



This Month's Sunday Services

You are invited to services 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](#).

Theme for June: Delight

June 4 & 11

Under Rev. Israel's leadership we will explore the theme of delight by celebrating the time we have spent together and reflect on the themes that have come up. We'll return to some of the questions that we've explored and developed together, with opportunities for asking more questions.

June 18

On this Sunday we celebrate our annual **Flower Communion** ritual and have our **Annual Church Picnic**. This will be the day to thank **Rev. Israel** for being our Interim Minister these past months and wish him and his family well—and to thank **Marie-Claude** for her excellent leadership of our Religious Exploration Program for Children & Youth over the past four years.

June 25

We join the majority of Canadian UU congregations who are lay-led as your Worship Committee demonstrates the challenges and the *delights* of leading your own service. Leader: Margaret Galbraith

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.



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Rev. Israel Buffardi
Interim Minister
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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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National Indigenous History Month 				1 7 pm Online gathering	2	3 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
4 10:30 service Rev. Israel 	5	6	7	8 7 pm Online gathering 7:30 pm Building Team 8:30 pm Commu- nications	9	10 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
11 10:30 service Rev. Israel Vision Café 	12	13 7 pm Worship Team	14 6:30 pm Board of Directors 7 pm Climate Crisis	15 7 pm Online gathering	16	17 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
18  10:30 Rev. Israel & Marie-Claude's last service Flower Communion Church picnic	19	20 World Refugee Day 	21 Summer Solstice Nat. Indigenous People's Day  6:30 pm Board meeting	22 7 pm Online gathering 7:30 pm Membership	23	24 10 – 11:30 am Brunch – Last one till September 
25 10:30 Lay-led Service Noon Humanist Group 	26	27 Newsletter Deadline  2 pm Caring	28 7 pm Climate Crisis	29 7–8 pm Online gathering	30 School's out! 	July 1 Canada Day 



June 18th!

Come for the fellowship, the food, the frolics, the fun!
 More details on the front page. Stay tuned for more info
 closer to the date. All volunteers welcome.



From our Interim Minister

This month's theme: Delight

As I sit here reflecting on our time together and on the meaningful experiences we've shared, the metaphor of community gardening comes to mind. I feel that we've been tending to our community plot with love and care, and I take this moment to share some of the beautiful things we've been growing together during our interim ministry period. Join me in a stroll through our metaphorical garden of achievements!

Communications, Outreach, and Hospitality

We've been busy sprucing up our garden with fresh signs that scream, "Hey, neighbours! Check out our amazing values!" Our hospitality team has been cultivating a welcoming environment to try to make every visitor feel like they've stumbled upon the secret garden of warmth and belonging. Plus, we've had some wonderful food, fun, and fellowship gatherings that have watered our connections and made our community bloom. And guess what? We've added not one, not two, but four new members to our community!

Spiritual Development

Think of our discussions like planting seeds of knowledge and deep conversations. We've been nurturing our minds and souls, digging into our beliefs and exploring the mysteries of the universe. And hey, the choir is back, people! Their voices have added a symphony of joy to our worship services, like birds singing sweet melodies in our garden.

Sunday Programming Development

We've shaken things up with our Sunday café discussions, tackling all sorts of juicy topics, from the climate crisis to the power of love. Our willingness to experiment has opened the door to new possibilities, even as they are in progress.

The approach of the end of my time here is bittersweet. Like the changing seasons, it will soon be time for us to part ways. I'm reminded of course, that everything is impermanent. Still, our journey together has left an imprint on my heart that will forever remind me of our time in this beautiful corner of the universe.

Living in this stunning slice of the Maritimes has constantly reminded me of the importance of appreciating the rugged and craggy beauty that surrounds us everyday. This place has left an indelible mark on my soul. And you, my dear congregation, have too, craggy bits and all.

Just as a garden must adapt to changing seasons, we too must be open to new possibilities and willing to embrace growth. I remind us all that change is the fertilizer for growth. Embrace the unknown, nourish your spirits, and keep blooming wherever life plants you.

Rev. Israel

Board Buzz



Hope you are enjoying spring in Nova Scotia – wind, rain, freezing overnight temperatures and the occasional warm and sunny day giving us glimpses of better weather to come.

