



Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
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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
Presented Online

All are welcome

Children & Youth
Education

This Month's Sunday Services

Note: Services will be available online and in person in our sanctuary, subject to COVID-19 regulations. Please join us between 10:20 am and 10:30 on Sunday. Services start at 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 YouTube on our UUCH Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

The Theme for January: Imagination

January 3 *New Year's Resolution... Imagine A Workout for the Soul* — Imagine that we could see one another's soul. Would we spend less time on our physical appearance and more time on that essence called soul? Can UUCH be a gymnasium for the soul? Are you ready for a workout? **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith**

January 10 *Imagining Policy Alternatives for Government* — Christine Saulnier is the Nova Scotia Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. She has recently co-authored a paper titled "2020 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia - Willful Neglect?" **Service Presenter: Christine Saulnier; Service Leader: Pam Griffin-Hody**

January 17 *Re-imagining the Past* — Whether on a personal level or on a societal level, our satisfaction with the world we inhabit is the result of the stories we tell about how we got here... and no story is complete. We can change the future by re-imagining the past. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marie Welton**

January 24 *Defunding the Police... Imagine That!* — The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners has appointed El Jones to begin the work of defining what it means to defund the police. Today we will explore this from a UU perspective. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Page Wakarchuck**










January 31 *Imagining Future Possibilities for the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax* — Your president and minister are excited by the future potential of our congregation! New perspectives as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic present opportunities to leverage the power of our history, our principles and our sources to forge new relationships with others in the community. **Service Leaders: Rev. Norm Horofker, and President, Troy Saulnier**



The Theme for February: Beloved Community

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.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>2021: International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (UN) undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/327</p>					<p>1</p>  <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out</p>
<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am Online Service</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	 <p>Feast of the Epiphany</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm UUCH Online Gathering</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am Online Service</p> <p>5 pm Connect, Deepen</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Schools re-open</p> <p>9:00 pm Gathered Here CUC online</p>	<p>12</p>	 <p>6:30 pm Board meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 pm UUCH Online Gathering</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10:30 am Online Service</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	 <p>Don't leave home without it</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 pm UUCH Online Gathering</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Interfaith Harmony Week registration deadline</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:30 am Online Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12 Noon Newsletter deadline</p>  <p>7:30 pm Racism Awareness</p>	<p>27</p> <p>630-7:30 pm Interfaith Harmony Intro Session</p> 	 <p>7:00 pm UUCH Online Gathering</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out</p> <p>7 pm Soulful Sundown featuring Tall Poppy</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10:30 am Online Service</p>						

Feb 6 2021: Deadline to sign the House of Commons e-petition calling on the Government of Canada to accede to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. See inside, *Say No to Nuclear Weapons*.

Minister's Notes



*January's
Theme:
Imagination*

I begin these notes with a heartfelt Happy New Year to you all. At this time last year, I certainly had no idea how COVID-19 would disrupt life as we knew it. Our theme for January is *Imagination* but the part of my brain that deals with imagination is telling me that for 2021 there are just too many variables to contemplate. And so, I move forward with faith that we will continue to build our community regardless.

Under the circumstances it was a good year for us. My pressing concern is for those who do not have ready access to the internet, and especially those living in extended care facilities, cut off from much that was happening in our community. We are all hoping for an early release from the social distancing and the masks and our hearts go out to those who are really suffering mentally and physically in the midst of this pandemic.

Despite the restrictions we have taken some major initiatives this year. We have launched a pilot for the UU Wellspring Program with 8 volunteers from the program. In fact, we were oversubscribed. UU Wellspring is an Adult Religious Exploration program designed to help people develop their sense of UU spirituality in the context of an intimate small-group setting. We expect to start a new group in the fall.

We have re-established our Truth Healing and Reconciliation Task Team, and launched our Dismantling Racism Task Team.

Since last June, I have been wrestling with re-imagining my role as your minister. It has been, and continues to be, an evolutionary process. I have been focussing on the aspects of the congregation that are clearly part of our ministry and working with the committees and task teams that come under that umbrella. I am looking for ways to reduce my commitment of time to things not related to ministry.

The table below lists the existing committees and task teams that I am working with, along with the time of the monthly meetings and the chair of each team. One of the things that has changed forever is that if you have computer access, it is no longer necessary to travel to attend meeting which makes it easier to schedule meetings.

If you would like to be more involved with the congregation (an excellent New Year's resolution) I encourage you to contact any one of the committee chairs, and watch for new developments in this regard.

