



Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3
Cell 902-229-9239

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

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

Margaret Galbraith
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter

Sunday services
10:30 am
Online this month

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Sunday Services

NOTE: All May services are expected to be online. Please join us between 10:20 and 10:30 am. Services start at 10:30. 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 on YouTube on our UUCH Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw> .

Services are posted to the YouTube channel for later viewing after a day or two.

Our theme this month: *Thresholds*

May 3 Are You Standing on a Threshold Now? — The image of standing on a threshold can be one of excitement... poised for something new, or it can be an image of standing, blocking a doorway, holding ourselves and others back... afraid of leaving a secure place. We are all standing on a threshold. Are you ready to go through? **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker and team.**

May 10 Mother's Day in a Pandemic — This Mother's Day finds mothers and their young offspring living in closer proximity than ever. While at the other end of the age spectrum, mothers and grandmothers are isolated from their children for their safety. More examples of the infinite expression of a mother's love. In this bizarre situation, we share stories of mothers and mothering. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker.**

May 17 NOTE: THIS SERVICE TAKES PLACE ONLINE AT 1:30 PM ATLANTIC TIME. A Cross Canada UU Live Celebration — So many people were disappointed when the CUC conference in Halifax was postponed for a year due to the pandemic, that we just had to have a service to link us across all five time zones. Join in for a very special, one of a kind 90-minute UU celebration. To accommodate UU congregations from coast to coast our service will start at 1:30 pm which is 9:30 am on the West coast. **Presenters: A Cross Canada Cast of Unitarian Universalists.**







May 24 On the Threshold of Balancing the Food System — In order for the Lazy Susan of the food system to turn without wobbling or jamming, we need to balance production with consumption, while also appropriately distributing the inputs of money, labour, and energy. Counterweights of cultural context, ecological resilience and soil health maintain stability. The pressure of the pandemic puts us on the threshold of renewed balancing. **Presenters: Ralph Martin and team.** Ralph is a long-time friend of UUCH and a retired professor from the Guelph Agricultural College specializing in sustainable agriculture.

May 31 The Paths Ahead — When we step over a threshold, we are creating something new in our lives. As John Schaar has said *"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found but made. And the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."* Perhaps the meaning of life is to be found in creating your own path or doing so in the company of others who share a vision. **Presenters: Rev. Norm Horofker and team.**



The theme for June will be Compassion

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Pandemic shutdowns, including that of UUCH, continue until further notice, but we're coping. Sunday services, Soulful Sundown, Thursday Night Gatherings, and board meetings are 'Zoomed' to our homes. The AGM is postponed until further notice. We have not seen our church friends in person since March 15th. On the plus side, the CUC has many offerings via Zoom to be enjoyed and/or to learn and grow from; Coffee House Connections on the 2nd and the 30th promise to be uplifting—(all CUC offerings within these pages). The world is not quite right at the moment, but there is still much for which we can be thankful. Stay calm, carry on, practise mindfulness. Ed.</p>					1 	2 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out 7 pm Coffee House Connections
3	4	5 	6	7 7:00 pm Gathering	8	9 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out
10 	11	12	13 6:30 pm Board meeting	14 	15	16 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out  The crescent moon, Venus and Jupiter will align to form a smiley face!
17	18 	19	20	21 7:00 pm Gathering	22 	23 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out Ramadan ends
24  <p>Ralph Martin, guest speaker</p>	25	26 12 Noon Newsletter deadline	27 	28 7:00 pm Gathering	29	30 10–11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out 7 pm Coffee House Connections
31  <p>6:30 pm Soulful Sundown</p>						

Minister's Notes



Thresholds

John Shaar wrote *"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found but made. And the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."*

We are standing on the threshold of a new world: post COVID-19. We cannot go back. The landscape ahead may at first look impenetrable... lots of stagnant swamps, thick forests and rugged mountains.

We don't have any control over the landscape, but we can choose our path, and in so doing change ourselves and our destination.