It is a busy time in the church year. By the time you read this, the CUC Annual Symposium will be behind us, as well as our spring yard cleanup—and our AGM. Whew!

All those things have been on the Board's agendas the last 2-3 months. Another big item was pulling together a Search Committee. And that got done.

But at our most recent board meeting on May 10th, Rev. Israel informed us that he would be leaving.

We knew Marie-Claude was leaving us by the end of June. We were not expecting that Israel would be leaving us as well, and neither did he until very, very recently. We are all sad and disappointed by this news. It always takes a while for a new minister and a congregation to get a sense of each other and find their way forward together and that had really started happening.

So much is now up in the air. What is RE going to look like going forward? Will we find another interim minister by fall? Or will we be a lay-led church for a while? Are we a big enough congregation to embark on a search for a full-time settled minister? Or should we be looking at other options? What other options are out there? Lots for the new Board to think about in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, church life goes on. Our end-of-year picnic will be on June 18th and will be a goodbye event for both Marie-Claude and Israel. Hope to see you all there.

Marilyn Shinyei
(Retiring) Board Member

UUCH Board of Directors June 2022 – May 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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Ex-officio

Rev. Israel Buffardi

Thank you, all!

From the Caring Committee



We have learned the sad news that **Ann Wood** passed away on May 26th. She had just recently resumed joining us for Sunday services after a lengthy COVID-19 isolation, and had joined our new choir. We extend sincere condolences to Ann's family.

Welcome back to **Barbara Harsanyi** after being separated from us in Lunenburg, then in Halifax when she was admitted to Northwood. Barbara has managed to book transportation to and from church on Sundays, and has joined the church choir as well.

We wish **Rev. Israel and his family** all the best as they move away to tend to illness in their extended family. We will miss his presence!

Best wishes for happy days to everyone during this most welcome of seasons: spring!

Sylvia Mattinson
Caring Committee Chair



2023 CUC AGM and Symposium

Pam Griffin-Hody



The CUC AGM took place on Friday, May 19, with numerous delegates joining on Zoom and about 100 attending in person in Ottawa as well. Kath Anthony and I represented UUCH in person as did Rev. Buffardi.

One concerning note in the report from the Executive Director is the declining numbers across the country—a decline of 13% overall. This not only affects our faith, our movement; but leads to a smaller budget for the CUC since the membership levies are decreasing at a faster rate than direct personal donations to the CUC. Because congregations are feeling this as well, there is no plan to change the membership fee structure currently.

You will recall that we held a Town Hall/General Special Meeting on March 5 to discuss the proposed motions for the AGM. There was a by-law amendment, the 2023/24 CUC Goals and Strategic Priorities, and a motion to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. UUCH readers saw little of concern in either the by-law amendment or the Strategic Priorities. We discussed the Doctrine of Discovery, and a motion was put forth by Irene Baros-Johnson that UUCH formally repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and UUCH voted unanimously to do so.

On March 30 the Roman Catholic Church rescinded the Doctrine of Discovery, so changes needed to be made to the resolution.

The final resolution, marked to show the changes, is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Canadian Unitarian Council ~~and its member congregations~~ formally repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery, **and urges its member congregations to do the same;**
2. ~~The decision be communicated to the Canadian Ministers of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNAC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Catholic Church in Canada, Indigenous organizations, and others as necessary;~~ **The CUC will add our name to the list of faith organizations who have already repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery, and this will be communicated to the member congregations;**

3. **The CUC advocates for legislation to formally enact the repudiation of the Doctrine nationally and within Canadian legal systems;**

An Action Group be set up immediately to **plan the implementation of** this repudiation.

The CUC will implement a way for congregations to add their names.

The Goals and Strategic Priorities document was found wanting by many members; most importantly, to black UUs who expressed that they were harmed by the lack of specific language dealing with anti-black racism. After much debate (with time extended), it was decided to send the document back to the CUC Board for revision. It was the collective feeling of those assembled that when someone of any group explains that something is hurtful or harmful, it is our job to step back, listen, and repair. The revised document will be circulated when it is ready.