Committee or Task Team	Schedule	Chair
Truth and Reconciliation Team	1st Friday 3:00 pm	Wietske Gradstein
Building Committee	2nd Thursday 2:00 pm	Norm Horofker
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm.	Norm Horofker
Saturday Brunch Team	3rd Friday 2:00 pm	Kath Anthony
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 5:00 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Dismantling Racism	4th Tuesday 7:30 pm	Norm Horofker
Membership	4th Thursday 7:30 pm	Pam Berman

A word here about the building committee: I have been heavily involved with this team because of my previous experience in engineering and maintenance, but I realize that it takes time away from my role as minister. To help in this regard the Board has agreed to involving our architect, Peter Henry, in our monthly meeting. Peter has a long history with our congregation, and he has agreed to participate in our building committee for a very small honorarium. This makes the work of the committee more professional. I hope this will encourage others to participate on the committee, knowing that we have Peter on board.

Thank you all again for the honour and pleasure of serving you in 2020. Best wishes to you all.

**With Love,
Rev. Norm Horofker**

Board Buzz

The board held its last meeting of the year on December 16th—the perfect opportunity to reflect on the past year.

We were all impressed by the adaptability and the resiliency shown by the congregation during a tumultuous year. Norm and the Worship Committee quickly and successfully transitioned to online services. The Coffee House and Blue Christmas service went virtual.

The Religious Exploration Program for Children and Youth found richness through outdoor activities, while the UU Wellspring program was launched for adult spiritual exploration.

The Saturday Brunch adjusted to the evolving group size restrictions to ensure this project continued to support our community.

The Caring Committee reached out to members who were in social isolation. All these adjustments took time and effort from staff and volunteers but showed the resourcefulness of our congregation.

The board also looked ahead to next year to plan how to navigate the challenges ahead. We will continue to follow the health guidelines to reopen the sanctuary to a larger group as it becomes safe to do so.

Our small congregation also set out a bold objective to ensure that our staff receives a living wage—and our historic building requires some important exterior maintenance.

We were sorry to have Katherine Hutka resign from the board due to pressures of other commitments. She is still a loyal UUCH member, however.

We wish everyone and their families a great start to 2021 and look forward to continuing to adapt and



grow as a congregation with all the new challenges the new year will bring.

Jean-François Turcotte
Vice-president
UUCH Board of Directors

P.S. Please see the Caring Column for happy news from Caitlin and me!

UUCH Board of Directors 2020 - 2021

Officers

President	Troy Saulnier
Vice-President	Jean-François Turcotte
Past President	Margaret Galbraith
Secretary	Pam Griffin-Hody
Treasurer	Avard Woolaver

Members at Large

Jim Morrison	Michael Belland
Katelyn Everson	

Ex-officio

Rev. Norm Horofker, Minister



Did you read the December-January issue of *eNews* when you received it by email? If you did not, or if you are not a subscriber, we remind you that it is always posted on the CUC website. This last issue has everything—the light and positive, notices of online learning events, items of great importance to the lives of many Canadians and more. Here is a very small sampling of what you will find in the December-January issue:

- Unitarians Celebrate Diverse Array of Winter Holidays
- Glad Tidings of Comfort and Joy
- CUC Testifies in Support of Assisted-Dying Legislation
- Planning Underway for 2021 Conference and Youth/Young Adult Events
- What's Making Us Smile
- Upcoming [online] Events

eNews will keep you connected, informed, and guided among Canada's UUs. To receive *eNews* in your Inbox, subscribe at cuc.ca, click on News, then *eNews*, and follow the links to the subscription form.



Say No to Nuclear Weapons

Dear Friends,

In the spirit of advancing Canada's longtime commitment to global nuclear disarmament,

please sign the following House of Commons e-petition calling on the Government of Canada to accede to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Access via:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3028>

On January 22, 2021, this United Nations Treaty will become international law, thus finally declaring nuclear weapons illegal. However, nuclear weapons will only be illegal for those nations which have acceded to the Treaty, which currently stands at 51 nations. An additional 86 countries have signed the Treaty. Canada has not signed or acceded.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has stated that no government or international agency could possibly respond to the humanitarian needs after any use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, there is no vaccine for the effects of a nuclear weapons detonation.

The only solution is to prevent such a humanitarian disaster by being proactive. The more signatures, the stronger the petition. Please sign and distribute.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3028>

Closing date of this petition is February 6, at 2:00 pm EST, after which the petition will be verified and sent to Elizabeth May to be read in the House of Commons. The petition will also elicit an official response from the Government of Canada.

Earl Turcotte, chairperson of Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has stated "This is an excellent initiative that can help press the Government of Canada to take action in support of nuclear disarmament."

