



This Month's Sunday Services

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

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mail@uuchurch.ca
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Cell 902-229-9239

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

Note: Services for the beginning of June are online via Zoom or YouTube only, subject to Department of Health COVID-19 regulations. Please join us between 10:20 and 10:30. 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>

Our Theme for June: Play

June 6

Bring a Friend Sunday—The Music and Reflections of Peter Mayer — Peter Mayer is a member of the White Bear UU Church of Minnesota and a living legend in UU circles. He has been singing and songwriting full-time for over 20 years, performing in venues across the United States and beyond. He writes songs for a small planet -- songs about interconnectedness and the human journey. Peter will share his music and his own spiritual journey. You are encouraged to invite friends to attend this service online; it would be a great introduction to our faith tradition.
Presenter: Peter Mayer; Service Leader: Norm Horofker

June 13

Our Annual Flower Communion service — Despite COVID-19 the flowers are blooming in all their extravagance and fragile beauty. The service will be special this year as hopefully we emerge from more than a year of isolation into a world of blooming diversity. Don't forget to send pictures of flowers from your neighbourhood to Rev. Norm at nhorofker@aol.com
Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Pam Griffin-Hody

June 20

"Dad Jokes"... What Do They Tell Us About Our Fathers? — Some fathers can have an awkward sense of humour around their children. We will share that humour and that awkwardness, exploring what it says about fatherhood.
Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: James Morris

June 27, 2021





"Go Outside and Play" — In the last service before Norm takes his summer break we will take a lighthearted look at what it means to play as an adult... before he sends us all outside to play for the summer. **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith**

Services for July and August will be varied in theme

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.



June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>National Indigenous History Month</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Relaxation of (some) pandemic regulations - yay!</p> <p>7 pm Religious Exploration</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7-8 pm UUCH gathering</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3 pm Truth, Healing & Reconciliation meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch take-out</p> 	<p>All services, meetings and gatherings are online until further notice</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Service</p> <p>12 noon Lars Osberg on hybrid cars</p> <p>7 am to 7 pm Hike 4 Hospice</p> <p>5 pm CUC Connect & Deepen</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 pm CUC Gathered Here</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5 pm Caring committee meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 pm Climate Crisis team meeting</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>7-8 pm UUCH gathering</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1 pm Brunch team meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch take-out</p> 
<p>20</p>  <p>10:30 am Sunday Service</p> <p>World Refugee Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>First day of summer</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 pm Dismantling Racism meeting</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>7-8 pm UUCH gathering</p> <p>7:30 pm Membership meeting</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch take-out</p>  <p>4 pm CUC Leaders Roundtable</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Service</p> <p>12 noon UUCH AGM</p> <p>5 pm CUC Connect & Deepen</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>School's out!</p>	<p>July 1</p>  <p>Canada Day</p>		

Minister's Notes

June's Theme: Play

So, here we go... my notes for June. I will be on study leave and vacation in July and August and I confess to anticipating the break more this year than any time in my 9 years serving this wonderful congregation. It has been an unforgettable year!

I looked back at the "Notes" from the start of the year, September 2020, when our theme was renewal. In that newsletter I unabashedly bragged about my first granddaughter Millie and included a picture. Feeling confident that I can't go wrong with baby pictures I am sharing a picture of Beatrix, my second granddaughter born in September 2020. Nothing says renewal more than grandchildren.



Grampa



Beatrix

The past 9 months have been an unlikely time for renewal... when survival seemed like a more appropriate theme at times. And yet... renew we did! And here are just a few examples.

We refined and got more comfortable with our online Sunday services. This may turn out to be the biggest source of renewal in decades. We are just now beginning to think about our potential to serve people throughout the maritime provinces from our base in Halifax, perhaps developing satellite congregations in places like Wolfville, Yarmouth, PEI and Newfoundland.

We launched our UU Wellspring program with sessions every two weeks. We will wrap up in early July. The Wellspring program encourages members and friends to go deeper into their understanding of our faith tradition and their individual connection with it. There are eight participants plus

myself. This could be the opportunity for personal renewal that you have been looking for. Watch for new Wellspring initiatives in September.

We revitalized our entire committee structure and have eight teams meeting now at least once each month. As I mentioned last month, this provides a direct opportunity to engage more people in the life of the congregation. If you have been wondering how to get more involved this may be the answer. I think our committee meetings going forward will always include the online option, making them so much more accessible.

