



This Month's Sunday Services

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

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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

All are welcome

Church services and COVID: We are currently discouraging in-person attendance at church services due to the high numbers of COVID-19 cases in Nova Scotia at present. This will change as circumstances allow. Watch for news via UUinfo.

In the meantime, please continue to join us via Zoom or YouTube. Services start at 10:30 am (except for the May 15th service). Please join us between 10:20 and 10:30 am. 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 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw>

Theme for May: Nurturing Beauty

May 1 — Why Beauty? In the first service of a month devoted to nurturing beauty, we address the question: "What is beauty and what is the role of beauty in our individual lives?"

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker

May 8 — Beauty and Imperfection on Mother's Day Wabi-sabi is the art of finding beauty in imperfection and profundity in earthiness, of revering authenticity above all. How can this concept help us to live with more grace? **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

May 15 — Canadian Unitarian Council National Service, 2 pm online (no morning service)

Today's service is inspired by Thich Nhat Hanh's quote: "Feelings come and go like clouds in a windy sky. Conscious breathing is my anchor." We invite you to join us for this restorative service as we reflect on the breath that sustains us. **Service Leaders: Staff and Ministers from the Canadian Unitarian Council.**

May 22 — A Good Life – A Beautiful Life Your minister has often said that the purpose of our "church" is to help us define what it means to lead a good life, and to call us to follow that path. This morning we will explore that idea as we attempt to unpack the difference if any, between a good life and a beautiful life. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

May 29 — A Beautiful Congregation After a month focussed on the theme of nurturing beauty, I expect that we will agree that beauty, properly understood, is something we should strive for in our lives. Today we explore what it would mean to strive for profound beauty as a collective, as a congregation. **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

Theme for June: Celebrating Blessings

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.



May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Service  Ramadan ends	2	3	4 RE Team meeting	5 11 am Celebration of Life, Eileen Ross See Caring column 7 pm Shared Ministry 7-8 pm Online gathering	6	7 10 – 11:30 am Brunch Take-out 7pm Coffeehouse 
8  Mother's Day 10:30 am Service	9 7 pm Worship Team meeting	10	11 7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	12 2 pm Building Team meeting 7-8 pm Online gathering	13 1 pm Memorial for Kay Smith See Caring column	14 10 – 11:30 am Brunch Take-out 2 – 5:30 pm CUC AGM 
15 2 pm CUC National Service 	16	17 7 pm Caring Team meeting	18 6:30 pm Board meeting 	19 7-8 pm Online gathering	20 1 pm Brunch Team meetng	21 10 – 11:30 am Brunch Take-out 
22 10:30 am Service 	23  <i>Victoria Day</i>	24 Newsletter Deadline 	25	26 7:30 pm Membership Team meeting 7-8 pm Online gathering	27	28 10 – 11:30 am Brunch Take-out 
29 10:30 am Service 12 noon UUCH AGM	30	31				

CHURCH SERVICES AND COVID

Due to the very high case numbers in Nova Scotia at this time we are discouraging people from attending church in person, and we will not be serving coffee after services until further notice. Hopefully we can get back to in-person services soon. Watch UUinfo for any changes.



Minister's Notes

*on
nurturing
beauty*

The world is a big beautiful, troubled place. It is easy to feel overwhelmed with the negative news that bombards us from all directions. We do what we can, knowing that our singular efforts will likely have little impact. But we can change the world at a local level and model the world we want to see.

Our theme for the month of May, my penultimate month as your minister, is “Nurturing Beauty.” If you look at the services for May, you will see that the last service in May will be titled “The Beautiful Congregation.”

As always when I prepare the service descriptions, I had not completely thought through the content for each service. When I selected that title, “The Beautiful Congregation” I was thinking that my job as your minister and your job as members and friends of UUCH has always been to nurture a beautiful congregation. And you are that! You were that before I came, and you will be that as long as you hold on to the vision of beauty in community.

What does beauty in community look like? It looks like love, non-judgmental compassion, forgiveness, humility, sharing, generosity, welcoming and commitment.

Love, as Scott Peck has said, is the willingness to extend oneself for the spiritual growth of another human being. When you become part of a beautiful congregation you benefit personally, and you extend yourself for the benefit of others.