In the past month we faced a seemingly impossible chasm that kept us from meeting in our sanctuary. And we have blazed a new trail that has taken us into the new world of online Sunday services. With the help of a great team, we are learning new ways of being together. We are reaching out to people who might never have crossed the threshold of our church. In the process we are being changed, and what our church looks like will no doubt be changed for the better.

We have chosen to reach out to other UU ministers across the country, welcoming them into our Sunday services and strengthening our relationships. And on Sunday May 17 Halifax will be the anchor congregation for the very first live cross-Canada Sunday service for UUs from coast to coast. A new path indeed.

We have found a way around the obstacles of social distancing so that we can keep our relationship with our neighbours who meet at our church every Saturday for a communal breakfast. We cannot sit down together for the time being, but we can provide a hearty take-out lunch and spend some time talking one-on-one with each guest as they come to our door. This is possible due to the efforts

of trail blazers who make and pack the ingredients for the take-out lunch.

And how do we support our young families and children in this new land? Marie-Claude, our Director of Religious Exploration, has set up a time with our younger children and another time for the older youth to meet online. We have new flexibility to meet at times other than Sunday morning and we can gather without the hassle of trekking into church with all the complications that entails for parents and children.

Our new path has taken us into the homes of local musicians who otherwise would be without an outlet for their creativity on a Sunday morning. Jessica, our Music Director, has reached out to friends and acquaintances in her circle to bring new voices into our virtual sanctuary.

All of this in only a month! Our future is not defined by the difficult landscape ahead. The challenges can be invigorating and meaningful, and we, along with our church will be changed in the process.

Now we stand on the threshold of spring. I took this picture in front of the church after the snowstorm of



April 28. The bulbs that Karen Woolhouse and David Lewis donated and planted with the help of Sabine Morris are pushing their way into this new world.

The landscape has changed from when they were planted, but the joy of the natural world still lifts our hearts.

May the path you choose lead you safely through the difficult terrain ahead, may it take you at least for some time into places of tranquility where you can rest, before you must ford the next rushing stream, or spend time in the desert. No doubt you will be changed as you change the world around you.

If anyone is feeling particularly troubled or just needs a non-anxious person to listen, I am available. Please lean on your minister if that will help. I love my role as minister and will be there for you as best I can.

With love... Norm

Board Buzz



Life seems to have moved online, and so has the Board. We held our second meeting on Zoom on April 8th—seems like months ago! With the Making Waves conference definitely postponed until 2021 we were able to concentrate on more local UUCH issues.

One of our first topics was a discussion of the book on church governance that we have been reading over the year—*Governance and Ministry, Second Edition*, by Dan Hotchkiss. We have decided that the Board needs to spend more meeting time on discussion and planning, whenever possible. By circulating staff and committee reports well before the meeting we can have more time for strategic topics when we are together.

At our April meeting we talked about how congregations are generally categorized by size and the differences. The most relevant to our congregation are the family size, (small, up to 100 people attending on a Sunday), and pastoral (medium, 100–250), and the “plateau” area in-between. So what are the differences in management and influences? Our by-laws clearly outline a family-size church—is this who we are? Should we be aiming for growth or staying in our comfort zone? What changes would have to occur, and do we want them? What is the role of the Board in these decisions? It will be an ongoing discussion.

The various staff and committee reports reveal the world a month ago, when we were just starting to move online. The plans for Sunday services and activities for children and youth were getting underway, and the Caring Committee was setting up the phone contact process for the congregation.

UUCH Board of Directors June 2018 - May 2019

Officers

President	Margaret Galbraith
Vice-President	Troy Saulnier
Past President	Kim Turner
Secretary	Pam Griffin-Hody
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

Members at Large

Jim Morrison	Katherine Hutka
Michael Belland	Jean-François Turcotte

Rev Norm has organized a take-out process for the Saturday Brunch. Marilyn Shinyei gave us a fuller report than usual, ensuring us that with some anticipated donations we would be able to keep paying our staff and maintaining the empty building. The Halifax Early Childhood School is closed but anticipates reopening as soon as possible. John Piccolo has become our handy person, available for various odd jobs around the building—and now we also know him as the Sunday services Zoom expert! Thank you John!

