In Memoriam for members who died, for special initiatives such as Pride, Share the Plate, UU-UNO, Christmas Hampers etc. There was a \$5,000 Gift to the Endowment Fund, and over \$5,000 in Gift-in-Kind donations, about 2/3 of which was food for our Food Box.

Finally, in case you are wondering about the Refugee Fund amount, we received over \$11,000 late in the year into our Refugee Sponsorship Fund from the new South Shore Refugee Family Reunification group who have just begun their fundraising. We are their co-sponsors.

### Summary of all donations by category January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Category	Amount
Capital Campaign	\$ 1,551.00
Endowment Fund	5,000.00
Gift in Kind	5,236.66
In Memoriam	3,250.00
Minister's Discretionary Fund	8,020.00
Pledged Donation	120,084.22
Pride	150.00
Refugee Fund	12,215.99
Share the Plate	640.00
Soc. Responsibility	545.00
UU-UNO	635.00
Unpledged Donation	13,971.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$171,299.72</b>

The amazing thing is that our Pledge Total for 2017 was \$117,000 and yet we took in over \$120,000. So, in spite of deaths and changed circumstances stopping some pledges, others actually gave beyond their pledge and miraculously we surpassed the goal.

### 2018 CANVASS

On that note here is a final report on the Canvass for 2018. Our goal was \$122,850 and the number we have reached is \$120,062. Not bad at all. Of course, things will happen in 2018; pledges may have to be changed but wouldn't it be amazing if once again we surpassed the pledged amount?

Thank you one and all!

**Marilyn Shinyei**

## Feedback from the Fall 2017 Canvass Survey

The Canvass Committee wishes to share with you the feedback from the survey on the back of the pledge forms of our recent canvass. Note that the list is based on very limited responses as we heard from only nine people.

Your Board of Directors is also open to and seeking input from the congregation on how you feel about the ministry of this church. In addition to feedback to the Board, you are always welcome to provide feedback to the Committee on Shared Ministry whose members are Kathy Spencer, Paul Galbraith and Sylvia Mattinson.

1. What aspects of the church, as we do them now, do you like and want to see continued?
  - *Sunday services, though not always enamoured of how we do them now*
  - *Caring committee, fellowship events, Sunday greeters*
  - *The music, the variety, easy to sing*
  - *Children's stories, simple, connected to theme & lead-in to the sermon*
  - *Coffee time, socializing*
  - *Appreciate movement in the community outward, social justice & being out there*
  - *Love Rev Norm, doing a great job. I appreciate his optimistic attitude and warmth*
  - *Services, RE, coffee hour, music, coffee house, dinners for 8, social issue demonstrations & activities, Saturday breakfast, Afterchoir, info sessions*
  - *Like the positive environment*
  - *Willingness of people to do what they can for the church*
  - *Hardworking minister*
  - *Our commitment to social responsibility issues*
  - *Our general atmosphere of hospitality*
  - *Love the Saturday breakfast outreach*
  - *Love the music program*
  - *We have an excellent minister*
  - *All going well—love Rev Norm's outreach and great commitment to this church*
  - *Recent changes to joys and concerns great, hope it works*
2. What aspects of the church, as we do them now, would you like to see changed, and in what way?
  - *Considerably more variety of style, approach and message in Sunday services*
  - *Sunday morning prep needs to be much more organized and welcoming for members, friends & visitors, from chair & room set-up to early ushers & sound, better prepared service leaders & assistants*
  - *Some sermons are complicated, get more out of them if simpler. Don't have to cover every aspect, prefer more focussed*
  - *Invite everybody to help, send requests to all of UUCH via uuinfo instead of just approaching certain individuals*
  - *In RE, need materials to use at different ages, program for the older kids*
  - *Would love to have the pillars removed*
  - *Service start time: 15 yrs ago it changed from 11 & 7 to 9:30 and 10:30 and changed the whole congregation; then it changed to just 10:30. If you want young people who have one night of relaxation (Saturday) to come to church, let them sleep in and come at 11 am. And a 7 pm service would allow people to go away for the weekend and still attend church*
  - *Prefer sharing Joys & Concerns the old way, feels more like sharing*
  - *Would like to see open invite to get together for lunch after church, eg., one Sunday each month, or lunch & a movie, museum, library, etc.*
  - *Find ways to bring more people to the church and have them stay*
  - *We don't need two staircases, get rid of one*
  - *Liked the oral Joys & Concerns*
  - *More overnight/weekend retreats like we used to do, eg., to Tatamagouche*
  - *Have a party once a month*
  - *I find there is magic in the singing bowl, start it at the beginning of the silent meditation & let it keep singing*

Cont'd, next page ...



## Notes from Canadian Unitarian Council eNews, December issue



Full edition at [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca)  
under Communications.  
Some highlights:

**The National Conference is fast approaching!  
Save the date for Hamilton, May 18-20, 2018.**

Check out the Saturday program, all focused around the conference theme of "Invitation to Love and Justice." Registration, end of January.

**Northern Lights:** The funding program that encourages innovation and growth invites congregations to submit projects for consideration. Deadline, March 31. Sign up to be a Chalice Lighter and support these growth projects.