There is an undeniable temptation for each of us to make our lives as stress-free and as simple as possible. But that is not a road to spiritual growth. I am enough of a humanist to believe that spiritual growth occurs at the sometimes-difficult boundaries where my needs and wants and personality rub uncomfortably against yours.

In a beautiful congregation we live into our first principle knowing the inherent worth and dignity of everyone including those that challenge us in one way or another. This expression of love is what makes a truly diverse community.

A beautiful congregation is one where sharing is taken for granted. Sharing of personal resources, time, skills and money. We live in a society where there are great differences in personal resources. A beautiful congregation is one where people from diverse economic and social situations share a common space and common resources. Those who can contribute more, and do so without any expectation that their contribution will bring them any benefits beyond those shared by the entire congregation. And those with fewer resources feel that they are full equal partners in the community.

A beautiful congregation is committed to more than self preservation. A beautiful congregation shares a vision and a message that they want to share with the wider community. A beautiful congregation wants to share what they have found in community with as many people as possible.

We are all members of a beautiful Universalist Unitarian community that transcends our congregation in Halifax and involves communities across Canada and around the world in the work of extending the message of Unitarian Universalism.

Let us commit to keeping that vision alive.

With love, Norm

There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others. — Mandy Hale

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the UUCH will take place in person and virtually at 12 noon, Sunday, May 29th, 2022.

The meeting will conduct the following business:

- Business arising from the minutes of the October 2021 Semi-annual General Meeting.
- Receive and approve reports from the Minister and various officers and committees.
- Nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 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.

Molly Hurd
Secretary
UUCH Board of Directors

UUCH Board Members 2021 – May 2022

Officers

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

Member at Large Avard Woolaver
One vacancy

Ex-officio Rev. Norm Horofker



From the Climate Crisis Team

UUCH Climate Crisis Survey Report

We held our survey in February—two months ago now—but we thought you would like to hear a summary of the results. Again, thank you to the 40 participants. We do appreciate your input.

It was encouraging to see that so many of you are not only knowledgeable about the climate crisis but also moderately or very concerned about it (70%) and are already taking action. About 10 people were extremely concerned and overwhelmed, but hopefully the fact that we have a team at UUCH to support your efforts to take climate action is helpful. Almost all of you talk to family and friends about the issues, so that is also good to know. Talking to people about climate change is said to be one of the most useful things we can do for them and for the crisis, as well as being a personal support for yourself during this difficult time.

Most of you are taking some type of action on your own—90% working to reduce your own carbon footprint and 85% educating yourself about the issue. A large number, 45%—have also taken some type of political action, although fewer have joined a specific organization. Most of you (84%) want general tips from us to continue reducing your own footprint, and 70% want us to share information and articles about various aspects of the issue. Over half want to hear speakers and about one third want to join discussions about climate topics. There were also several suggestions for topics to pursue.

The responses were less clear about joining a separate Google list to share information. 62% said that they would join such a list but there were several comments about there being too many already, or it would be better to send the information to everyone via uuinfo, as everyone needs to be informed. However, no one responded when we asked for contacts for those who want to be on a list

so that is the first step. Please contact me at margalbraith@eastlink.ca if you want to join.

We were also pleased to see that the respondents covered a significant age range—17% between 25 and 50, 40% between 50 and 75, and almost as many over 75. The climate crisis is such a significant part of our lives, it is good to know that a wide range of people within our congregation are thinking seriously about it. Thank you again for participating. It is good to feel we are on the right track.

Margaret Galbraith
Chair, Climate Crisis Team

Support for HalifACT

We also want to thank all the people who contacted their HRM councillors by phone or email to ask for their support for HalifACT, the city's climate action program.

The funding for this program was included in the city's budget for 2022-2023 and was passed on April 12th.

Now let's show that we haven't forgotten about it, and contact those councillors periodically to ask how it's coming along!

Check out the Annual Report pages 10 to 12, presented on October 5, 2021 for details on what has started and what hasn't—that is, most of it.

<https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/211215essc1211.pdf>

The Caring Column



Barbara Harsanyi has asked that we publish the following:

“Dear family & friends near and far,
My heartfelt thanks to all who contacted me on the sad occasion of the death of my beloved husband, Rodney Edward Vaughan. A service to celebrate his life will be held at UUCH at a later date and I hope that I and others will be able to attend in person.

