



This Month's Sunday Services

With reduced risk of COVID, everyone is welcome back in the sanctuary in-person. The wearing of masks is encouraged. All 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>

Theme for June: Celebrating Blessings

June 5 Blessings from Guatemala

Last fall, Rev. Carly moved to Guatemala with her husband Curtis and three-year-old son Darragh. Curtis and Darragh are the son and grandson of our former music director, Deborah Wiggins. Their time in Guatemala has been both joyous and challenging, including new friendships, incredible natural beauty, rich learning opportunities, and especially the warmth and kindness of the local Tz'utujil (Mayan) people, as well as heartache as they witness: poverty, environmental degradation, and real-time colonization of Indigenous land. Rev. Carly will join us live from Guatemala to share her reflections on the many blessings and challenges of living on Lake Atitlan. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

June 12 Flower Communion and Child Dedication Blessings

Our traditional Flower Communion Service will be enhanced by a child dedication service acknowledging the importance of our children in the life of our religious community. Plan on bringing a flower to help create our bouquet, celebrating our diversity.

Service Leaders: Multiple

June 19 A Trilogy of Blessings: Father's Day – New Member Welcoming – Summer Picnic

The title says it all. We hope you can attend this very special service to be followed by a picnic and barbecue. Our retiring minister Rev. Norm Horofker has asked that we not plan any social event to follow his last service on June 26 – so, this will be the last opportunity for the congregation to celebrate with him. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

June 26 The Blessings of a New Beginning

This will be the last service led by our minister The Reverend Norm Horofker as he is retiring at the end of June. This marks a new beginning for Norm and Janet, and for the congregation. Our service will focus on that theme with some appropriate ritual... including a bagpiper! **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

Programming during July and August will be varied and will not relate to specific themes.

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.

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Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director, Religious Ed
for Children & Youth

Pam Griffin-Hody
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
10:30 am

All are welcome



June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National Indigenous History Month 			1 7 pm RE meeting	2 7 pm Shared Ministry meeting 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	3	4 10–11:30 am Brunch take-out  10- 12 noon Climate of Hope Zoom webinar
5 10:30 am Service Guest speaker Rev. Carly Gaylor 12 noon Climate, Local Food	6	7	8 7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	9 2 pm Building Team meeting 7 - 8 pm Online gathering	10	11 10–11:30 am Brunch take-out 
12 10:30 am Service  Flower Communion	13	14 7 pm Worship Team meeting	15 6:30 pm Board meeting	16 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	17 1 pm Brunch Team meeting Mawita-jik Pow-Wow all weekend	18 10–11:30 am Brunch take-out 
19 Father's Day  10:30 am Service New member welcome PICNIC! 	20 	21 First day of summer National Indigenous Peoples Day 7 pm Caring Team meeting	22	23 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	24	25 10–11:30 am Brunch take-out, last one till Sept 
26 10:30 am Service Rev. Norm's last Sunday 	27	28 Newsletter Deadline 	29	30 Last day of school 7 – 8 pm UUCH online gathering		July 1 Canada Day 



*Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
 Those days of soda and pretzels and beer
 Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
 You'll wish that summer could always be here!*



Minister's Notes

Celebrating blessings

And so it ends... and something new begins. This will be my last “Notes” for the UUCH newsletter. As I hope you know, I am retiring from parish ministry after 10 years, effective the end of June, a month when our theme is, serendipitously, “celebrating blessings.”

This year there have been many more UU congregations looking for a minister than there are ministers available to serve—and yet, your Board has succeeded in attracting a new minister. That is indeed a blessing and an indication of how special you are.

And so, I will start a new beginning that will be less about deadlines. And you, the congregation will experience a new beginning with a new minister. It is a glorious opportunity for growth for me and for you.

UUCH has existed in Halifax since 1837 and our church has been a beacon of liberal religious thought and action across that 185-year period. I often say that to start a UU church there is only one hard and fast rule. “All are welcome, none are excluded based on their belief.” That makes us unique and is our gift to the wider community. And it is a valuable gift. Something we offer freely but something that has been hard won and continues to require our commitment.

Janet and I will be staying in Halifax. It is a city that we never expected to call home before you called me as your minister in 2012. We have fallen in love with the city and the province.

Retiring and staying in the city where you last served is not common for UU ministers. And there are guidelines to help us navigate the times ahead. I need to distance myself from the congregation and that will be difficult for me.

Halifax is a small city and I expect that our paths will cross occasionally but I won't be discussing church with you. It is important that departing ministers depart! For that reason, I trust that you will direct your enthusiastic attention to welcoming and supporting the new minister.

