



Summer Gatherings
(in lieu of formal services)

Universalist Unitarian
Church 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



All are welcome in the sanctuary in person while respecting the space of those who are wearing masks and/or social distancing, both of which are recommended.

Services start at 10:30 am.

You can also join us regularly via **Zoom** between 10:20 and 10:30 am using [this link](#). Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670.

Or you can watch (live or later) on our UUCH **YouTube** channel using [this link](#).

This month: Coffee and Conversation Gatherings

July 2—Flags and other Symbols

On this day, between July 1 and July 4 celebrations, and while Pride flags are both flown and burned, we are in a good moment to consider how and why we acquire symbols and how and why we react to them. Many questions. Few answers. Discussion will ensue.

Mary Lu MacDonald will lead the conversation.

July 9—Joy

Inspired by the word “joy” as a possible topic, Pam found many optimistic quotes about happiness that stirred varying degrees of cynicism. An unknown author stated “When it rains, look for rainbows. When it’s dark, look for stars.” But where most of us live, rain brings fog more often than rainbows—then she recalled the comforting sound of the foghorn and how much joy that brings. **Pam Griffin-Hody** will lead this discussion.

July 16—TBA

This slot is absolutely wide open! Anyone can choose to lead the conversation on anything. ANYONE. ANYTHING. That’s right – your interest and passion. If you would like to lead the discussion, please contact Pam at president@uuch.ca

July 23—The Practice of Practice

In this interactive service we’ll explore the nature of practice as a means of connecting with our inner selves, or whatever our perception of the divine may be. Bring your sense of curiosity and fun. Led by **Joe Britta, Mary-Frances Lynch, and Andrea Dewar**.

The Pride Parade follows at 2 pm; details inside.

July 30 – Good without God

Our Humanist Group has been reading and discussing Greg Epstein’s book *Good without God—What a Billion Non-religious People Do Believe*. The group will share the highlights and lead a discussion. An afternoon visit to Africville’s 40th Reunion Sunday service will follow; details inside.

JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Canada Day 
2 10:30 am Service 	3	4	5	6 7-8 pm Online gathering	7	8 
9 10:30 am Service 	10	11	12	13 7-8 pm Online gathering	14	15 Indigenous Games open, close on the 23rd
6 10:30 am Service 	17	18	19	20 7-8 pm Online gathering	21	22 
23 10:30 am Service 2 pm Parade 	24	25 Newsletter Deadline 	26	27 7-8 pm Online gathering	28 4:00 pm Carpool for ferry crossing to picnic at Ferry Park Dartmouth	29 
30 10:30 am Humanist Service Africville Memorial Church service. Carpool at 1:30 Service at 2:30	31	<p>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.</p>				

July Notes

- Most committee meetings are suspended; check with your group leader.
- Religious Exploration for Children & Youth is suspended.
- Saturday Brunch is suspended until September.
- Consider volunteering for greeting on Sundays, making the coffee, kitchen clean-up.
- Mark your calendars now for the annual retreat, August 19th; location to be decided.
- We have more visitors than usual in the summer. Let's make them feel welcome!

Board Buzz



The Board had a small but important meeting in June at which we welcomed two new members: Joe Britto who will be our new Vice-president, and Mary Frances Lynch, member-at-large. We said good-bye to our retiring members Marilyn Shinyei and Darla Muzzerall, co-treasurers; and Page Wakarchuk, member at large. We also expressed our appreciation to Rev. Israel as it was his last Board meeting.

The big news was that Pam Griffin-Hody and Amy Moonshadow had attended City hall for a municipal participatory budgeting session the week before, with a poster describing some of the changes we'd like to do to the front yard (after we get the pipes fixed in early July). After winning a popular vote (from all who attended, no matter their age), UUCH was awarded a \$5,000 grant! Well done, Pam and Amy!

The Ministerial Search committee met jointly with the Board and with Keith Kron of the UUA Ministerial Transition Committee a few weeks ago. It is certain that we will be lay-led for at least the next six months and probably longer, but the process for finding a new minister has started.

The first step will be a congregational meeting at our annual retreat in August; two sessions of two hours each. The date for that is tentatively August 19. A meeting to plan the retreat will happen on July 6. There will be more details after that. The

Worship committee kicked off our "lay-led future" last Sunday with a service about how services are structured—and they have already planned the entire summer "coffee and chat" program. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome to contact any member of the committee.