At this time I am still at the Lunenburg Fisherman's Memorial Hospital, Room 334, 14 High Street, Lunenburg, NS, B0J 2C0; phone: 1-902-634-3872.”

A Celebration of Life service for **Eileen Ross**, a long time UUCH member who died on February 17th, will be held at 11 am, Thursday May 5th at St. Mary's Boat Club, 1541 Fairfield Rd. (off Jubilee Rd.), Halifax with Rev. Norm Horofker officiating. Caring Team members will attend. All are welcome but please wear a mask.

Also to be memorialized in May is **Kay Smith**, a longtime member and spouse of our Kath Anthony. Kay died in 2017 and donated her body to Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine. A ceremony in honour of a number of donors will be held at 1 pm, Friday, May 13th at the Dalhousie Memorial Site of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Lr. Sackville. Please note: the Dalhousie site is located at **601 Sackville Drive**. Kath hopes that several UUCH friends will be able to attend with her.

Barbara Dacey was discharged from the QEII Halifax Infirmary on April 25th. She is cheerful and glad to be home. VON nurses are visiting about three times a week. Wishing you a great recovery, Barbara.

Welcome back to **Shripad Pendse**, stranded in Australia for the past two years due to COVID. He expects to arrive in Halifax on May 4th. Shripad is a valued member of our Caring Committee. During his isolation he has reached out to many of our members and friends via phone, text and Zoom.



Best wishes to all as the grass grows greener, the flowers bloom and the daylight continues past suppertime!

Sylvia Mattinson

Music at UUCH

Welcome to a new month of music!

Coffeehouse

On Saturday, May 7th at 7 pm UUCH will be hosting our annual coffeehouse. The Afterchoir, community, and congregants of all ages will be performing!

If you would like to participate please contact me. We are pleased to bring live music into your homes.

Mother's Day Medley

Every year I arrange a composition of songs that remind you of your mothers.

Please contact me with a memorable song celebrating your mother. You'll hear the Mother's Day medley during the May 8th service.

Life is a song. Love is the music!



Jessica Friesen
Music Director

jessicafriesen876@gmail.com

204-330-8165



From CUC eNews, April 19-22

A Letter From Vyda

The Canadian Unitarian Council's Board of Trustees, staff, committees and working

groups are busy preparing for the [Annual General Meeting \(AGM\)](#) on May 14, 2022.

Last year, 203 people (97 delegates and 106 observers) were in attendance. This year, I hope even more of you will join us.

AGMs have a reputation of being long and boring, but ours is not. Really. The AGM is where we come together to set strategic priorities and make decisions that will shape the future of our faith. Priorities and decisions that will shape the experience of Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists in Canada. We come together in relationship and in covenant to tend to the business of the council and, at the same time, we are connected to the broader UU community.

We will be using Robert's Rules of Order as defined in our bylaws. For those who may not know, Robert's Rules is a manual of parliamentary procedure that dates back to 1876. Since then, it has been used extensively by organizations like the CUC to conduct orderly meetings and accomplish goals fairly.

But it is not without its detractors. Critics, including many Canadian UUs, have complained that it is overly complex, confusing, and—at close to 700 pages—cumbersome. Others believe it is outdated, and leads to divisiveness and polarization instead of consensus and collaboration.

While we will be using Robert's Rules at the 2022 AGM, that may not always be so. Robert's Rules is not the only decision-making framework available, and it may not be the best one for the CUC. But we can't know that unless we take the time to assess our current model and viable alternatives. To that end, we've assembled a task force led by young adults (to 35ish) to help us think outside the box. How well does our current process serve us? Are there other models that would work effectively at the national level? The research they are doing is comprehensive, will include consultations with UUs, and will result in sound

recommendations. (Watch for an interview with Robbie Brydon, lead of the task force, on the status of this project in the May issue of eNews.)

Recommendations will be presented to member congregations, who will be fully informed and consulted before being asked to approve any changes to our decision-making process. That's the beauty of our bylaws. They bind and protect us, ensuring that we do not make any significant changes without you.