I will be around over the summer, helping to finish projects like our new deck and front landscaping, and maybe a new roof. All of which may be in place for the celebratory arrival of your new minister.

At the age of 57, to embark on the opportunity to study for Unitarian Universalist ministry, to learn new skills, to make new professional colleagues and friends and start an entirely new career, has been a blessing that still amazes me. I am forever grateful to the people who made that possible and to my higher power at work in the universe.

You, as members and friends of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax have been a blessing for me and for Janet. I am thankful for each and every one of you, and for the opportunity of having served you to the best of my ability.

I moved to Halifax from Columbus, Georgia where the summers are 10 months long. Every year for 10 years I have said, as summer begins in Halifax, that I will take full advantage of this glorious season, and every year when November arrives I am caught short.

This year will be different in so many ways. Janet and I expect to spend more time on the boat and exploring Nova Scotia and visiting with my three beautiful granddaughters. We are indeed blessed.

Thank you all for your support over ten years. Now, make this new beginning special for Unitarian Universalism in Halifax.

I don't use the phrase often, but I want to bestow my blessing on you all for the journey ahead... ***bless you all!***

PS... special thanks to our newsletter editor whose tenure exceeds mine... Etta Hamm.

With Love... Norm

Board Buzz

The Board was certainly busy in May with preparations for the AGM and all things ministerial transition.

The Board was also buzzing with excitement that the Pride Parade will be back this summer and that our new deck is being built.

On top of that, we received a \$10,000 streetscape grant from the City which will be used to beautify the front yard. This is a complete grant meaning that no church money will be used.

And then there was the consideration of two big questions?

- How would we say a big good-bye and thank you to Rev. Norm Horofker?
- And would we be able to welcome a new minister for September?

May began with our collective fingers crossed. As reported in January, due to the last two years of the pandemic, the interim minister pool is small. A small committee finalized our congregational record the first weekend of May and we received responses from three applicants.

We are excited to be welcoming Rev. Israel Buffardi as our Contract Interim Minister. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Israel is currently serving a congregation in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Originally from New England, Israel hopes to join us in Nova Scotia in August with his partner Abigail and their two-year old daughter.

As for our goodbyes to Norm, the board unanimously have renamed the growth fund the Rev. Norm Horofker Serendipity Fund and a plaque will be placed in the building to commemorate this.

Norm's last service will be June 26 but the celebration of his service to UUCH will be after the service on June 19. Let's make sure of a good

UUCH Board of Directors 2022 - 2023

Officers

President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Vice-president	TBF
Past President	Troy Saulnier
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Co-Treasurers	Marilyn Shinyei Darla Muzzerall

Members at large

Avard Woolaver	Page Wakarchuk
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send-off with lots of love and laughter, Nova Scotia style.

It was wonderful to see so many people in person at the AGM on May 29. We will be continuing with the hybrid format to reach members outside of the city.

The new Board for 2022-23 is shown above.

Many thanks to Margaret Galbraith who has now left the board after several years of service including two years as President and two as Past President.

And finally, huge thanks to Troy Saulnier who served as President for two years and Vice-president for two years. Troy's presidency began during the initial months of the pandemic—when we finally learned that the CUC conference we were planning to host in Halifax would be cancelled that year and moved on-line. Troy successfully steered us through the two horrible years with the moving target of various public health restrictions on gatherings. UUCH owes him a great debt of gratitude.

Pam Griffin-Hody

President

UUCH Board of Directors



PRIDE PARADE 2022 is coming this year with changes!

NEW TIME: .. The parade will be held Saturday, July 16th starting at **12:00 pm**.

NEW ROUTE: Due to the Cogswell Interchange construction taking place this summer, a **new parade route will start at Citadel High on Ahern Avenue**, head East on Rainnie Drive, continue East on Duke Street to Barrington Street, turn South on Barrington, and then return to the old parade route ending on Bell Road next to the Garrison Grounds. Check out halifaxpride.com for details and the route map.



The UUCH Pride Committee is back after 2 years! This year's theme is based on UUCH's 50 years of public support for the LGBTQ+ community starting back in October 1972 by providing a free meeting space for the newly formed Gay Alliance for Equality in Halifax. One of our plans is to have a new banner* created to lead our parade entry. We will also carry our 'Standing on the Side of Love' banner and will wear our bright yellow t-shirts.

**Proposed new banner*

**Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax
proudly supporting our diverse community
for over 50 Years**



We need more volunteers coming forward to help plan our participation, help with rentals, decorating design, and help with float assembly on the day of the parade. Please contact me if you can help us out.

Janet Horofker

jdhorofker@gmail.com

P.S. It has been my pleasure to help plan and participate in the UUCH entry in the Halifax Pride Parade over the last 10 years. Thank you to all the volunteers and participants who make this such a successful part of our outreach to the community.