UUCH Board of Directors June 2023 – May 2024

Officers

President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Vice-president	Joe Britto
Past President	Troy Saulnier
Treasurer	TBF
Secretary	Molly Hurd

Members at large

Avard Woolaver	Mary Frances Lynch
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One of my side jobs here at the church is managing the rentals of our beautiful heritage building, and I'm happy to report that the improvements we have made over the past few years have resulted in more interest from outside renters. In particular, the kitchen is used daily by the Halifax Early Childhood School, and the new deck is very inviting to potential wedding parties. In May, we had a small theatre group renting the space daily for two weeks to workshop a play called Q&A. It was performed at the Bus Stop Theatre to great acclaim. I hope it will go into full production soon so we can all see it.

This summer the ballroom is being used in the mornings by a small group of newcomers who are learning basic English—this is not a rental, as it is a program provided by our very own UUCH Refugee Sponsorship program. There have been so many arrivals in the past few months that other English classes are all full for the foreseeable future. It warms my heart to see these very recent arrivals laughing and chatting and enjoying the space with their teacher, Carolyn Harnanan.

Molly Hurd
UUCH Board Secretary





PRIDE PARADE 2023

Sunday, July 23, 2 pm

UUCH has supported the 2SLGTBQ+ community in Halifax for over 50 years. In fact, we were the first faith community to openly do so, offering our building as a meeting space for the Halifax Gay Alliance in 1973.

UUCH 2022

We have also been loud and proud supporters of the Halifax Pride Parade as walkers for many years, changing to a float and walkers over ten years ago. The inclusion of a float not only means greater presence and visibility, but also means that everyone can participate.

We came together to provide a fundraising lunch in May which has paid for our parade entry.

However, in order to fully participate in the parade we need people to volunteer and commit now for specific tasks:

1. To be the contact person on the day, physically present at the parade and receive any correspondence before. Pam G-H is down as a placeholder; however, it is unlikely that she will be able to participate. It is essential that the contact's name be sent to Halifax Pride ASAP.
2. To make advance arrangements for a trailer that can be towed and that people can sit on; to pick it up the day before the parade for decorating, and to return it after the parade.
3. To make arrangements for a vehicle that can tow the trailer.
4. To organize decoration of the float on Saturday, July 22nd.
5. To purchase new bubble fluid. (The homemade stuff didn't work for our bubble machine last year).
6. To put together a playlist for our float and run the technology on the day. It may be necessary to rent equipment.

**The date for the Pride Parade has changed.
It will now take place on Sunday, July 23 at 2:00.**

There was an announcement on the Pride website about changes to the parade route (which were, of course, changed last year). The staging will still be on Cogswell Street. For more information, go to halifaxpride.com.

If you can commit to any of the above tasks, please e-mail Pam at president@uuch.ca

... UUCH - Standing on the side of LOVE ...

Ferry to Fellowship, July 28



Halifax Transit rides are free on Friday in the summer. So hop onboard the Halifax-Dartmouth ferry for an early evening picnic at Ferry Terminal Park in Dartmouth. Bus routes 2 and 29 run from the Mumford Terminal to the Halifax Ferry Terminal. Bus 90 also stops there. The ferry runs every 15 minutes. When you arrive in Dartmouth, exit to Alderney Landing on the ground level and turn right for the park. It's on the waterfront with lots of benches, a playground, and a walking trail. There are no picnic tables so bring a simple meal and beverage for yourself. This is not a potluck, and no food other than your own picnic will be provided.

Ferry Terminal Park is also accessible by Transit in Dartmouth, of course. And there is a parking lot on the opposite side of Alderney Landing from the park for those who are not up for ferry rides.



Adventure awaits ...

Join us at the church for carpooling at 4:00; we'll stay at the park until 7-ish. Rain cancels, sadly.

Contact me if you need help plotting your route.

Linda Cherry
Fellowship

From the Humanist Group

Visit to the 40th Annual Africville Reunion, July 30

In *Good without God*, Greg Epstein urges Humanists to practice religious literacy, interfaith cooperation, and religious pluralism. In response to this call and in solidarity with our African Nova Scotian neighbours, UUCH Humanists invite you to join us in visiting the 40th Annual Africville Reunion's Sunday service on July 30th. Look for the sign to the entrance of the Africville Memorial Park at the far North end of Barrington Street.

Following our own 10:30 service we will regroup at UUCH **at 1:30** to carpool to the Africville Memorial Church (shown here) for the service at 2:30. This will be an outdoor event so bring your own lawn chair and refreshments.



In her most recent book that was recommended to us by Robert Wright, Jody Wilson-Raybould (a former member of Parliament) asserts that effective social change requires allies to get out of our comfort zones. So watch for future announcements with more details on this activity.

Linda Cherry
for the Humanist Group

From the Climate Crisis Team



In Our Power ...

