



This Month's Sunday Services

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
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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

Children & Youth
Education

COVID-19 restrictions now allow full attendance at church in person **with continued mask wearing. Social distancing is no longer required.** Online access via Zoom continues. All services start at 10:30. Access Zoom between 10:20 and 10:30 using 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>

Our Theme for November: Holding History

November 7 — Because We Are Here – Pledge Sunday

Our UU congregation makes a difference in the lives of our friends, our members and our children, as well as the larger community. The world is a better place “because we are here.” We each contribute to building community with our participation and our financial support, and today we celebrate how we make a difference in people’s lives.

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Pam Berman

November 14 — How Did You Get Here and Where are You Going?

History is the story of how we all got here... a bewildering series of often unlikely events... in our personal lives and in society at large. How we got here and where we are going is the result of the combination of global events out of our control and the decisions, sometimes seemingly minor ones, that we make every day. How can knowing how we got here, help us to get to where we want to be?

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant Page Wakarchuk

November 21 — Listening to Our Lives

When we think of our theme for November, “Holding History,” we are likely to think about events from the distant past. But we are making our own history every day in every interaction. One spiritual practice we can benefit from is reflecting on the immediate past... taking time at the end of the day to ask: where in this day did I take time to savour the simple gifts of life?

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: James Morris

November 28 — Nationwide Celebratory Service – 60 Years of the CUC

This nationally shared service will be led by youth and young adults. The service will recognize and celebrate the 60-year history of the Canadian Unitarian Council, and calls us to fulfill the possibilities of our future together. The service starts at 2 pm Atlantic time.

Our Theme for December: Opening to Joy

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.



NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7 pm RE Committee meeting	4 7 pm Shared Ministry meeting 7 pm UUCH online gathering	5 3 pm Truth & Reconciliation meeting	6 10 - 11:30 am Brunch take-out  Fall back 2 am >>>
7 Back to Atlantic Standard time 10:30 Service Pledge Sunday Rev. Norm Horofker 8 pm 8th Principle Final Forum	8 6:30 pm Board meeting 	9 7 pm Worship Team meeting	10	11 Remembrance Day  2 pm Building Committee mtng 7 pm UUCH online gathering	12	13 10 - 11:30 am Brunch take-out take-out 
14 10:30 Service Rev. Norm Horofker	15 	16 5 pm Caring Committee meeting	17 7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	18 7 pm UUCH online gathering	19 World Philosophy Day (UNESCO)  1 pm Brunch Team meeting	20 10 - 11:30 am Brunch take-out 
21 10:30 Service Rev. Norm Horofker	22	23 Newsletter Deadline  7:30 pm Dismantling Racism session	24	25 7 pm UUCH online gathering 7:30 pm Membership meeting	26	27 10 - 11:30 am Brunch take-out 1 pm CUC Special Mtng: 8th Principle 7 pm Soulful Sundown 
28 2 pm Nationwide Celebration of CUC's 60th Year	29 	30				



It's time to fall back

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am on Sunday, November 7th.
Good idea to reset your clocks at bedtime, Saturday night.



Minister's Notes for November

On November's Theme of Holding History

You can understand history only in hindsight... (you can quote me on that.) And so, we are living history now, as we in Halifax are hopefully beginning to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. How will this time look in hindsight?

Our congregation has done very well by most standards. We held services online and in hybrid formats (online and in person) from the beginning of the pandemic. Our various social justice teams adapted to meeting online and our Saturday Brunch Team pivoted to take-out lunch bags. Financially we have held on, at least up to this point, and our Caring Team has been in contact with those who needed to hear from us.

Amazingly, Shripad Pendse, a key member of the Caring Team, did his work of phone calls and Zoom calls to members and friends from Australia, where he was stranded by the pandemic.

And despite tough times we have maintained our commitment to pay our staff at a level considered a "living wage."

But we have been changed, and we will not know how profoundly we have been changed until some time passes and we can look back on the transition. First and most obviously we have gotten used to Zoom and the idea of attending Sunday services in our pyjamas with a cup of coffee in the comfort of our own home. Or "heaven forbid" we watch the service later on YouTube, skipping ahead for the good parts... mostly Jessica and Marie-Claude. Speaking of Marie-Claude, our RE children have enjoyed some amazing Sunday field trips when meeting in the sanctuary was not allowed.

