



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

902-429-5500
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
uuch.ca

Sunday services
start at 10:30 am

Our congregation is
lay led at present

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Pam Griffin-Hody
Board President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

All are welcome



November Worship

October brought us the first presentation in a series of six services we will enjoy over the next six months from different Canadian UU ministers, with the second one this month on the 12th. In-person attendance is encouraged and mask wearing is recommended.

To access our services remotely click this [Zoom](#) link which is the same every week. The link can also be found at the top left of our web page at uuch.ca. ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch the service live (or later) at [UUCH-YouTube](#)

Services this Month

November 5 – Funding the Future

Funding the Future: We'll kick off our annual pledge drive with a service by Pam Berman who is organizing this year's canvass. She'll reflect on why it's time to think BIG (not small) even in what seems like an in-between time ... and there'll be a soup lunch after the service!

November 12 – Meaning Making in Liminal Times: In this polarized world... can we just talk?

Conversation has become a dangerous thing! Will I offend if I speak? Will I get attacked for voicing an opinion? Speaking is becoming scary. Unitarian Universalists have always prided themselves on freedom and rational discourse. It may be the only way out of this polarized age. Speaker: Rev. Brian Keily.

November 19 – A Lively Conversation

Terry Choyce and Patricia Watson will pair up to discuss topics that are meaningful to them and to everyone. Plus Patricia will sing a love song.

November 26 – The Climate Crisis Team

The Climate Crisis team will lead a service about the need to support one another through the feelings of grief and despair that are a common reaction to the changing world around us.

Our mission is to provide a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual collective commitment to community service and social justice.

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pledge Drive Month! 			1	2 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	3	4 10 – 11:30 am Brunch Daylight Saving Time ends (fall back) 2 am >>
5 10:30 am Canvas Kick-off Service & Soup Lunch	6	7 12 – 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch	8 6:30 pm Board meeting	9 7 – 8 pm Online Gathering	10	11 10 - 11:30 am Brunch
12 10:30 am Service Atlantic Standard Time in effect	13	14 12 – 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch 7 pm Worship Team meeting	15 7 pm Climate Crisis Team meeting	16 7– 8 pm Online gathering	17	18 10 – 11:30 am Brunch
19 10:30 am Service: Terry Choice, Patricia Watson 12:00 pm Humanist Group	20	21 12 – 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch 7 pm Caring Team meeting	22	23 7 – 8 pm Online gathering 7:30 pm Membership meeting	24	25 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
26 10:30 am Service 	27	28 12 – 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch	29	30 7 – 8 pm Online gathering	Dec 1 10 am Bazaar set-up	Dec 2 10 am 

Canvass Kick-off & Soup Luncheon Sunday November 5th at noon

Join us for a delicious lunch of soup and bread & more to celebrate together the many comforts and joys of belonging to this wonderful community of friends—all made possible by our combined generosity of spirit, vision, energy, and of course, our financial contributions. There's always good fun music, and the usual warm UU fellowship.



You can sign up to bring soup, sandwiches or sweets on the list over the mantel in the sanctuary. See you at the Kick-off!

Board Buzz



The main order of business at October's board meeting was to work on the proposed budget to be (hopefully) approved at the SAGM on October 29th, and to discuss other items that would appear on the SAGM agenda. I won't reiterate those here.

October's board meeting was notable though, in that it was the first meeting in a few years with a full complement of members, as well as all members being physically present since Avard Woolaver drove up from the valley to grace us with his physical rather than virtual presence. As well, Irene Baros-Johnson attended for a short time to discuss one particular item.

Our board meetings deal with the day-to-day operations of all that happens at 5500 Inglis Street as well as the big-picture items that came out of the congregational aspirations voiced under "the radical view" during our 2023 retreat in August.

Anyone is welcome to attend a board meeting, scheduled regularly for the second Wednesday of each month (though sometimes not December). We convene at 6:30 pm.

Pam Griffin-Hody
Board President

UUCB Board of Directors

Officers

President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Vice-president	Joe Britto
Past President	Troy Saulnier
Secretary	Molly Hurd
Treasurer	TBF

Members at large

Avard Woolaver Mary Frances Lynch



Use the CUC!

We belong to a national faith organization that does its best to support our far-flung congregations across the country. Thanks to the magic of Zoom they can host a variety of discussion groups designed to appeal to a range of interests. There is an interesting day of such discussion **coming up on Saturday, November 25th.**

It is a great opportunity to get to know other members of our faith wherever they are in the country, and it comes with a sliding scale of fees from \$0 to \$30. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Margaret Galbraith

An Update from the Endowment Committee



The Endowment Committee would like to let the congregation know that, thanks to the farsighted individuals who launched our Endowment Fund several years ago and who funded its earliest growth, we now have \$125,000 intended to help preserve UUCB's long-term health.