Nancy Covington

Anti-Racism Workshops coming up at UUCH



The new UUCH Anti-Racism task team met on December 22 with the goal of holding awareness raising workshops for UU members and friends about race and racism in Canada.

The next meeting, via Zoom, will be at 7:30, Tuesday January 26th, with the intention of holding anti-racism workshops in the coming year.

If you are interested in participating in the workshops, please contact any one of us:

Jim Morrison, Troy Saulnier, Pam Griffin-Hody, Norm Horofker

The plague of racism is insidious, entering into our minds as smoothly and quietly and invisibly as floating airborne microbes enter into our bodies to find lifelong purchase in our bloodstreams.

~ Maya Angelou

Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out needs more volunteers

It's time to grow the Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out! To do that, we need a few new people to join the team—wherever you would like to fit yourself in within the following stages of preparation.

Bakers of cookies and sweets:

One person per week. Currently we have Marie-Claude Leroux for the 2nd week, and Leslie Shaw for the 3rd week—so we need volunteers for the 1st and 4th weeks, sometimes a 5th. Bake at home, drop off by noon Friday morning.



Friday preppers: We have Michael Smith, Anne Walker, Pam Griffin-Hody and myself from 12ish noon till 3:30 (usually finished earlier). Make sandwiches, fill bags with fruit, juice, napkin, spoon, etc.

Saturday front-line people:

Currently we have Stephen Butler and Phil Silver at church from 9:30 to noon to add fridge items (sandwiches and yogurt) to the bags, make the coffee, hand out the bags, and make a list of clients.



This is a fun and satisfying effort for all who participate. With more volunteers we'll be able to have people taking turns over different weeks and spread the joy for all. Anyone interested in any position, please contact me or Norm. You'll be glad you did!

Kath Anthony

We rise by lifting others.
Robert Ingersoll



In keeping with our monthly themes, we resume our invitation to each member or friend to submit a short, inspirational piece (a presentation of approx 5 minutes) about your life and/or personal experiences.

The Worship and RE committees can help you prepare to present your story to the congregation.

Themes coming up are:

January Imagination

February Beloved Community

March Commitment

Do you have a little something to share about *Imagination* for a January service—or for either of the other months?

Reach out to

Marie-Claude Leroux
dre@uuch.com

DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions to the

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

is 12 noon

Tuesday, January 26th.

Please submit contributions to
Etta Hamm, braeside@eastlink.ca

The Caring Column

Happy New Year! I'm sure many of us are hoping for a much better year than the last one. May it be so!



Some happy news to start: Jean-François Turcotte and his love, Caitlin, pictured above, are overjoyed to announce that they are expecting a child at the end of May. Best wishes to all, JF, Caitlin and baby!

Special treats: Our brunch program delivered some extra special treats to its recipients just before Christmas, thanks to some generous church donors. How fortunate we are that our members and friends are so thoughtful and generous to others in our congregation.

Sunday services: Several of our people have said how much they have missed being in the church for Sunday services. The number of participants permitted to attend is still restricted by the department of public health because of COVID. However, a limited number of us are now able to go to the church for the services, after checking with Margaret Galbraith to ensure that the allowable limit has not yet been reached.

Wish me luck! Thursday the 7th, I'll be off to the hospital that much anticipated knee surgery!

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year in 2021!

Sylvia Mattinson

Meet a Fellow UU

Pam Berman, our Membership chair, invites members to submit brief personal statements about themselves for publication in this monthly newsletter, particularly in relation to their affinity for, or connection to UUCH. Etta's responses to 'Pam's four questions' (below) are perfect examples for the column. Please submit your piece to Pam Berman at: bermanpj@gmail.com

From Etta Hamm

When did you become a UU?

I first attended a service at UUCH in June 2002 (19 years ago!). Raised Catholic but had stayed away from churches for 20 years. One Saturday night I mentioned to my friend Ella



Wilson that I had been reading about the UU denomination online and that I was thinking of soon attending a service at UUCH. Her immediate response was to leave her out of it. Mere hours later she called and said "Let's go to that church tomorrow!" And so we did. Liking what we saw and heard, and the warm welcome we received, we've been all-in since that very day.

What attracted you to this community? The openness regarding beliefs, the congregation's commitment to do good in the community and in the world, the welcoming people, a place to absorb what is really important in life, opportunities to grow as a person, and so much more.

What has kept you here? These kind, interesting, ethically-minded, all-embracing, fun people who welcome everyone regardless of beliefs, race, sexual orientation, physical ability or financial standing. Also, for 9 years (until 6 years ago) my mission in life was being Membership chair. I practically *lived* to welcome new people, and to nurture them in joining with us to enjoy all our church has to offer. Also keeping me connected is producing this monthly newsletter—my favourite hobby. And not least, having become close personal friends with some very lovable people I've met here.

