



Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Israel Buffardi
Interim Minister
minister@uuch.ca

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

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 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 March: Vulnerability

March 5

Open-hearted conflict: reflections on honesty and active listening.

March 12

Honouring International Women's Day (March 8)

The speaker, via Zoom, will be activist Lynn Jones who will look at International Women's Day from the perspective of an African Nova Scotian feminist.

Service Leader: Mary Lu MacDonald

March 19

Marking the Spring Equinox: Ritual and reflections on renewal.

March 26

Earth Café: Reflection, discussion, and ritual for repairing our relationship with the Earth

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.



MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>What!</i> 7 pm RE meeting	2 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	3	4 10–11:30 am Brunch 
5 10:30 am Service Rev. Israel 12:30 Special General Meeting (details inside)	6	7	8 International Women's Day  6:30 pm Board meeting	9 7 -8 pm Online Gathering 7:30 pm Building Team 8:30 pm Communications	10	11 10–11:30 am Brunch Daylight Saving Time starts at 2 am.
12 Daylight Saving Time in effect 10:30 am Service Speaker Lynn Jones on International's Women's Day On Zoom	13 	14 2:00 pm Pi-tasting Tea on Pi Day 7 pm Worship Team meeting	15 7:00 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	16 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 10–11:30 am Brunch
19 10:30 am Service Rev. Israel	20 Spring Equinox  Back to school	21 4:30 pm Shared Ministry meeting 7 pm Caring Team meeting	22 World Water Day 	7 – 8 pm Online gathering 7:30 pm Membership meeting	24	25 10–11:30 am Brunch 
26 10:30 am Service 	27	28	29	30	31	 March Hare

Pie-Tasting Tea on Pi Day

March's community, not committee fellowship event will be a pie-tasting tea on Pi Day 3/14/2023 at 2:00. **Admission to the tea is one pie – sweet or savoury – per person.** Contributions can come from your kitchen, grocery store, bakery or deli. Do the math, and you'll see there should be left-overs aplenty. Bring a take-home container with you. We'll be playing math-related games, too, so bring one if you have one. Questions or ideas to Linda-Cherry@att.net.





From your Interim Minister Vulnerability

Our theme for the month of March is vulnerability. Vulnerability is an appropriate theme for us as we continue to reflect on ways that our community is called to change and grow together. Vulnerability is much about being willing to ask challenging questions of ourselves and being willing to embrace the unknown in the pursuit of growth and development. Vulnerability is also about cultivating the courage needed to be honest with each other so that we might be able to deepen our connections and relationships.

If one purpose of our community is to help each other grow, then we must cultivate the courage to be vulnerable together. This is in large part why we are offering more opportunities to have structured conversations with each other, as we have been doing with the café Sundays. We are practicing being vulnerable by sharing what's on our hearts. Rather than just showing up and watching the service on Sunday, we are invited to participate in the communal process of meaning-making and connection-building.

This is a true practice, in that while we are practicing being vulnerable with each other, I am also practicing fine tuning the format and making changes as needed. I believe that the continued effort is worthwhile, because it gives us some powerful tools for being in community.

One other way in addition to café Sundays is that I would like to offer opportunities for structured conversations by forming small discussion groups. These would meet outside of the Sunday service and ask folks to commit to meeting regularly with the same group of people. Discussions will follow the monthly themes. I am also looking for people who might be interested in being facilitators for the groups, a role that would be supported by me. If this sounds interesting to you, stay tuned – I'll soon be making announcements about forming them.

Rev. Israel

Board Buzz

In January and February, the Board decided to meet completely virtually, the joy of coming together having been replaced by the reality of driving in the dark to sit in a very old, cold building.

We reviewed the Memorial Policy submitted by the Caring Committee several years ago and passed by the Board. Some minor changes were made for clarification purposes.

The Board has asked Rev. Israel Buffardi to continue to act as Interim Minister in 2023/24 while the search for a settled minister takes place.

The Board is planning a Town Hall/General Special Meeting on March 5 to discuss the ministerial process as well as proposed motions and delegates for the CUC AGM.

Committees are active. The Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Team actively promoted community activities in February, African Heritage Month, as well as the final service. The Climate Crisis Team is busy with their monthly speakers; the Humanist Group is restarting; a new Choir is singing; the Worship Committee is planning monthly lay-led services; Fellowship activities are being planned monthly.

Are you interested in participating in any of these teams/committees? They are all very welcoming to those interested.

Our March 8 meeting will also be held on Zoom. Did you know that you are welcome to attend Board Meetings? Just e-mail president@uuch.ca for the Zoom link. Spring comes soon. All is well.