Janet, we thank you!

Your enthusiasm, commitment and attention to detail have been critical to the success and the fun of the parade these past years. We will think of you during parade preparations for years to come.



From the Climate Crisis Team

Not to be missed ...

June 4, 10 am to noon. A Climate of Hope: Faith Communities Confront the Climate Emergency—a pre-conference discussion led by the Ecology Action Centre. The Climate of Hope Conference will be held in the fall but there will be a two-hour workshop on Saturday June 4th from 10am to 12 pm. This Zoom webinar will explore ways that faith communities are addressing the climate crisis as well as lessons, tools and resources that can help us transition to a post-carbon caring society. We will feature some of the speakers who will give workshops at the fall conference.

June 5 at noon: The Benefits of Using Local Food, a presentation on the climate crisis and the benefits of using local food. Guest speakers will be Lil MacPherson, local restaurant owner and food activist, with the Ecology Action Centre Community Food Coordinator, More Vail. Please join us in person or by Zoom for this important and timely event. Organized by the UUCH Climate Crisis Team.

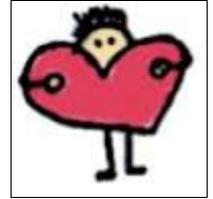
What on Earth?—a CBC Radio One program worth listening to. Hosted by Laura Lynch, *What On Earth?* is on a mission to move and challenge you to think about climate change in new ways by hunting down climate solutions, kicking the tires on them, and injecting some hope.

It began as a summer 2020 replacement series and, presumably due to its growing audience, it was continued as a regular season series. It was recently promoted from a 30-minute show to a full hour, a sure sign that it has received rave reviews from the public and that CBC is no longer reluctant to highlight the crisis of our warming climate. It airs on **Sundays from 11 am to 12 noon** (not convenient for church goers) but it is repeated on **Wednesdays, 2 to 3 pm**—and is available anytime on the CBC Listen app.

Margaret Galbraith
Chair, Climate Crisis Team

From the Caring Team

Another month has gone by already and we're happy to report that both **Irene Baros-Johnson** and **Stephen Butler** are now free of the COVID-19 virus and mobile again!



As well, we're happy that **Shripad Pendse** is finally back in Halifax. While he did stay in contact with a number of UUCH people it's nice to have him back in person with us after spending more than 2 years stranded in Australia due to COVID.

A Celebration of Life was held for **Eileen Ross** on May 5th at the St. Mary's Boat Club, where Eileen and her siblings had spent happy times in their youth. The blue sky and sunshine seemed to bring people together in a lovely tribute to Eileen.

Molly Hurd's brother Tom died on April 28th at the age of 65 following a short illness. He had just become a grandfather and was negotiating his retirement. We extend our sympathies to Molly and her family in this time of sorrow.

Avard Woolaver's mother Beth died on May 20th after having lived a long and very active life. Sincere condolences from the congregation to Avard and the family.

A special thank you to **Rev. Norm** for all the guidance he has given to our committee over the years. We've learned a lot from his generosity, wisdom and kindness.

Best wishes to everyone as the pleasures of springtime continue through June!

Sylvia Mattinson

There's nothing more confirming in your life than looking in front of you and seeing some really amazing people who you care a lot about, who care a lot about you.

Kathleen Edwards

From the Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Group

The following are excellent Indigenous events we highly recommend to our UU members and friends. Group outings might be especially enjoyable and memorable.



Mawita'jik Competition Pow-Wow, June 17-19 (Friday to Sunday): If you'd like to experience Indigenous dancing and singing, June 17-19 is a good time for it. The Mawita'jik Competition Pow-Wow at the Dartmouth Sportsplex (aka the Zatzman Sportsplex) will showcase many cultural events, all open to the public. Performers will primarily be Mi'kmaq but will include some from other parts of Turtle Island. Some highlights include:

- Friday, 7 to 10 pm: Cultural Showcase featuring "The Relatives"
- Saturday, 12 to 4 – and 5:30 to 7:30: Dancing and Singing Competitions (featuring children)
- Saturday, 8 to 9:30 pm: Jingle Dress Special
- Sunday at 6, a Head Mi'kmaw 2-Step Special.

For much more, see this Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/grandchiefmembertou/>

Families may especially enjoy seeing the children performing in the Saturday events.

Contact Pam Griffin-Hody at pamgriffinhody@cunet.carleton.ca if you'd like to attend with other UUs. What better way to celebrate the summer solstice and National Indigenous People's Day?