A structural engineer was hired several months ago to do a thorough assessment of our almost 200-year-old building, to ensure that there were no surprises in store for us, and his report is now complete, with no surprises and lots of assurance that 5500 Inglis Street has years of life left in her yet. The Board will see the final report this month.

The CUC has some online events planned for May, so watch for more notice of those in this newsletter.

We also discussed the timing of our usual year-end events: the AGM, the annual picnic, the August Retreat. The postponement of the AGM is also described elsewhere in this newsletter. Other decisions can wait for further information.

It was a lively online meeting, ably chaired by Troy Saulnier. We will be meeting again on May 13th, via Zoom.

Margaret Galbraith
President
UUCH Board of Directors

The Caring Column



With the continuing COVID-19 crisis and the recent shooting rampage in Nova Scotia causing the death of 22 victims, life has been very hard for people in

our part of the world.

Modern technology, however, has made it possible for many of us to be involved in Sunday services using Zoom, and that has helped us connect with our UUCH friends and ease the emotional burden of these events.

Starting in March, Caring Committee members, board members and other volunteers have been checking in to see how our people are managing the COVID-19 crisis. In general we are coping well, although we miss our usual activities and contact with one another, and have been feeling anxious about life in these times. We will continue to contact some of you regularly, and if any of you have a difficulty that we might be able to help with, or should you just want to talk, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Glenda Butt has continued to be in hospital over the last few weeks while doctors are investigating several sources that may be the cause of her illness. We hope the positive thoughts and energy of healing we send her will give her strength and help her regain her health as time goes on.

We also offer special support to our members living at Northwood, Melville Lodge, the Berkeley, and Shannex facilities: **Iretia Cox, Marie Davis, Georges Merinfeld, John Paterson, Anne Wood, Barbara Dacey, Elinor Egar-Reynolds, Denyse Brothers, and Philip & Mrs. Welch.** They are all doing well, but the COVID-19 situation does create added challenges for them. We hope those challenges will soon begin to lessen.

Amy Moonshadow's mother Mary MacIntosh, died on April 23rd, following surgery and previous struggles with cancer. Amy and her brother were with her as this came to pass. Our sincere condolences are extended to Amy and her family.

Mary Ellen Onno reports that Peter's recent stent procedure went well, that he is feeling much better, and is able to eat again. They will be moving to central Halifax on June 2nd.

Scott Wood said that during this time of ongoing isolation he has had the joy of sharing messages of support with friends in Europe, Latin America and the United States.

Best wishes to everyone during this trying time—and as we move back toward our usual lives, hopefully before too much more time goes by.

Sylvia Mattinson

A Special Thank You

UUCH is very fortunate to be supported financially by a large number of donors, and several of those give us large donations. We would like to acknowledge the gifts of stock, the increased pledges, and also the continued monthly pledges, even in this time of reduced finances for many people. Thank you all very much.

At this time however, I want to draw particular attention to Ella Wilson's donation to us. Ella is a longtime member of our congregation but has been unable to attend Sunday services for several years because of her health. She is now arranging to move to smaller quarters and has had to sell a number of her beautiful paintings. She is donating the proceeds from these sales entirely to the church.



Initially, the donation was intended to support congregation members who could not afford the fee for the CUC 2020 Conference Making Waves, even though she would not be able to attend herself. With the cancellation of that she has agreed that her donation can be split between the Minister's Discretionary Fund and the Saturday Brunch, two funds that Rev. Norm has been drawing on particularly during this Coronavirus crisis.

Thank you so much, Ella, for ensuring that UUCH and Rev. Norm can continue their good work during this difficult time. The beauty of your work carries on.

Margaret and the Board of Trustees

UUCH AGM Postponed

According to our by-laws we need to hold our Annual General Meeting in May of each year. Traditionally we have had it on the last Sunday of that month. However, because of the restrictions on gathering size due to the COVID-19 pandemic we cannot hold our usual in-person meeting at this time.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has issued a directive to all organizations whose laws require that they hold their Annual General Meetings now, to allow them to hold virtual meetings, but with specific requirements to ensure equal access for all participants, this would be very difficult for some of our members.