One of the new teams is our Dismantling Racism Team. Talk about renewal and timing! We are riding the crest of a wave sweeping over UU congregations across the country. We completed an Anti-Black Racism workshop series on the eve of the CUC Annual Meeting. And the events at that meeting have served to give a higher level of energy to the initiative for an eighth principle. Our congregation will be involved in a process to explore this starting in June and ending with a planned special meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council in November.

I am running out of space here; I didn't mention our Saturday Brunch team who persevered in serving our neighbours. (I am not deleting the picture of Beatrix in order to write more!) So let me just say thank you all for your support and your commitment. In particular, thanks to our Director of Religious Exploration Marie-Claude, our Music Director Jessica, and our custodian Stephen. We are so fortunate to have you on the team. Now, go outside and play!

With Love – Rev. Norm Horofker



Board Buzz

The Board has been busy all winter, although we have missed a couple of newsletters. Never fear – UUCH is still in good hands!

Board meetings are much shorter now. Reports are circulated ahead of time and only particular items are discussed during the meeting, or motions brought forward. This is much more efficient. In a typical meeting the reports circulated ahead of time are from the Minister, the DRE, the Music Director, Caring, Worship, Building, Membership, Dismantling Racism, Truth, Healing and Reconciliation and Climate Crisis Teams.

The highlights from our last few meetings (April and May) are combined below:

Repairs to the building: grants have been applied for to help with the costs of repairing the hole in the stucco on the outside southwest corner, replacing the upstairs exit door and the big one – a brand new back deck. There will be a fundraising drive to finance the share of the project not covered by grants or our building fund. We are hoping that at least some of the work will be done this summer.

The Dismantling Anti-Black Racism workshop series with Rev. Patricia Trudeau and Prof. Wilburn Hayden was arranged and has taken place. At least 14 people benefited from attending at least one of the four sessions.

We have applied for tax relief from the Halifax Regional Municipality as we need to each year. The Council approves our status each summer by agreeing to grant us 75% relief, and the Halifax Early Childhood School (HECS) pays the remaining 25%.

HECS has had serious **problems with rats and mice**, so we engaged a different pest control company.

A motion was passed at the February meeting to set up a task force to **examine the use of the word “church” in our name**. Colin Kerr is the lead for this and we anticipate a report to the next Board meeting.

Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the UUCH will take place at 12 noon, Sunday, June 27, 2021.

The meeting will conduct the following business:

- Business arising from the minutes of the October 2020 SAGM.
- Receive/approve reports from the Minister and various officers and committees.
- Nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 church year.
- Other business as may be raised before or during the meeting

Members only may vote on motions but non-members are most welcome to attend.

Details of the process will be sent out closer to the date.

Pam Griffin-Hody
Secretary
UUCH Board of Directors

COVID regulations permitted us to have a restricted number of participants in the sanctuary for our Sunday services and to rent out our facilities until April 23rd when the lockdown was announced. HECS also closed two weeks later and remains closed for the time being. None of our tenants are using the building now and we only have 2-3 people in at a time to prepare for the Saturday bag lunch and for the Sunday service.

We have also **delayed our AGM until June 27th**, anticipating that we may be out of lockdown by then and allowed to have a hybrid meeting instead of a fully virtual one. Hope to see you all then!

Margaret Galbraith
for the Board

Report from the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) AGM

Saturday, May 8, 2021

Reporting: UUCH Delegates

Scott Wood and Pam Griffin-Hody



For the second year the CUC AGM was conducted very expertly online via Zoom. We were the two official delegates from the Halifax congregation to the CUC's Annual General Meeting (AGM). There were 116 delegates, representing 41 congregations eligible to serve as a voting delegate, but during voting there never were more than 90 votes cast.

This year the National Conference and church service took place a week later. Pam was also able to attend the National Conference on May 14-16 as well, and we both attended the very inspiring CUC church service on Sunday, May 16th. At its peak, there were 625 participants on the Zoom presentation!

The agenda for the AGM included the usual required business and financial reports, and motions. All the results of the routine business can be viewed on the CUC website. However, the activity reports were particularly interesting because they provided a more detailed view of the important work going on within the CUC. These included reports from the:

- **Executive Director**
- **Dismantling Racism Study Group**
- **CUC QUUest** (Envisioning UU Future)
- **National Lay Chaplain Committee**
- **Minister Observer**
- **Youth Observers**

All the reports were presented with a sense of passionate commitment and are worthy of a read (check the CUC website). However, the **Dismantling Racism Study Groups report** was unquestionably the most important and controversial, since it recommended the CUC adopt an 8th Principle:

"We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppression in ourselves and in our institutions."