Pam Griffin-Hody
UUCH Board President

UUCH Board of Directors

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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Special General Meeting UUCH

Sunday, March 5, 2023

12:30 pm (in person and on Zoom)



There will be a Special General Meeting to discuss two items:

1. CUC AGM (May 19, 2023)
 - a. Motions (Congregation feedback due March 15)
 - b. Delegate Selection – UUCH has two delegates. Delegates can attend in person or virtually.
2. Transitional Ministry/Search for a Settled Minister
 - a. The process
 - b. Establishing the Search Committee

The CUC has three proposed motions. One is a by-law change to permit a treasurer to be chosen who is not a CUC board member if one cannot be found to be a board member.

The second is the annual Goals and Strategic Planning for the CUC.

A third, and one that should be discussed by congregations is the following:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Canadian Unitarian Council and its member congregations formally repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery;
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;
3. An Action Group be set up immediately to implement this repudiation.

See opinion piece, next.

Doctrine of Discovery, an opinion

Pam Griffin-Hody

On Sunday February 19th during the time of all ages, we were treated to Danielle and Marie-Claude reading Rebecca Thomas' "I'm Finding My Talk", a response to Rita Joe's famous poem "I Lost My Talk".

The publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report in 2015 opened the eyes of many Canadians to the horrendous history of residential Schools. It took the "discovery" of thousands of unmarked children's graves at various sites of former residential schools to illustrate the injustices done at these schools.



Between the time of Rita Joe and the time of Rebecca Thomas, we've seen a resurgence of Mik'maq culture and language. In 2022 the Mik'maq language became protected within the laws of Nova Scotia.

The TRC Report included 94 calls to action. #49 asks for the official rejection of the Doctrine of Discovery by churches and faith groups.



The CUC is proposing a motion at the May 2023 AGM to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

The Doctrine of Discovery can only be rescinded by the Roman Catholic church since it originated with various papal bulls starting in the 1400s. It was the basis, the permission for exploration, exploitation, and colonization by European Christians. Even as the reformation took hold in England the British still used the Doctrine of Discovery as they established their empire.

The CUC has not been silent on these matters. It has spoken out and adopted policies on right relations since the 1960s. The CUC adopted a motion in 1995 on First Nations Justice; in 2014 Canadian Ministers passed statements about developing education among other things; and in 2014 the CUC presented a resolution on truth and reconciliation to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

"The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) with its member congregations endorse and act upon the Expression of Truth and Reconciliation, as presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on March 29, 2014."

In 2015 the CUC committed to adopt the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People as a framework for reconciliation.

Many Canadian faith groups have already repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery. The Anglican, United, and Evangelical Lutheran churches did so before the release of the report. The Mennonite Church of Canada followed in 2016. The World Council of Churches repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in 2012. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has done so as well.

It is time for the CUC to formally repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

If you would like to read the CUC'S full document regarding this motion, please contact Pam Griffin-Hody at president@uuch.ca



From the Climate Crisis Team

About the 'Just Transition' Paper Petition

About 18 months ago the Just Transition paper petition was created by the Council of Canadians, and some 48 MPs have either presented it in Parliament already (35) or have pledged to do so (13). For those of you not familiar with it, it asks:

Whereas Canada must address the climate emergency, we the undersigned citizens and residents of Canada call on the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada to enact just transition legislation that:

- Reduces emissions by at least 60% below 2005 levels by 2030, and makes significant contributions to emissions reductions in countries in the Global South
- Winds down the fossil fuel industry and related infrastructure, ends fossil fuel subsidies, and transitions to a decarbonized economy
- Creates new public economic institutions and expands public ownership of services and utilities across the economy to implement the transition
- Creates good green jobs and drives inclusive workforce development, led by and including affected workers and communities, and ensures decent, low-carbon work for all workers
- Protects and strengthens human rights and worker rights, respects Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and knowledge by including them in creating and implementing this legislation, ensures migrant justice, and emphasizes support for historically marginalized communities
- Expands the social safety net through new income supports, decarbonized public housing, and operational funding for affordable and accessible public transit countrywide
- Pays for the transition by increasing taxes on the wealthiest and corporations and financing through a public national bank.

So why are we pushing an old petition? We need our government to realize how many people really want action on all these items, and that has not happened. The Federal Government has just released its interim Sustainability Jobs Plan – its just transition strategy – with the actual legislation coming at some unspecified date. There are some very good things in the plan, but also large gaps and loopholes. They need to hear from us that they still haven't got it all yet, that the climate crisis is intertwined with the social and economic crisis – that our transition needs to be truly just.

For an analysis of the Sustainability Jobs Plan and an explanation of the petition [click here](#)

Please sign the petition. If we are not at the church you will find copies in the desk by the front window. You do not need to be a resident of Andy Filmore's Halifax Electoral District to sign it.

***Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team***

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

Throughout February the RE program focused on the month's theme of Love. The children were invited to think of a metaphor that represents love and illustrate it. Shown here are the lovely images they painted that bring to mind the many facets of love. You can see them on the ballroom bulletin board (pictured below) – and I invite you to share *your* metaphor(s) for love with the provided sticky notes and markers.