The alternative allowed in the directive is for deferral of general meetings until up to 90 calendar days after the end of the Nova Scotia State of Emergency, when larger, in-person gatherings will again be permitted. The Board has determined that this is our best option.

In conclusion, we do not expect to be having an Annual General Meeting on May 31st. The State of Emergency is currently due to expire May 3rd, but is being extended two weeks at a time. We plan to hold our AGM at a point in the future when it is legal to do so, and we all feel comfortable about gathering together. We will ensure you have at least two weeks notice, the minimum required by our by-laws.

Margaret, for the Board



Church Directory Items

Correction for your 2020 directory

BUTLER, Stephen
butlerstephen205@gmail.com

Please contact me to have your contact info corrected or updated in this monthly newsletter.

2020 directories available

We have lots of 'new' directories still available. If you missed the big giveaway in February and would like a directory, we can mail your copy to you.

Etta
braeside@eastlink.ca
902-443-8779

DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the

JUNE NEWSLETTER

is 12 noon

Tuesday, May 26th.

Please send your submissions to
Etta Hamm, braeside@eastlink.ca

A glimpse into the new UUCH Neighbourhood Saturday Brunch take-out service. "Yes, we are open!"

- Faith makes the sandwiches
- Marie-Claude bakes the muffins
- Janet assembles it all, adding apples and pudding and other treats
- Norm & Stephen distribute the bags at the door (with appropriate social distancing)
- It all starts with your generous donations to the Minister's Discretionary Fund
- The recipients, as always, are most grateful
- It's a beautiful thing!



A big **Thank You** to all helpers and donors—we couldn't do it without you!



Here is a recap of some Canadian Unitarian Council online events happening during the month of May. More information can be found under Events at CUC.ca Events. All events are via Zoom.

NEW REGULAR EVENT

CUC Coffee House Connections

Saturdays, May 2 and 30, 7 pm AT

These online gatherings bring us together virtually to connect across the country. Each gathering has a different theme: music, social get-together, multigenerational storytelling, online activities, or high tea. Join on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/2KGaO4d>

May 2: Music

May 30: Multigen music by, for, and with kids and youth

NATIONAL CONFERENCE EVENTS

Shining Lights Award Webinar

Saturday, May 9, 2 pm AT

Celebrate with us as we hear from five awe-inspiring nominations for the Shining Lights award, **including our own Refugee Sponsorship Committee!** Learn about their projects, how they were implemented, and about the differences these projects made to their communities. All welcome! Join the event on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/2wTfvUS>

AGM Plenary Discussion

Thursday, May 14, 7:30 pm AT

Prior to the AGM on May 16, the CUC Board invites you to participate in an informal dialogue amongst congregational delegates, leaders, board members, and CUC staff to discuss issues of importance to congregations, in support of the CUC's vision, goals, and strategic priorities. All are welcome.

Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/CUCPlenary>

CUC National Online Gathering Ceremony

Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm AT

We will gather across the country, virtually, on the Friday of what was to have been the start of the

National Conference. Come, we will join together to celebrate our connections and our faith. Event details to follow. Join at <https://bit.ly/CUCGathering>

CUC National Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 16, 1:00–4:30 pm AT

The Canadian Unitarian Council holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) to elect members for the CUC's Board of Trustees, vote on resolutions, and to attend to the business of the Council. UUCH has already registered **our delegates, Scott Wood and Pamela Griffin-Hody**, who will represent our congregation and vote on business matters. ALL ARE welcome to attend the meeting via Zoom, with voice but no vote. For more or updated information and AGM documents, please check the Annual General Meeting and Conference page on the CUC website at [cuc.ca](https://bit.ly/CUCAGM). Join at <https://bit.ly/CUCAGM>

REGULAR EVENTS

Gathered Here

Gathered Here is a monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults. Join other UU 18-35-year-olds on Zoom for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community.