After a short discussion of the report, a delegate unexpectedly put forward a motion to accept this recommendation and confirm it as our 8th principle. This was initially ruled out of order since it was not on the agenda. A delegate then moved that the meeting rules be suspended so that the motion could be discussed and voted upon. The rules suspension motion received the two-thirds majority required, a brief debate occurred, and the motion was voted on and approved, **apparently** confirming the adoption of a new principle.

Those voting for the new principle sought action now, while those opposed questioned the process and were in some doubt about the legitimacy of the vote. There was passionate debate, as time allowed. It all happened very quickly, leaving everyone surprised. Following the meeting and given a chance to examine more closely what had happened, it became clear the vote was not legitimate because it violated the CUC by-law #3 requiring prior notice of motions. CUC by-laws supersede all other rules and procedures.

On May 13, the CUC Board and Executive Director put out a document, ***A Way Forward for the 8th Principle Process***, explaining what had happened and laying out a process of consultation, study, and decision-making.

A special general meeting is planned for November 27, 2021 to vote on adoption of an 8th Principle. All members of the congregation will be given access to all the materials for this process in early June.

Apart from this admittedly big surprise, the meeting was well run and a model of how business can be efficiently conducted through online video conferencing, Margaret Wanlin, CUC President, and Vyda Ng, Executive Director, handled the proceedings well. The technical team made it all come off smoothly.

While AGMs may often seem a routine process, they are actually important and are sometimes asked to make decisions on a vital principle!



The Caring Column



The most prominent matter we have dealt with recently is the hospitalization of Mike Belland. He went to the QEII emergency on May 8th, was given an anti-biotic and was sent home. By the next day his condition had worsened and he was

admitted into the Intensive Care Unit of the Halifax Infirmary where he spent the next two weeks. After two surgeries and a number of tests his condition was finally diagnosed as septicemia (a blood infection).

On May 23rd we heard that Mike was pleased to have been moved from the ICU to a semi-private room with a window, and that he had taken a brief walk. He is in constant contact with his mother in Antigonish. She has passed his news on to us and requests for things that we could bring to him. We have taken care of his needs as best we can and will continue to keep in touch. He hopes to be discharged home in early June with arrangements for a “techline” (IV), daily VON visits, and a referral for physiotherapy.

Along with the Caring Committee Mike is also a member of the UUCH Board of Directors and the gardening group. He has done beautiful gardening at the church and has helped with the Saturday brunch in previous times. So many UUCH people have expressed their concern for Mike and wish him all the best in his ongoing recovery.

The isolation of COVID-19 continues. Meanwhile, hasn't Zoom, and those who have kept it working, been great in keeping many of us connected, at least electronically! It appears that the epidemic is now on a downward trend. That's good news!

Sylvia Mattinson
for the Caring Committee



Refugee Committee News

It's hard to believe that it is three months since my last newsletter article. There still isn't a lot to tell.

However, on June 7th we will welcome an Iraqi family consisting of three adult women and their mother. We are feeling very grateful about this as we learned in February that the mother had a serious medical condition; we advocated with IRCC to speed up the process for them. And it worked! They are on their way, and after a three-night stay in a hotel in Toronto (which the government will pay for, by the way), they will go into quarantine here for an additional 14 days (NS rules).

After that they will be in the hands of the Open Harbour Refugee Association, a wonderful Halifax based settlement group who can't wait to meet them and support them in the year ahead. The family will be settling in the HRM.

We have also had notice that one more refugee should be travelling in the very near future. Not much when you consider how many more we are waiting for but it is a beginning. We're half hoping for and half dreading a very, very busy fall.

Finally, many thanks as always to this very generous congregation. The GoFundMe launched a few weeks ago for the South Shore Refugee Family Reunification group has brought in \$6,470 to date, of which almost half has been donated by the members and friends of UUCH.

Marilyn Shinyei
UUCH SAH Co-chair



A UN special day since June 2001



Climate Change: A Crisis of Culture and Values

There is a consensus among climate scientists that climate change is real, is driven in significant measure by human causes and is the existential crisis of our times. However, a significant segment of the population in North America, Europe and other places does not accept the message of science. Their views are driven by cultural identity and personal values that deny the validity of science and the urgency for action.