Be well friends,

Vyda Ng

Executive Director

Canadian Unitarian Council

CUC AGM 2022

Saturday, May 14 — 2 to 5:30 pm AT

The AGM (via Zoom) is an opportunity for congregations to be involved in making decisions that affect our national faith community. **All are welcome as observers to this free event.** Registration is a 2-step process: Go to the [CUC AGM Events page](#) and fill in the registration form. You will receive an email giving you the Zoom link. Click on that link; it will take you to a Zoom form to fill in. This will make you ready for the meeting on the 14th. UUCH's official *delegates* are registered by your Board by a somewhat different process.

We encourage you (all) to review the [CUC AGM 2022—Public folder](#) to be found within the AGM material on the site. This will give especially first-time attendees a preview of what to expect. The experience is bound to be educational, inspirational, and perhaps even eye-opening. Enjoy the meeting!

Full details at cuc.ca

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Religious Exploration program prepared for Earth Day during April and continued learning about solutions to the issue of climate change.

We started by having the children create art that reflects their thoughts and feelings about climate change. Visual arts provide tools to spur social change and process and overcome emotions that come with climate change. Creating and witnessing art can encourage us to engage and take action and influence others to do the same. The children's subjects range from the consequences, to solutions, to hopes and dreams – including a climate change bunny superhero. You can bear witness to how our children process climate change with the paintings displayed on the church bulletin board.

Using the playful and thoughtful story of *The Lorax*, we considered the vital role trees play in the ecosystem—and their role in helping alleviate the consequences of climate change. Forests are integral to biodiversity, carbon sequestration, climate management and soil integrity—all highlighted in Dr. Seuss's rhyming verses. This inspired postcards to be sent to our Minister of Environment to demand a halt in the clear cutting of Nova Scotia forests.

The role of forests continued to be highlighted in the intergenerational service honoring Earth Day. Perhaps the guided visualization during the service of a favorite tree might remind you of your personal connection and inspire a letter of your own to protect the forests we currently have.

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

**Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot,
nothing is
going to get
better.
It's not.**



UUCH still reaching out to the community, helping people connect ...



The Saturday morning sausage roast around our nifty little open-fire pit is alive and well. Members, friends and neighbours gather at the front of our building to enjoy the food and company, support for one another, and often humour. This is a special, meaningful time for all who participate. For many, the group is a regular social event and a bright light in their lives.

The free weekly roast and brown bag brunch take-out will continue every week until the end of June. Kath Anthony is our Team Lead for the brown bag take-out and Rev. Norm (who took this photo) is the inspiration behind it all. The roast (formerly an indoor brunch) is one of his favourite places to be.

The program is funded solely by your generous donations to the the Saturday Brunch Fund. You can make a donation at any time by eTransfer to treasurer@uuch.ca – or you can send a cheque to the church at 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1J8. Please note “Saturday Brunch Fund” on your cheque. Many thanks to our regular generous donors for helping this important outreach to continue.

Etta Hamm

CUC Online Events



Connect, learn, deepen... be inspired

Among the many CUC-sponsored online events coming up are the following covering May 4 to June 1. Find all session details at cuc.ca under Events. Please note registration deadlines and fees where indicated.

Shown in Atlantic Times

Elders Circle with Sharon Jinkerson-Brass.
Wednesday, May 4 at 8 pm
Registration deadline May 4, sliding scale fees

Connect and Deepen
Sundays, May 8 and 22, 5 pm

CUC Annual General Meeting
Saturday, May 14, 2 – 5:30 pm
Register for this free event by May 14.

CUC National Worship Service
Sunday, May 15, 2 pm
Register for this free event by May 15

Elders Circle with Stephen Paquette
Wednesday, June 1 at 8 pm
Registration deadline June 1, sliding scale fees

Leader's Roundtable
Saturday, May 21, 1 pm

Canadian Unitarian Council
Interdependence. Love. Justice.

Directory Booklets Available

Free copies of our church directory booklet are still available. I have 15 of them here just sitting in a box. Let's not let them go to waste! I would be happy to send you one by mail.

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

Regular Monthly Meetings

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	Troy Saulnier
Saturday Brunch Team	3rd Friday 1 pm	Kath Anthony
Dismantling Racism	4th Tuesday 7:30 pm	Pam Griffin-Hody
Membership	4th Thursday 7:30 pm	Pam Berman

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for contributions for the June newsletter is
TUESDAY, MAY 24.



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

U·U·&you