**February is CUC Month!** Set aside time to discuss matters before going to the Annual General Meeting, select your delegates in advance, and hold a Sharing Our Faith Sunday.

**2018 Sharing Our Faith worship is available.** Compiled by Rev. Anne Barker and Rosemary Morrison, the material focuses on Radical Hospitality and Racial Justice.

**Faith In Action:** The CUC sent a letter to the federal government on the newly announced national housing strategy—and also signed on to support equal rights for women in the Indian Act.

**A chance to serve at the national level:** The CUC's Nominating Committee has issued a Call for Nominations for the CUC Board of Trustees with 3-year terms beginning on May 18, 2018. ]

**Webinar, Leadership Series:** Basics of government reporting and the congregational relationship with the CUC, Jan 20, 12:30 pm ET. Facilitated by Vyda.

**The Truth, Healing and Reconciliation initiative** is succeeding beyond what was imagined!

Now go to [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca)!

## Feedback from Fall Canvass, continued ...

3. Other comments to help the Board in its planning:

- *Proper meeting space, storage space, follow-up regarding results of this survey compiled & made available to the congregation I've yet to see that in all the years I've completed this form*
- *Hold and follow-up on Townhalls badly needed about who we are, what we stand for and what to offer, if we are going to be a community with a future*
- *Miss the Joys & Concerns*
- *Open the library doors when I come early*
- *None - great job*

4. Finally, are you interested in being involved with any of the church's many committees or special projects? What appeals to you? Where do you think you might like to contribute your time and energy?

- *We are both already on committees*
- *Like special events that bring us together, overnight camping, BBQ*
- *Really like the hikes*
- *Not now, perhaps in the future*
- *Not well at present*
- *Allergic to work*
- *On two committees now*

Note: More people disliked the new Joys and Concerns than liked it (3 to 1). But this is not a large enough sample to act on. It's not too late though, If you have things to say, use the four questions and write in your answers, leave your responses in the office in the space marked Canvass Chair, or email them to Marilyn Shinyei. There is also the comment section on the back of the Order of Service specifically for the Minister and the Worship Committee.

## The Canvass Committee

## A bit of history from our Historian

Allyn Clarke

While looking for information on the founding of our congregation, I found the obituary for our first minister, the Rev. Robinson Breare, and thought it would be of interest to our readers. The Rev. Robinson Breare was the first ordained minister of the Halifax Universalist Church. A book on the life of John Murry convinced Rev. Breare of the rightness of the Universalist faith and he began to preach Universalism from the pulpit of his Methodist Church in Halifax. His board removed him from that pulpit. He travelled to Boston where he was ordained as a Universalist minister and returned to Halifax to serve as our minister for three years. He was the minister when the first Universalist Church in British North America was built and dedicated in Halifax. The following obituary appeared in the Universalist Register for 1883:



“Rev. Robinson Breare, died at Vinton, Ohio, March 4, 1882, in his seventy-second year. He was born, June 17, 1810 at Addingham, in Yorkshire, England. He early showed a fondness for books and a desire for education. When only a lad he joined the Methodist Church, in whose communion he commenced preaching when he was but seventeen years old. In 1832 he was admitted to full fellowship as a preacher, and was sent out as a missionary to the Zetland (Shetland) Isles where he remained until 1836. After service at Edinburgh, Scotland, and at Manchester, England, he was sent by the Wesleyan Association of Scotland to Halifax, N.S.

“While located at Halifax he experienced a change of faith and came to accept Universalist views. By reason of this change of sentiment he severed his connection with the Methodist Church and entered at once upon the proclamation of his new faith at Halifax. This was in 1842. Three years later he dedicated in that city the first Universalist Church erected in the British Provinces. Afterward he was pastor at Marblehead, Mass., and at West Scituate, Mass. In 1852 he removed to Ohio and became connected with the “Star in the West”, published by Rev. Mr. Gurley. He afterwards did missionary work in various parts of Ohio, residing at Gallipolis and at Vinton, respectively, for several years. From 1873 to 1879 he resided in Haverhill Mass., preaching as opportunity was offered and as his health would permit. In the last-named year he returned to his Ohio home, resuming his labors in the circuit where his labors were always welcomed, and where he continued to preach until the second Sunday of February, 1882, on which date he preached his last earthly discourse at Middleport. His closing illness was brief; peacefully he passed on to the rewards of the higher life.

“For more than half a century he had well established the character of a faithful Christian minister. For forty years he had preached the doctrine of Universal Salvation. He had a sympathetic and loving nature, was possessed of great zeal and determination, and gave himself in the spirit of a true consecration to the doing of his Master’s work. He was generous-hearted and true man, every way worthy of the many friends he gained who will long remember him both for love’s sake and for his work’s sake. “

*T'is more blessed to give than to receive ...*



***Hampers filled and ready to go!*** Troy and Danielle Saulnier with two of their children, Kyla and Tristan. The Saulniers have taken on the annual shopping and filling of gift bags for UUCH's Christmas Hamper Drive. This great though pleasant effort benefits clients of the Canadian Mental Health Association's "Building Bridges Program". Our members were generous in their giving, the Saulniers spent hours (and had fun) with their new family project—and CMHA clients are always grateful. Thank you, one and all.