But we have been changed. When we are not able to meet in person and relax and enjoy each others company, something changes. Our leadership team has a harder time to sense the pulse of the congregation. The work of the Board gets harder to do, and the rewards that come with the

teamwork become less fulfilling. And so, we owe a debt of gratitude to each of our Board members and each of our Team Leaders for their perseverance.

We have been changed. I sense that we are all a little more irritable, all a little more tired, all a little less enthusiastic, and that is understandable. As I said during a recent Sunday service, it is like we are nearing the end of a long winter and we are running low on resources.

But, just as it is with the end of winter, we need to be preparing for a proverbial spring. People are hungry for direct human contact again. Our message as UUs of unconditional love and bridge-building across cultural religious and sociology-economic divides is needed in the world and in our community.

So, now is the time to prepare for our post-COVID spring—to get our plans in place for new ideas, new growth and welcoming new friends into our community. We have done very well over the past 20 months. We have proven our resilience and now we can begin to make plans for a new phase in our 184-year history in Halifax.

November is the month we ask each member and friend of the congregation to think seriously about their commitment to our future and to make a financial pledge for the coming year. Our Board is concerned that we will have a difficult year in 2022 financially. To help balance the budget, I have volunteered to take two months off work, without pay, in 2022. This is not a hardship for me, but it will mean more work for others in the congregation.

So, here's the thing. We will only be able to judge this time in the history of UUCH in hindsight, but if you do what you can to support our pledge drive financially, and if you do what you can to maintain your engagement with the congregation and its many great social justice teams, we will be able to look back and say that things are a little better in Halifax "**Because We are Here**"—which just happens to be the theme for our 2022 Pledge Drive led by Pam Berman. Let your first post-COVID response be a hearty support of Pam and all those working on our pledge drive for 2022.

With Love... Norm

Board Buzz

The UUCH Board is now meeting on the first Monday of the month, so that the “Buzz” may be more of a quiet “hum” by the time it gets into the newsletter. However there are some noteworthy items that happened at the October meeting on the 4th, some of which were highlighted in the Semi-annual General Meeting last Sunday, October 24th.

There have been some major property decisions with some of the work accomplished over the summer; namely the repair of the stucco on the back wall and the finalization of the plans for the new deck. It has been updated since the design shown at the AGM, and the plans for financing it will probably be changed too, depending on decisions made at the upcoming Board meeting. We are reconsidering the use of the Building Reserve Fund. We have also received grants that will help with the costs of replacing the second floor back exit door and improving the landscaping of the front yard – the work will be done in the spring.

We also planned the BBQ, which happened Saturday the 16th. We only had a small group, but it was great fun to be able to finally get together socially, after almost 19 months of isolation.

The main issue of the Budget was finalized for the SAGM. Our treasurer team of Marilyn and Darla were very blunt with us about the church’s financial situation due primarily to the limitations required by Covid restrictions, and hence the need for a drastic reduction in costs, to match our reduced revenue. A deficit budget was not going to be approved. Thanks to Rev. Norm’s contribution of two months of unpaid leave and some other smaller trimmings, we were able to create the balanced budget that was approved at the SAGM. Thank you Norm!

We have been discussing how to manage the Public Health guidelines for COVID19 at each Board meeting since March, 2020. This time, with Phase 5 just beginning on the day of the meeting, was no exception. We agreed that everyone could attend the Sunday service whether they were double vaccinated or not. This was a great step forward, and it was great to see the RE children take advantage of it, but

UUCH Board of Directors

2021 - 2022

President	Troy Saulnier
Vice-president	Pam Griffin-Hody
Past President	Margaret Galbraith
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Treasurers (co)	Marilyn Shinyei Darla Muzzerall
Members at large	Katelyn Everson Avard Woolaver

it did cause consternation over how to protect everyone if we had unvaccinated people attending. We decided that having everyone masked with the option of keeping away from others for safety sake would have to be sufficient for now. The Zoom option would still be available.

Since then we have realized that there is the possibility of organizations deciding exactly how they manage the guidelines for essential services, as faith services are, so we will discuss the issue again at the upcoming meeting.

The other big issue for congregations across the country is the question of adopting the proposed 8th Principle. At our Board meeting on October 4th we heard what the plans of the Dismantling Racism Committee were for the discussion of the issue at the SAGM. We will discuss the results of this at our next meeting in preparation for the CUC's Special Meeting on November 27th, called to vote on the principle.