Something about yourself that some people may not be aware of: I am a bilingual *Acadienne*, born and raised on "the French Shore"—La baie Ste. Marie, Digby County, Nova Scotia. *Vive l'Acadie!*

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

Happy New Year! Although we may have good reason to look forward to leaving last year behind, I am also looking forward to resuming our outdoor Religious Exploration program which has been a highlight of 2020 for me. This won't be immediately in the new year, but once restrictions lift we will brave the winter weather and spend more time surrounded by nature.



We finished 2020 with a virtual Religious Exploration program in December, meeting via zoom. Through games and storytelling, we continued to discover some of the many interdependent connections found among various animal species, between animals and plants, as well as between ourselves and the natural world.

We discovered how using only the sense of hearing, we could deepen our appreciation for the nature that surrounds us. After a guessing game of a variety of nature sounds, the children were taught how to make their own sound map to be done in their backyard. I look forward to making more sound maps during our future outings.



We also had an online Winter Solstice celebration. With materials delivered to participating households, we made orange pomanders representing the sun and the celebration of light. We discussed ancient and

contemporary solstice celebrations and the many symbols that are familiar to those who celebrate Christmas. Families were also given pine cones and birdseed to make bird feeders at home and continue celebrating together. Although begun online, I hope this is the beginning of an RE tradition of marking the winter solstice every year.

Although uncertain of whether RE will continue to be virtual or in person during January, we will continue to deepen our appreciation and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth



Greeting card by Miranda

The Music Page



Welcome to a new year of music!

This January starts a year of imagining a better world and healing. Our music will reflect a fresh and positive start to 2021 with musical guests, significant genres of music, and the re-start of Soulful Sundown. Musical duet Jess & James will perform during this month's Sunday service.

Blue Christmas featuring Reeny Smith

Our 9th annual Blue Christmas was a successful virtual event. During a unique and lonesome Christmas season, the event brought us together through music, readings, and remembering others. I would like to thank Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs for hosting—and big thanks to our featured musician Reeny Smith, our videographer Katelyn Everson (both pictured below), technician John Piccolo, and James Morris and Norm Horofker for organizing the event and contributing musically.



Soulful Sundown featuring Tall Poppy

Soulful Sundown is a reflective and spiritual Zoom service that includes music, poetry, and art. Musician Tall Poppy will be featured on Saturday, January 30th. If you have artwork, poetry, or readings to share, please contact me.

Always remember, music accepts everyone, does not judge, and welcomes you into a safe, therapeutic space of creativity and community!

Jessica Friesen
Music Director



UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Halifax Interfaith Engagement Program

January 31 – February 7, 2021

www.ihhalifax.ca



Sharing Common Ground in Uncommon Times

You're invited to participate in a week-long engagement opportunity. Meet your neighbors and share the places and practices of world religions and spiritual communities in Halifax.

The IEP experience includes:

- Celebrations, education, rituals, spiritual practices & worship services
- Visits to sacred spaces (in person or online) & engagement with diverse faith communities
- Certified participation in an intentional learning community

Requirements for IEP Certificate:

- Participate in a two-hour session before and after Interfaith Harmony Week
- Attend at least 3 of the week's faith events and the Interfaith Closing Celebration
- Reflect on and record your experience and discoveries during the week
- Share your learnings with other IEP participants

Cost: It's free!

Early Registration Deadline: Friday, Dec. 18, 2020

Registration Deadline: Friday, Jan. 22, 2021

Introductory Session: Wednesday Jan. 27, 3-5:00 PM (in person) or 6:30-8:30 PM (via Zoom). Snow date: Thursday, Jan. 28

Wrap-Up Session: Wednesday Feb 10, 3-5:00 PM (in person) or 6:30-8:30 PM (via Zoom). Snow Date: Thursday, Feb. 11

Location (in person Sessions): HRM TBA

More Information: ihhalifax.ca

REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/K35PPviFJZxt43L66>



Again we look forward to Interfaith Harmony Halifax Week, an intensive experiential engagement with the people, places, and practices of world religions here in our city.

Participation is available to all. There is no fee to experience these events.

Some or most of this year's Interfaith Harmony Week events will be both online and in-person. Please check the website ihhalifax.ca for more details, registering, etc. Note: Information on the site and on the poster to the left of this page appears to be incomplete at this early stage.

On February 4th at 7 pm UUCH will present an Interfaith service online from the church. Service presenters only will be in the sanctuary.

The Zoom link for the UUCH service will be sent out via UUinfo before the 7th.

**Happy
New Year**
to you all.