Mi'kmaki Water Walk 2022: This annual event began May 22 and will continue to July 4. This year it will involve a walk from the Sea Memorial, Yarmouth, NS to Black's Harbour, NB. This year's walk is about 1,000 km over 6 weeks, more ambitious than usual.

In the words of late Grandmother Josephine Mandamin (*Biidaasige-ba: The one who comes with the light*), "We walk to honour all water, Nibi, Samqwan, and to speak to the water spirits so that there will be healthy rivers, lakes, and oceans for our Ancestors and the Generations to come". Dorene Bernard, who UUCH members have worked with in the past, was one of the founding Grandmothers behind the first Water Walk years ago. The Water Walk 2022 is being led by Water Walker, Ducie Howe and other Grandmothers and core Water Walkers, young women, and men who will carry the water vessel and the Eagle Staff around the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. Supporters and Water Walkers are asked to contact Ducie Howe, and the Water Walkers on the Facebook Group to review the protocols and route stops, and to check the GPS spot where they may join in the Water Walk, and how they can help and plan to be self-sufficient.

The Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368227093614495/>

To offer any support, email: MikmakiWW2022@gmail.com

Brian Gifford
for the UUCH Reconciliation & Dismantling Racism Group

Music at UUCH

Welcome to a new month of music!

Coffeehouse

Thank you to everyone who participated in the coffeehouse! It was a great time of music, art, and poetry.



Our Afterchoir doing their beautiful thing at the Coffeehouse

Father's Day Medley

Every year I arrange a composition of songs that remind you of your father. Please contact me with a memorable song and stay tuned for the annual Father's Day medley in the June 19th Sunday morning service.

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

jessicafriesen876@gmail.com

204-330-8165

Life is a song. Love is the music!

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

Summer is around the corner and the RE program has much to look forward to over the next few weeks.

With the annual flower ceremony, we will be including a Child Dedication ceremony for the children in our congregation. This is a time to express our hopes for the children while promising to support and nurture them. Be sure to practice our song for singing the children out "It Takes a Whole Village" in order to be well versed for the ceremony.



Last year at Kejimkujik

We are also planning our end-of-year family camping trip at the end of June. Last year we travelled further to Kejimkujik Park, but this year we are staying a little closer and gathering at Dollar Lake. There will be hiking, swimming, marshmallow roasting, campfire songs, stargazing and general horsing around.

Most importantly, there will be our bittersweet celebration of Rev. Norm's time leading our congregation. He has been the only UU minister in most of the children's lives. Although there will be well wishes for his much deserved time to enjoy his boat, he will be very much missed. The end-of-year picnic will be the time for the RE children to wish him the best of times in this next stage. We hope to see you there!

Marie-Claude Leroux, Director
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth



Highlights from the CUC'S 2022 Annual General Meeting

140 people (82 delegates and 52 observers) attended the Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 14. The work of the Board, staff, ministers, committees and CUC Affiliates can be found in the [Annual Report](#).

Delegates received reports from CUC staff, various committees, and working groups. Highlights included an update on the recommendations of the Dismantling Racism Study Group and reports from both the Decision-making Exploration Team and the Bylaw Review Committee.

Joanne Green, the CUC's Treasurer, presented reports on the audited financial statements and an overview of the CUC's financial position. Our Executive Director presented a budget in principle for 2023, which was approved.

Delegates also voted on two key motions. The first motion proposed that "enact the 8th Principle" be added to the CUC's strategic priorities for 2022 to 2023. The second motion proposed that the current cap on 10% increases to the Revenue Sharing Amount of the Annual Program Contribution (APC) be retained for the 2023 APC year. (A move that would limit the financial impact on congregations with reduced resources.)

Both of these motions passed.

Read the [CUC's Annual Report](#) here.

Directory booklets still available

Free copies of our church directory booklet are still available to members. There are ten of them left. Let's not have them go to waste—they are so convenient! I would happily send you one by mail.

Etta Hamm
braeside@eastlink.ca
902-443-8779

Meetings this Month

Group	Recurrence	Group lead
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Committee on Shared Ministry	1st Thursday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Climate Crisis Team	2nd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Building Team	2nd Thursday 2 pm	Norm Horofker
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 7 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Board of Directors	3rd Wednesday 6:30 pm	Pam Griffin-Hody
Saturday Brunch Team	3rd Friday 1 pm	Michael Smith

Any member or friend of the congregation is welcome to attend these meetings (except for Caring) as observer or participant.



Search, a new humorous novel by Michelle Huneven, reveals the characters, recipes, and humour involved in a Unitarian Universalist church's search for a new minister. "... a savory plot that blends spiritual yearnings with earthly pleasures." Available online.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for contributions for the shortened July newsletter is **TUESDAY, JUNE 28.**



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

Flower Communion



June 12