If you are interested in contributing to the Endowment Fund, please get in touch with me or with one of the other committee members: Kathy Anthony, Margaret Galbraith, or Danielle Saulnier. Thank you!

Martha Wilson
Chair



Did you know that www.cuc.ca gives you access to the websites and newsletters of all the UU member congregations across Canada? An interesting, inspirational way to spend a couple of hours.



December 2

We have held a holiday tea and bazaar for many years. It's our major fundraiser! Participate; it's fun!

**Sunday, November 12 after the service:
Planning Meeting** (very brief)

If you can't make it, just send Pam G-H an email

**Sunday, November 26:
Bring sale items in**

**Friday, December 1, starting at 10:
Volunteers set-up, donors drop-off**

**Saturday, December 2, starting at 10:
Bazaar Day!**

For the first time since Covid, we are bringing back the light lunch of tea, coffee, sweets, and sandwiches!

The bazaar part is a collection of gently used household items, accessories, toys, arts, etc. *No clothes, thank you*, but hand-crafted items like knitwear, etc. are welcome. We also have a huge book table (fiction and non-fiction only). Also traditional baked goodies: (homemade bread, squares, cookies, muffins—jams, jellies & preserves). Do you bake? Or make jam? Anything you can freeze you can start baking and preserving now!

So, start putting your bazaar items aside now, bring them in on Sunday Nov 18th and Friday December 1st. You'll feel lighter as a result and free to really enjoy the bazaar yourself!



Fellowship Focus Group



The Fellowship Committee would like to convene a demographically representative focus group to brainstorm social activities that might appeal to members and friends. We could then use Survey Monkey to assess the most popular of these ideas. The goal would be to implement a new array of opportunities by early 2024. We will meet once or twice in any format for this brainstorming.

If you would like to be involved with the process, please contact Linda Cherry at 902-68-2360 or Linda-Cherry@att.net

Membership Initiative



Social Marketing (not social media!) uses marketing tools in support of progressive ideas and institutions. Can we apply these tools to Halifax Unitarians growth initiatives? Can we engage in a critical and strategic discernment of the most viable ways to recruit? We are not for everyone, and everyone is not for us. Can we identify those who will value the institution and enhance its long-range sustainability? Let Linda Cherry know if you are interested in such an exploration.

Falling back (to normal)



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am on Sunday, Nov 5th. Good idea to reset your time pieces the night before. Forgetting the whole silly ritual could have you arriving for church as everyone else is about to leave!



Canadian Unitarian Council-Sponsored Workshops

Saturday, November 25th On Zoom

Working Well Together: Congregational Workshops for Resilience & Renewal

Part 1: 1:30 pm AT (90 minutes + one hour break)

Part 2: 4 pm AT (90 minutes + 30 minutes break)

Part 3: 6 pm AT (90 minutes)

Focusing on how the larger cultural tensions of our time impact our UU communities and congregations, these 3 workshops include ways to prepare and respond thoughtfully and with intention, along with opportunities to share your concerns, ideas, and initiatives. And don't worry – it's not all work! There will be nurturing and nourishing space as well.

Session 1: Locating Ourselves in a Changing Culture

We'll begin by identifying global and local themes that impact our congregations and communities. Focussing on right relations and covenantal practices, this conversation will identify concerns and possible responses. Resources for proactive options will be shared.

Session 2: Building Relationships Toward a Common Good

Sometimes we feel like we are alone in our justice efforts. In this session we'll think about partnerships to build mutual support, safety, and intentionality into our work. Resources for safety and preparedness will be shared.

Session 3: Practices for Resilience & Renewal

We're doing big and important and difficult work together. Part 3 will share practices, resources, and tools for sustaining our collective well-being, including a shared ritual for all who are gathered.

Registration is open until November 23rd.

Registration form (following more information) [here](#).



From the Climate Crisis Team

International dialogue heats up

After Halloween November may seem to be a dull month, but crucial conversations on our climate emergency are picking up speed. The widespread and devastating crises of 2023 (floods, wild fires and hurricanes) have raised the urgency for government and business leaders to take decisive action.

COP 28, the United Nations' Climate Conference will take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 30 November to 12 December. For a good explanation of the issues read more [here](#).

A split agenda?