Those of us supporting the conclusions and recommendations of science also operate in a realm of cultural identity and personal values. Thus, there exists a cultural schism across which communications seem difficult, if not impossible. If this schism cannot be bridged, the consensus needed to address the climate crisis will not occur and human civilization will suffer the worst consequences of climate change. This debate, then, is more about culture and values than science.

We must find ways to breach the cultural divide and engage one another in a constructive debate. This is challenging but not impossible. Andrew Hoffman, a scholar at Stanford University, wrote in 2015 a slim (110 pages), but profound book entitled ***How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate***. It is a very useful and practical guide to this debate and provides a model of cultural change and a road map for action. He finds interesting historical parallels in the movement for the abolition of slavery in the 19th century and the anti-smoking movement in the 20th century.

Our UUCH Climate Crisis Team has chosen to focus on energy. I would submit that Hoffman's perspective on the role of culture and values is central to that topic and all others related to the Climate Crisis. Moreover, our UU religious faith community is well positioned to use Hoffman's ideas to advance a constructive dialogue and a practical path of action.

A talk given by Hoffman in 2017 sums up his ideas and can be accessed on YouTube. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEOAUZHkeFc> I recommend that you view the video, then read the book to appreciate its full scope and the rich detail of his arguments. You may have to paste this URL in your browser. Food for thought!

***K. Scott Wood, Member
for the Climate Crisis Team***

The Land Acknowledgement, May 23, 2020

*Margaret Galbraith for the
Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Team*



For the Land Acknowledgement on May 23rd I summarized some of the latest news articles about Mi'kmaq activities. Here is the statement with the links for the reports as footnotes.

Mi'kmaqi has been the home of the Mi'kmaq for thousands of years and still is today. Probably all of us on this call are immigrants or descended from immigrants. Until recently most of us didn't pay much attention to the lives of the Indigenous people who were here first – it just wasn't in the news, but today we do, and it is in the news. Sharing this land equitably has become an issue for all of us.

In the last couple of weeks we have learned of the push to get the federal Bill C-15 adopted, which will require our government to work to ensure that the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Indigenous People is enshrined in Canadian jurisprudence. ¹

You will all remember the confrontations leading to violence last fall when Sipekne'kataik First Nation tried to establish their right to a moderate livelihood lobster fishery, out of season. Last week the Federal Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans produced a report stemming from that confrontation, with 40 recommendations but no opinion on managing the basic issue of moderate livelihood fishing taking place out of season. ² The Indigenous fishers plan to start again next month.

The United Nations also has a Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, who were contacted by an Indigenous group after the confrontation last fall. They have also responded, with questions to our federal government about the lack of effective support for the Mi'kmaq fishers. ³

The news is not all about fishing and Indigenous rights. There is now a Mi'kmaq-led land trust, established to protect the lands of Nova Scotia that are culturally significant, sacred and ecologically unique. This has been a decade in the works, but is now established as Sespit'e'tmnej Kmitkenu Conservancy. ⁴

We are sharing our land with a sophisticated people who are coming back into their own. The UUCH Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Committee is working to learn how best we can work together for a successful future.

1. <https://www.faithinthedeclaration.ca/> You can still send a letter of support to Senator Dan Christmas as described on the site.
2. <https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/moderate-livelihood-report-sidesteps-key-question-100588343/>
3. <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/un-committee-calls-on-canada-to-respond-to-claims-of-racist-violence-against-mi-kmaw-fishers/ar-BB1gzJVd?ocid=msedgntp>
4. <http://nsforestnotes.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/AssemblyPressRelease.jpg>

A Climate Crisis Team Congregational Event



At noon, June 13th the Climate Crisis Team is pleased to present our own UUCH member, Lars Osberg, to discuss the pros and cons of electric vehicles.

Lowering carbon emissions is the most urgent action required by people on the planet in order to prevent as much global warming as possible, as soon as possible. There is action needed at the government level and at a personal level—and owning an electric vehicle is one of the personal options promoted by the Nova Scotia provincial government.

Lars Osberg has volunteered to tell us of his reasoning behind buying a plug-in hybrid vehicle and how it has worked for him.

Join us on Sunday June 13th at noon, after the service, for a Zoom chat about “EVs” and your next car!