The 2023 Symposium theme was about living into the 8th principle. The Confluence Lecture by Rev. Julie Stonenberg is available on YouTube and I highly recommend it. The keynote speaker on Saturday morning, Albert Dumont, an Algonquin elder, shared his life experiences and hopes for a better future. The materials from the workshop streams will be shared, initially with the Reconciliation Healing & Dismantling Racism Team for processing and prioritizing what actions can be taken by UUCH as a collective.

I also learned that there is an online CUC youth group! Perhaps our RE leaders can get the information, and our youth 13/14 to 17/18 can meet their UU peers there. About 40 youth were taking part in CANUUDLE, the annual youth conference, and we saw them several times over the weekend. CHORUS, the CUC group for young adults (to age 35), was holding some concurrent events.

Besides the formality of speakers and workshops, there were several social activities and many conversations with UUs from coast (ours!) to coast. It was time well spent and I am grateful I was able to attend in person.

Halifax, where the 2020 Conference was to be held, passed the soil from 2018 in Hamilton to Ottawa where it was mixed with Ottawa soil (from the meditation garden at Ottawa First) at the sacred soil ceremony during the opening on Friday. It is unknown whose soil these will mingle with in 2025.





From the Climate Crisis Team

Summer Reading List

We are surrounded by bad news about the climate, and the crisis seems to be getting closer and worse. We were glad some of you took the opportunity at our service in April to share your concerns about the situation, and we plan to follow up with more such opportunities in the fall. In the meantime there are several books that deal with a more positive view of the future, eventually.

The first that I would mention is fiction, but I thought it quite realistic: *The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson. Many pages, but an intelligent analysis of the way things could be.

A reporter's viewpoint is taken by Chris Turner, an Alberta writer whose new book, *How to be a Climate Optimist: Blueprints for a Better World*, has just won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. He writes this time of global efforts already working to save the planet, and describes a twenty-first century quality of life far superior in every way to the version we currently have. I am already on the list for this from our local library.

Or for a more philosophical look at the situation, try *An Inconvenient Apocalypse: Environmental Collapse, Climate Crisis, and the Fate of Humanity* by Wes Jackson and Robert Jensen. Written by two of today's most prominent writers in the fields of sustainability studies, this book confronts harsh ecological realities, explores the roots of social injustice and offers a down-powering path to "fewer and less". To quote the publisher "the authors offer a secular reading of theological concepts—the prophetic, the apocalyptic, a saving remnant, and grace—to chart a collective path for dealing with today's multiple cascading ecological crises." A theological perspective may be what we all need to manage the years ahead. It also is available from the Halifax Library, and I am on the waiting list for this one too.

We are fortunate to live in a part of the world where we can still anticipate a warm, comfortable summer. Get out and enjoy it, and take a book with you!

Margaret
for the Climate Crisis Team

UUCH SAH News

The state of the world seems particularly grim these days, so let me start with good news.

Clement, Sophie, and their two boys, the Rwandan Unitarians we have told you about before, have just had their interview in their country of asylum and will proceed to do their biometrics (i.e. fingerprinting and security check) next week. Their medical will soon follow giving us great hope of seeing them here in July or August.

And Khaled, a young Afghan man who arrived in Sept 2021 has just received the \$6,000 Sobey's Award to continue his studies at NSCC.

We started 2023 with a backlog of 187 people for whom we applied in 2018, 19, 20 & 21, and we were really expecting to see huge numbers of those refugees arriving this year. To date we have had 53 people arrive.

Will we still see 100 more by year's end along with the 65 or so Afghans who have been promised to be expedited.



Here I am with Mehdi, an Iranian man, who arrived from Turkey on April 14th.

Finding housing for so many newcomers is very difficult these days. Happily, that doesn't fall to the UUCH SAH.

Our role is to accept candidates for our waiting list, submit applications for them to IRCC and monitor their well-being after they arrive. A settlement group, which may be family or may be an established refugee sponsorship group does the hard work of raising money for their first year in Canada, finding

them accommodation and supporting them in every way through that first year.

Our SAH team (nine people including five UUCH members) is making great progress this year towards our dual goals of sustainability and succession planning. We are having some fun along the way such as our Afghan potluck in May with 60 people in attendance. Or showing up at the airport for an arrival—always a happy day!