We also explored the love we receive from our communities –this could be our neighborhood, our congregation, or groups we belong to. Being held in love by our communities helps us grow, expand and make way for our dreams.

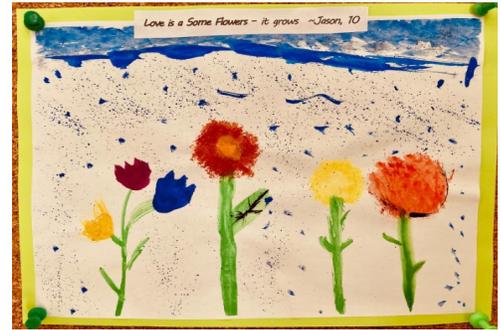
In combination with African Heritage month we also learned the story of the Lovings, an American inter-racial couple who got married in Washington, D.C. and were arrested after they returned to Virginia. They took their legal case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court which resulted in a landmark civil rights win in 1967. Love in all it's forms includes working for justice.

I hope you have been surrounded by love this past month and always.

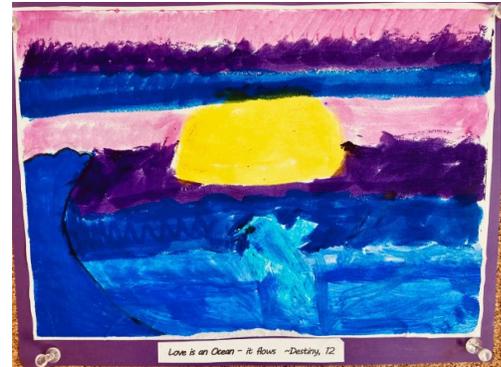
Marie-Claude Leroux
Director
RE Program for Children & Youth



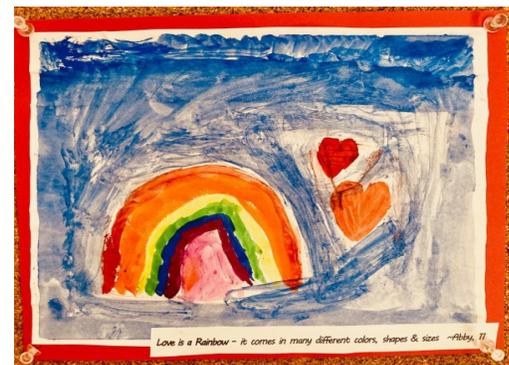
We invite you to have a look at the children's artful love metaphors on the bulletin board in the ballroom and to contribute metaphors of your own. The kids look forward to seeing them!



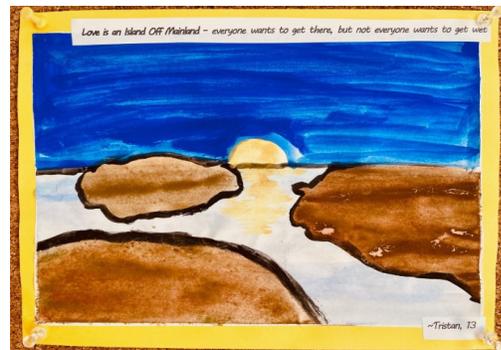
Love is some flowers, it grows. Jason, 10



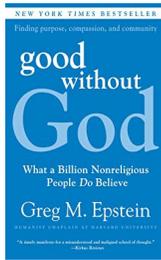
Love is an ocean, it flows. Destiny, 12



Love is a rainbow – it comes in many different colours, shapes & sizes. Abby, 11



Love is an Island Off Mainland – everyone wants to get there, but not everyone wants to get wet. Tristan, 13



Good Without God

Humanists, like Unitarian Universalists, often define ourselves by what we are not, rather than affirming what we are. In his book *Good Without God: What a Billion*

Nonreligious People Do Believe, Greg Epstein offers a world view for nonbelievers that dispenses with the hostility and intolerance of religion often expressed by New Atheism authors.

Epstein had been the Humanist chaplain at Harvard University for 16 years when he was elected president of the Harvard Chaplains Organization by his peers in 2016.

UUCH's revived Humanists group will explore *Good Without God* beginning **Feb 26** after the Sunday service. Curious seekers are invited to join us upstairs at noon.

Contacts:

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Linda Cherry
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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.

Andrea Currie's text you asked for ...

I now have copies of the text of Andrea Currie's excellent talk on February 19th: *An Indigenous Perspective on the Climate Crisis*.

Please contact me at
margalbraith@eastlink.ca
 for a copy.

Margaret Galbraith

UU&U stops the press!

Sorry folks, I'll be unable to produce the April newsletter. At the end of March I'll be neck-deep in clearing out my condo and moving across town!



Rev. Israel will happily include your concise, important-only notices in his weekly News From UUCH. Watch for the reminders starting end-of-March. Thanks everyone. *Etta*



Theresa Malkiel

May 1, 1874 – November 17, 1949

The woman behind International Women's Day

[Click here for full bio on Wikipedia](#)