Mon, May 4, 9 pm AT. Zoom: <https://bit.ly/2XAIlE5>

Mon, May 25, 3 pm AT. Zoom, as above

The same Zoom invitation will be used for each GH meeting. Join by computer, or smart device at <https://bit.ly/3eI3316>. To join by phone or for other details, refer to the event on the CUC's Event Calendar. Contact: casey@cuc.ca

Connect and Deepen

This is a monthly online gathering for those who find themselves geographically isolated from UU meeting places, and an opportunity to gather with kindred spirits in small groups to discuss matters of personal, spiritual, theological, and lifestyle significance. Registration is required.

Dates remaining:

May 10 and 24, 5 pm AT (90 minutes).

We gather online through Zoom in groups of up to eight. Participants are encouraged to plan to attend

Continued ...

Connect and Deepen, continued

most of these sessions so that group cohesion and trust can develop. While there is no cost to the program, we still require you to register below so that we can monitor interest and plan the number of break-out groups or to cancel accordingly.

Both dates: **Zoom: <https://bit.ly/2Vz6zfl>**

Questions? Please contact your facilitators at congregationalife@cuc.ca: Rev. Linda Thomson, Congregational Life Lead – Central/Eastern Regions

TWO SPECIAL ONE-TIME EVENTS

Stronger Together, Planning for Partnership Saturday, May 23, 2 pm AT– 4 hours duration

Explore our potential for meaningful, creative congregational networking and partnerships. Together, we will learn how all congregations can come together, regardless of size, and gain strength from shared wisdom. Presented by Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, Joan Carolyn & Rev. Linda Thomson

Please Note: We require a registration of 14 at the average rate for this **webinar** to run. Please register as soon as possible and CUC will notify you at registration closure regarding the feasibility of this event. \$30-50. **Register at CUC.ca by May 15.**

Pipelines, Democracy and Aboriginal Title:

A Conversation with Dr. Niigann Sinclair

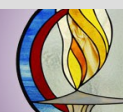
Sunday, May 24, 8:00–9:30 pm AT

Join Dr. Niigaan Sinclair in a conversation about how non-Indigenous people can be in solidarity with Indigenous Nations when they are divided. This session will explore issues around Aboriginal land title, hereditary vs. colonial leadership, consent, consultation, and the various layers of justice to be considered when addressing issues such as climate action. This session is intended for settlers who want to engage in relationship building and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and communities.

Niigaanwewidom James Sinclair is Anishinaabe and originally from St. Peter's Indian Settlement near Selkirk, Manitoba. He is a respected author, editor

and regular commentator on Indigenous issues for CTV, CBC, and APTN. Niigaan also teaches courses in Indigenous literature, cultures, histories, and politics at the University of Manitoba. He is a proud Treaty One member. The son of Senator Murray Sinclair who was the Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Niigaan has been steeped in conversations related to reconciliation and comes with a wealth of lived experience with the complexities of implementing reconciliation on a political and grassroots level. **Go to CUC.ca to purchase tickets through Eventbrite. \$10-\$25.**

Canadian Unitarian
eNews



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eNews is the digital weekly news-letter of the Canadian Unitarian Council, connecting, informing and guiding Canada's Unitarian Universalists.

eNews seeks to highlight issues and events of regional and national interest such as those shown on these pages. Read **eNews** to find out what the CUC board and staff are up to and get the latest social justice news.

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Religious Exploration

This past month has shown that a community can stand together and find creative ways of connecting and helping each other. It is a joy to have the children participate in services with



chalice lighting and extinguishing readings. We even had a collaborative drawing of a juggler (shown here) done by Abigail, Destiny and Tristan Saulnier, as an illustration for one of the stories during Time For All Ages.

We have continued to offer Religious Exploration to our children and youth via zoom, online. The children have a chance to see and talk to each other. We are taking this time to offer connection and lighthearted sharing together. Our youth have been meeting with Norm, which has been a great opportunity for them to get to know each other better. The focus of their sessions has been on the theme of what it means to lead a good life, which includes the importance of creativity, connection, service, learning and of course, laughter.

We are also offering parents a slight reprieve during a time when juggling the new restrictions, work, and family demands can be overwhelming. We are trying to accomplish this with care packages that include materials and directions for simple, creative activities children can do at home.

I look forward to connecting together, in person, soon.

Stay safe, stay loving,

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director, Religious Exploration Program

Our Seven Principles

We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