Stay tuned for a barbecue in late summer or fall.

Marilyn Shinyei
Refugee Program Coordinator
UUCH Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)

Reconciliation & Dismantling Racism (RDR) Committee



June is National Indigenous Peoples History Month, and June 21, the summer solstice, is National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Explore Indigenous Canada, including Mi'kmaq life, during June. Since 2009 Canadians have been encouraged to explore the history and culture of Metis, First Nations and Inuit peoples during this time.

There will be different themes each week:

- June 1 to 6: Women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people
- June 5 to 11: Environment, traditional knowledge and territory
- June 10 to 18: Children and youth
- June 19 to 25: Languages, cultures and arts
- June 26 to 30: Reconciliation

Do you know how many people of each of Canada's three Indigenous cultures live in Canada today? Check it out [here](#).

The North American Indigenous Games will come to Halifax/Kijipuktuk July 15-23. You can volunteer (a minimum of 18 hours + 2.5 hours training). Details [here](#). Or plan to attend some of the games.

Keep a look out for other local events.

We encourage you to learn about Indigenous culture and get involved if you can!

Brian Gifford
for the RDR Committee

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

Summer is around the corner, and with the end of this year's RE program comes the end of my time as the director of Religious Exploration at UUCH.

It has been a fulfilling four and-a-half years. Watching the children grow has been the greatest privilege. Over the years, we've explored a great deal more than religion as together we lived our principles. We strengthened our connections to each other with laughter-filled games and with acting out ethical dilemmas. We gathered to celebrate the seasons and milestones with picnics and rituals. We strengthened our connections with our church community when congregants shared their passions such as quilting, radio communication, art and anthropology. With inter-generational services, candle lighting and readings.



We strengthened our connections with our community at large in working towards reconciliation, food security and justice. With the welcome the Saturday brunch team gave our children to help in creative ways. We strengthened our connections with our planet Earth through varied nature outings, from the ocean, to marshes, to forests. We celebrated the changing of the seasons. We weathered a pandemic together when we met online, in parks, and for a time across thresholds with distanced at-home drop offs. We created, we shared, we hiked, we laughed, we ate, we sang.

There are so many ways to live into our principles, and although we touched on many ways over time, we just scratched the surface. Exploring, after all, is a lifelong journey.

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

Fellowship by the Harbour

Mark your calendars for a midsummer evening picnic at the Alderney Landing Ferry Park in Dartmouth on **Friday, July 28**.



This will be a BYOBasket event and a climate-friendly adventure—and will mean giving public transit a try, including a fun ferry sail across the harbour for Haligonians.

Watch for more details in the July newsletter including a how-to-get-there tutorial for those not yet transit savvy.

Contact me if you can't wait until July for more info!

Linda Cherry, Fellowship
linda-cherry@att.com

Church Directories Available

Would you believe that even now, 2023 church directories in booklet form are still available to members.

Copies are available at the church (ask for one on a Sunday) or we can mail one to you. We can also send you the PDF version.

Please do not hesitate to ask for either one or both formats.

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Pam Berman
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Recurring Monthly Meetings

Group	Recurrence	Group Lead
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Worship	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Israel Buffardi
Board of Directors	2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm	Pam Griffin-Hody
Building	2nd Thursday 7:30 pm	Troy Saulnier
Communications	2nd Thursday 8:30 pm	Troy Saulnier
Shared Ministry	3rd Tuesday 4:30 pm	James Morris
Caring	3rd Tuesday 2 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Climate Crisis	3rd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
Membership	4th Thursday 7:30 pm	Pam Berman

This is the standing schedule of recurring monthly meetings. One-off scheduling changes are to be passed on to group members; any permanent changes to the newsletter editor.

Any member or friend of the congregation is welcome to attend these meetings (except for Caring) as observer or participant. **Please note** that some of these groups do not meet in June, July and August.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for contributions for the July newsletter is **Tuesday, June 27**.



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



**SUPER SUNDAY
JUNE 18**

Rev. Israel's last Sunday

Marie-Claudes last RE Sunday

Flower Communion

Annual Church Picnic

Father's Day