The Ecology Action Centre has produced a series of stories about "ordinary people and diverse communities in Atlantic Canada working to create a just transition to a green economy". They are stepping up to change how we get our energy, and are working to learn how much we actually need to live a thriving life. Cheerful reading on a gloomy day! Find the stories [here](#).

Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team

From the Caring Committee

We were happy to receive a note from **Mary Ellen** a few days ago! She moved to Unitarian House in Ottawa on May 19th. She is very happy there and finds the staff and residents warm and friendly.



Unitarian House , Ottawa

There are many activities, including bridge, which she has played regularly for many years. The grounds are amazing with beautiful flower beds and many varieties of trees. All are tended by the residents. Walking trails also are close by. The Unitarian Congregation is a short walk away and many activities take place there also. Mary Ellen sends greetings to you all, and gives her contact information:

206B-20 Cleary Avenue
Ottawa, ON K2A 3Z9
902-497-6534 (cell)

All best wishes, Mary Ellen.

Sylvia Mattinson
Caring Committee Chair



**Annual
August
Retreat**

August 19!

Always an
enjoyable,
satisfying day.

Location to be determined.

From the RDR Committee

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the **Africville Reunion**. Activities will be held from July 20-31. In concurrence with our Humanist Group, and as a small way of honouring our pledge to dismantle racism, we encourage our members to join us in attending the service at the Africville Memorial Church on Sunday, July 30th at 2:30 pm. Please refer to the Humanist group's notice which has more detail.

The **North American Indigenous Games** will take place in Halifax/Kjipuktuk, July 15-23.

**2023 JEUX
AUTOCHTONES**
de l'Amérique du Nord
HALIFAX • NOUVELLE ÉCOSSE



North American
**INDIGENOUS
GAMES 2023**
HALIFAX • NOVA SCOTIA

Plan to attend some of the games (taking place at several HRM venues). See all game details [here](#).

Keep a look out for other local events. We encourage you to learn about Indigenous and African NS culture!

Brian Gifford
for the RDR Committee

Membership News

Our congregation grew in April when four people 'signed the book' and became members:

Joe Britto, Andrea Dewar,
Mary Frances Lynch, and Sawyer McMahon.



As part of the ceremony Rev. Israel gave each new member five stones representing Revelation, Consent, Justice, Agency and Hope. They each put a sample of water into the 'community well' as they introduced themselves and explained why they wanted to become members. They talked about connection and having a space to contemplate spiritual issues. Then we all read a humorous take on responsive readings and the congregation's covenant before our new members signed our membership book. Each of them were given a plant (Gerber Daisies) to symbolize 'putting down roots' in our community.

It was a lovely and hopeful ceremony. I hope it happens again very soon!

Pam Berman
Membership Chair

UUCH SAH News

Clement and Sylvie will be here soon!

After years of waiting, we think and hope that Clement and Sylvie and their boys will be here within weeks.

You will remember the Rwandan Unitarian family we told you about three years ago although we used pseudonyms at that time.



A recent picture of the family

They are a remarkable couple, fluent in French, English and Kinyarwanda. Both hold Bachelor degrees and they are connected on an international level with UUism. To remind you, Clement started a Unitarian Church in Rwanda and Sylvie has just been elected to the Board of the International Women's Convocation, a global partnership of UU women. See the website [here](#).

And they're musical—can't wait to have them join the choir.

We've already rented an apartment, and thanks to the downsizing of many of you, that apartment is nearly fully furnished. We just have some unpacking and organizing left to do, and fridge and cupboards to fill.

We are writing today to ask for your help once again.

- While we raised a good amount of money at the outset, we have used half of it to support this family overseas. So donations would still be greatly appreciated. E-Transfers can be made directly to treasurer2@uuch.ca. This is the refugee fund specifically but is still autodeposit and tax receipts will still be issued. Or send cheques to 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax B3H 1J8, marked refugee fund.
- We still need a kitchen table and chairs and a couch. If you have those to give away, please email marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca.
- If you would like to contribute household staples*, you can leave them at the church clearly marked or email marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca for pickup.
- And here's a wild idea! If you happen to have a car you aren't using, or you are about to give up driving, they would love to have one.

*Staples might be unopened flour, sugar, salt and spices, pasta, rice, oil, cereal, canned or dried beans, toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, shampoo, cleaning supplies, etc. The Brunch team have already offered a large jar of peanut butter!

Thanks for your help.

***From Marilyn, for Room for More
and the UUCH SAH Team***

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for contributions
for the August newsletter is

Tuesday



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



Have a great summer.
Just let yourself go.