Lars's hybrid car, a Honda Clarity

Newsletter Deadline
The deadline for submissions for the
JULY NEWSLETTER
is Monday, June 28th
really ... it is.
Please send your contributions
to Etta at braeside@eastlink.ca

Church Directory Updates

Change of address

Rev. Ren McFadyen
PO Box 284, RR 0002
Trenton, NS B0K 1X0



Change of email address

Bob Fredrickson (note spelling)
refred425@gmail.com

Hike for Hospice

All day, Sunday, June 13

This will be an exciting virtual event with lots of fun and surprises throughout the day from 7 am to 7 pm.

Program elements will include an aerobic warm-up, musical guests, live segments from community supporters, a mid-hike cooking segment, bonus prize giveaways and more!

The program goes live at 7 pm to announce totals and to crown the top individual, top team, and top corporate team fundraisers!

Follow along on the social media of your choice: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Hashtag, etc.

Check it all out at
<https://micharityp2p.com/hospicehalifax/>

Donations are now being accepted at
<https://hospicehalifax.ca/hike>





The Music Page

Welcome to a new month of music!

On **Sunday, June 6th**, singer-songwriter **Peter Mayer** will be hosting our *Bring a Friend Sunday service!* Peter's songs are about life on earth and the many mysterious and wondrous facts of our existence. His folk tunes are much loved by many audiences and congregations. Many of you will recognize a UU favourite he wrote, *Blue Boat Home*. It has been sung throughout Unitarian Universalist churches in the United States and Canada for almost 20 years. Please invite friends and family to this one of a kind service!

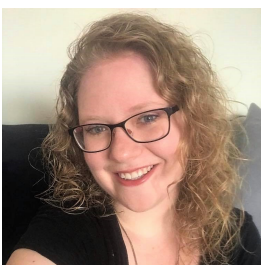
On the following **Saturday, June 12th at 7 pm**, Peter will be headlining our last Soulful Sundown before the summer. This relaxed coffeehouse-style performance will be a fun-filled night of music and reflection. We are excited to have Peter's musical talent, giving us TWO great services! So again, invite everyone you know! For further information on Peter, visit his website www.petermayer.net.



Peter Mayer

A big thank you to Lain MacNeil who headlined May's Soulful Sundown—and Selina and Courtney for contributing the animation and artwork. Lain's music and songwriting was the perfect end to a month of struggle, giving us hope for the future. Stay tuned for future musicians and artists when we resume Soulful Sundown in September.

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



Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

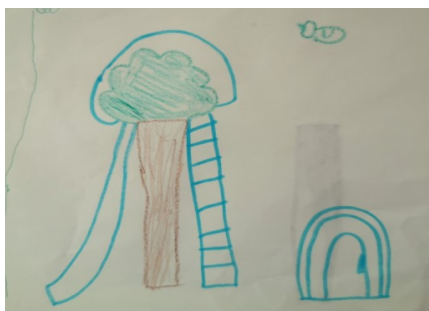
Throughout May, the Religious Exploration program has again been finding ways to connect with nature despite meeting online.

We honored the continued cycle of the seasons by virtually celebrating Beltane, inspired by images of celebrations throughout Europe of bonfires, parades, maypoles and wishing trees. Families were encouraged to bring the celebration home by creating their own wishing tree with ribbons tied to a backyard tree or branches taken indoors.



Through story and coloring pages, we learned of the plight of piping plovers and how we can enjoy beaches while being responsible and ensuring that nesting areas remain protected. The children made the connections with our interdependence by recognizing that the choices we make – such as perhaps leaving garbage behind – has impact beyond the obvious. In this case, garbage and food left behind can attract pests such as raccoons and foxes that would then be drawn to eat piping plover eggs. It's a pleasure to hear the children recognizing these connections.

Using a storybook and guided visualization, we were reminded of the importance of trees, not only to our environment, but also to our personal well-being. After imagining their own special trees, the children illustrated them. The colorful results included a flowering tree, an apple tree, a tree anchoring a campsite, a tree with a multi-colored trunk, various homes to squirrels, birds, porcupines and bees, and an imaginary tree bearing glowing berries – trees as special and unique as each of the children.



Although we are all looking forward to connecting with each other in person, I am grateful we have the means and the opportunity to see each other each week – and grow our appreciation for the natural world.

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth



The Ballroom Gallery