As with all the church activities, except for the Sunday service, attendance at this meeting is considered discretionary, and therefore participants are required to show proof of double vaccination. It will also be available on Zoom.

Margaret Galbraith
for the Board





**A message from Vyda Ng
CUC Executive Director
to UU congregational leaders
October 25, 2021**

Dear all,

During the last few months, the CUC Board has committed to three initiatives, and would like to share them with you.

1. **Approval and adoption of the recommendations from the Dismantling Racism Study Group:**
At its August meeting, the CUC approved the [recommendations](#) (pp 20-22 in the report) from the Study Group and committed to developing a plan for their implementation, including human and financial resource implications. The Board anticipates bringing a budget to the May 14, 2022 Annual General Meeting which will include these expenses.
2. **By-law review:** The last CUC by-law review was in 2012, which engaged congregations in a 2-year consultation. These bylaws were approved by delegates at the 2013 Annual General Meeting, and several changes have been made to them since ([2020 version here](#)). The Board will begin a review in 2022, which will include processes for changing/amending the by-laws and Principles.
 - a. Our Principles were last reviewed during a 5-year consultation process between 2003 - 2008, which concluded with a [final report](#) presented to the 2008 Annual General Meeting. At that time, there was strong affirmation of the Principles, and no clear call to rewrite them.
3. **Decision-making Exploration:** a team led by young adults will undertake an exploration of decision-making options to be used by the CUC. The mandate is *“To explore viable decision-making processes for the CUC to use on a national level that are collaborative and inclusive, and that can realistically be used throughout the year as needed, and in annual general and special meetings of the CUC. The discoveries of the team may also be useful to congregations.”*

The team will be led by young adults with their unique perspectives and experiences, as they are the current and future leaders of our faith community. We believe in their ability to think nimbly, pose provocative questions, imagine creative solutions, and challenge us all to consider alternate possibilities. The team will present a report to the May 14, 2022 AGM, with a final report and recommendations by November 2022.

Thank you.

Vyda Ng

Executive Director

Canadian Unitarian Council | Conseil unitarien du Canada

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cuc.ca

The Caring Column



Faith and I recently spent a great afternoon with **Marie Davis** to celebrate her 94th birthday. It was a lovely warm day outside in Northwood's garden, and we talked and giggled like school girls—what fun we had! Laughter is the best medicine.

Ella Wilson, formerly active at UUCH for many years, remains sharp and positive despite profound physical challenges and ongoing isolation. She is always interested in church news and how our people are doing, and sends greetings to all who would remember her. Ella would welcome cheery cards and notes from old church friends and acquaintances. She is at the same address on Spring Garden Road.

Tanya Bilsbury, also a long time UUCH member—and a Saint Mary's University student, defends her doctoral research on Friday, October 29th. The topic: "Testing racial and criminal record discrimination in a simulated hiring scenario". Tanya expresses deep thanks to her UUCH friends for much support through a challenging time. Best wishes to you from all of us, Tanya!

Sylvia Mattinson

A word of kindness is seldom spoken in vain, while witty sayings are as easily lost as pearls slipping from a broken string.
George Dennison Prentice



From our
UU@UN
Envoys



Our denomination's link to the United Nations is through the organization UU@UN (formerly called the UU-UNO). For many years now, this New York-based office has worked to build a strong link between the United Nations and the Unitarian Universalist congregations across North America.

Many members of our congregation support the UU@UN office through yearly memberships. Now is the time to renew those memberships, if you wish to, for the upcoming year. Those who are somewhat new to the congregation may be less familiar with the work done by UU@UN; to learn more, please read the moving and heartening letter on the next page from UU@UN director Bruce Knotts. May Bruce's words brighten your day and remind you that, though the moral arc of the universe is long, it bends toward justice!

UU@UN Membership for 2021-2022

If you would like to join, or renew your UU@UN (formerly UU-UNO) membership, please make your donation to: treasurer@uuch.ca. You may also send a cheque. (The announcement in last Sunday's bulletin said to use the church website, but that is not the best way. Sorry about any confusion there. The treasurer@uuch.ca email address is better.)

Whether making a donation by email or by cheque in the mail, please be sure to note that it's for UU@UN membership, so that our bookkeeper will designate it properly.

Below are the various support levels available for 2021–2022 membership; please choose the one that makes sense for you.

- \$30. Retired/Student support level
- \$60. Individual support level
- \$150. Family/Household support level
- \$250. Global Equality support level

Thank you for keeping the UN and all its great work in mind this fall!

Martha Wilson & Jane Wilson
Congregational Envoys to UU@UN

A Message to UU Congregations from Bruce Knotts

As a child, I could not tell that day by day, I was growing. Instead, my father marked my height every year so we could see how much I had grown.

October 24, 2021 is the 76th birthday of the United Nations. The UN Charter was signed in 1945 by the representatives of 51 nations. (All those representatives were men.)

At the time, most of the world remained under colonial rule. The first orders of business were (1) to guarantee there would never be another global war and (2) to decolonize the world. Although colonial legacies remain very much alive today, nations that have achieved their independence and become Member States since 1945 have transformed the UN towards a fuller realization of what it was created to be: a convening place for the peoples of the world.

While we continue to experience conflicts, there has been no repetition of world wars. Nuclear weapons are monitored with the hope they will be abolished, as stipulated in the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that entered into force on January 22, 2021.

The United Nations has convening authority; it can bring people together and point the way. But the work of transforming society, infrastructure, economics, and laws has to be done by Member States and their citizens.

The UN remains essential after 76 years because it is the sole entity that can bring nations together to address global issues related to climate change, human rights, war, migration, sustainable development, and much more. It works with nations to set up standards, rules, and limits to create a world where we can, if we work at it, resolve the problems that affect us all.

In my work at the UU@UN, I operate with the principles of patience, persistence, and professionalism. In conversations with civil society, Member States, and UN staff, the UU@UN advocates for the values of our faith at every opportunity.

As leaders within the UN community, we have become recognized experts in some areas of human rights, especially sexual orientation/gender identity human rights. Over time these conversations produce systemic change within the Human Rights Council and in the community of faith-based NGOs at the UN. We have been successful in moving important issues from the margins to the center of concern. That is what we are attempting to do now with demilitarizing global police forces.

The work is slow and tedious. However, like measuring the growth of a child, over time one can see great progress, even if it appears like there's been no change from day to day.

Today, there are 193 Member States of the UN. About 50 Member States' Permanent Representatives are women. Over the past 76 years, the UN has transformed the concept of human rights through conventions, declarations, and resolutions that have vastly improved inclusion and access to justice.

I am so grateful to have your strong support behind me as I advocate for your values at the UN.

This weekend, many UU congregations will be marking the UN's birthday with a special United Nations Sunday worship service. This is a great opportunity to honor the connections between Unitarian Universalism and our world community as embodied in the United Nations.

In Solidarity for Peace, Justice, and Compassion,

Bruce Knotts

Director, UUA Office at the United Nations





From the Climate Crisis Team

The Climate Crisis Team met on Thursday, Oct 21 to share their knowledge and concerns about climate change. With COP26, the 26th meeting of the signers of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change coming up in Glasgow, Scotland, October 31 to November 12, the news media are anxious to find new things to say.

The headline of a story in the Guardian suggested that IPCC documents showed that Saudi Arabia and other nations had been lobbying to IPCC for changes in the text. A simple check with anyone associated with the text would have revealed that any changes were the IPCC's peer and governmental review process at work. The IPCC authors create a first draft which goes out to scientific review. Review comments come back to the authors and are either accepted or rejected and the reason for their fate documented. A second draft is created and this goes out to both governmental and science reviews. The final draft is created and approved by governments in a final plenary. The journalist has found the records of the review. The story was probably created to cast doubt on the IPCC process.

The developing world is unhappy with the G20 nations in that they have not paid \$100 billion annually in support of green energy. The transfer in 2020 is thought to have been only \$97 billion.

The electric car market is increasing quarter by quarter, especially in China. Hertz Rentals has just ordered 100,000 Tesla 3s.

Perhaps the sky isn't falling as fast as we fear.

Allyn Clarke
for the Climate Crisis Team

Sustainability, ensuring the future of life on Earth, is an infinite game,
the endless expression of generosity on behalf of all. — Paul Hawken

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

As part of our year of being Allies & Activists, children and youth will spend several weeks at a time learning about the issues that are at the forefront of the UUCH social justice programs. These include Truth & Reconciliation, Refugee Sponsorship, Climate Crisis, Saturday Brunch (food security), Dismantling Racism, and Pride.

Since mid- September, we have focused on Truth, Healing & Reconciliation. This has included continuing to learn about Mi'kmaq culture and heritage together—teachers and children alike. Along with a trip to the Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre, we learned about sacred medicines, the cultural role of the drum, and the symbolism of the eight-pointed star. We also explored the Seven Sacred Teachings that form the foundation of what is now considered the Indigenous way of life.



Learning and crafting time in RE class

We have also begun learning about the indigenous experience in Canada and the importance of the 94 Calls to Action. In a talking circle, we thought of the ways we have been asked to be allies to our Indigenous neighbours, and shared ideas of how to do so at any age. We honored Truth & Reconciliation day with messages of hope and support. We shared Luski, a traditional Mi'kmaq bread recipe, while learning about the reasons behind land acknowledgements, what they represent, and how to make them meaningful. We learned a few Mi'kmaq words that we can use at home and when we meet at church—while learning about the impact that Indigenous communities have faced since their language was taken away over generations of residential schools and colonization.

The end of October marks the end of our focus on Truth and Reconciliation, but these weeks have shown how much more there is to learn on this journey. The UUCH Truth, Healing & Reconciliation committee meet monthly to continue on their focused journey of listening and learning. We thank them for inspiring this past month's program.

In November we will learn about food security and the role the UUCH Saturday brunch team plays in helping to feed the bodies and souls of our neighbours.

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth



The Music Page

Welcome to a new month of music!

Music Appreciation Team

Do you enjoy music? How about attending concerts, talking with friends with a similar passion for music, or lending a hand in UU musical events? If this sounds like you, you may be interested in the Music Appreciation Team.

On October 28th we enjoyed the talented Morgan Davis at Bearly's House of Blues & Ribs; Morgan will be our featured Blue Christmas musician.

The Music Team also helped organize October's Soulful Sundown Service, enjoying each other's company and love for music.

Please contact me by email, phone, or text if interested in being a part of this group. We'd love to have you!

Soulful Sundown

We were so thankful to hear from Jont Openheart at October's Soulful Sundown. Our next service is on **November 27th**. Tell your family & friends about this musical service to reflect on life's joys and sorrows of past and future months to come. We hope to see you in-person (with proof of vaccination) or on Zoom and YouTube. Stay tuned for the announced musician!

Coffee & snacks at 6:30 pm. Service at 7pm.

Always remember, music accepts everyone, does not judge, and welcomes you into a safe, therapeutic space of creativity and community!



Jessica Friesen
Music Director

jessicafriesen876@gmail.com
204-330-8165

CUC Online Events

On the CUC website (cuc.ca) you will find all the online events being offered by the CUC in November.



Please search the website to find and to register for the events of your liking. All events are professionally led by knowledgeable, experienced presenters and/or facilitators. Be sure to check registration deadlines, fees where applicable, and carefully note Atlantic times. Among the offerings are these.

Regular events

Gathered Here
Connect and Deepen
UUBIPOC Space

New, special, and one-off events

The 8th Principle
ComUUnities & Mental Health Matters
CUC's 60th Anniversary Weekend
And the much anticipated national discussion on the 8th Principle on Saturday, November 27th.

Canadian Unitarian Council
interdependence. Love. Justice

Regular Monthly Meetings		
Group	Recurrence	Group lead
Board of Directors	1st Monday 6:30 pm	Troy Saulnier
Religious Exploration	1st Wednesday 8 pm	Marie-Claude Leroux
Committee on Shared Ministry	1st Thursday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Truth and Reconciliation	1st Friday 3 pm	Wietske Gradstein
Worship Team	2nd Tuesday 7 pm	Norm Horofker
Building Committee	2nd Thursday 2 pm	Norm Horofker
Caring Committee	3rd Tuesday 7 pm	Sylvia Mattinson
Climate Crisis Team	3rd Wednesday 7 pm	Margaret Galbraith
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.

*We are
Canadian Unitarians and Universalists*

We are people of many paths who are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history, and spirituality, but are aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



**The deadline for contributions to the
December newsletter
Is Tuesday November 23rd.**

Please submit your articles to Etta
at braeside@eastlink.ca