UAE has appointed the head of its state oil company, Sultan Al Jaber, to act as President of the talks. It is one of the 10 largest oil producing countries in the world, producing 2.7 million barrels of oil per day in 2021 and Mr. Al Jaber aims to double this by 2027. The world needs less fossil fuel production, not more.

However, he is also the chairman of Masdar, a renewable energy firm now active in over 40 countries. Launched in 2006, it has invested in mainly solar and wind power projects with a total capacity of 15 gigawatts, capable of displacing more than 19 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

How will he reconcile these two conflicting agendas?

Read more [here](#).

Climate and Health

3 December is designated as the first COP Health Day, when leaders will be reminded that the climate crisis is already a health crisis. A recent international conference has prepared for this day. More [here](#).

In other news

September's high temperature record was "absolutely, gobsmackingly bananas," said Zeke Hausfather, of the Berkeley Earth climate data project. 45 leading climate scientists were the most shocked by the "off-the-charts sea temperatures and Antarctic ice loss." "These exceptional events could be normal in just a decade, unless there is a dramatic increase in climate action," they said. Source: The Guardian (U.K.)

Norway's EV milestone

A new milestone in Norway's electric mobility was reached in September: 93% of new passenger car registrations were plug-in vehicles. Source: Electromaps.com

This just shows how even small countries can make huge changes for everyone's benefit. May Canada join that club.

Leslie Robinson
Climate Crisis Team

Why I Belong

The *Why I Belong* column is back—where Pam Berman, our Membership chair, invites members to submit brief personal statements for publication here in relation to their connection to UUCH. Shripad's responses to 'Pam's four questions' (as below) are perfect examples for the column. Please submit your piece to Pam at bermanpj@gmail.com.

When did you become a UU? I attended my first



service half a century ago, but did not 'become' a UU for about ten years after that because I felt I would be renouncing the religion I grew up in (Hinduism) and becoming a Christian.

What attracted you to this community? In my early

years in Halifax I lived nearby on Lucknow Street, and saw the UU sign. So I went in to take a look. We had a lay leader named John McVittie then. The worship room was about half its current size and faced south. I found the people friendly and congenial, and so I have stayed with UU ever since.

What has kept you here? The sense of belonging to a community of friendly and congenial people. About half of my social friends are members of this community. Services I particularly remember were given by outside people, such as David Maginley who works with dying people at the VG; Keith Graham, an architect of churches; a Neptune Theatre director; and a very recent service by Mary-Frances Lynch and Joe Britto, which was about making friends with trees. I like Jessica's musical talents, music by the Afterchoir and enjoy the Coffee House. We used to have Extended Families, Dinners for Eight and an annual retreat at Tatamagouche; I miss these things.

Tell us something about yourself that most people may not be aware of. I was once on the Cohn Auditorium stage as an actor in "The Skin of our Teeth". The size of my role is indicated by the title. And, I have published research on why humans have a brain hemisphere that specializes in language.

Shripad Pendse

From the Caring Committee



We have good news from Mary-Frances Lynch: "Our little girl Flannery Katelyn arrived in punctual fashion on her due date, October 4th. We are all doing well and she is getting plenty of kisses, with a healthy

amount from her big brother. Looking forward to introducing her to the Halifax UUs soon!"

As it happened, Flannery attended the service on October 22nd with her mom by Zoom and was welcomed with a round of applause from the congregation. Best wishes to Mom, Flannery and the whole family!

Sylvia Mattinson, Chair

Church Directory Update

PENDSE, Shripad shripen@yahoo.ca

This is for all UU communication both 'church' and social. He is reserving the SMU address for other purposes. Please make this change in your directory and all devices.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the December newsletter is undecided at this time. A UUinfo notice will be sent out. To inquire about submitting please contact Etta at braeside@eastlink.ca

UUCH SAH NEWS

In June I opened this report with these words: “The state of the world seems particularly grim these days...”. I don’t think there has been any improvement, but we continue to soldier on, applying for refugees and welcoming new arrivals.

Sadly, as I write, we still do not have an arrival date for our Rwandan Unitarians, Clement and Sylvie. However, they have got to be here within weeks now. [Oh, this just in! After spending one night in Toronto they will arrive here on November 10th!]



By the end of October, we expect to have received about 140 newcomers, a big jump from the 53 reported at the end of May. It has become very busy. Pictured here are just two of those arrivals. On the left you will recognize Hadi (the tall one), who with his brother Ahad (in all black), was at the airport on September 29th to welcome the other three fellows coming from Thailand. Photo: I-r Ali, Hadi, Mahdi, Ahad & Mahdi

Most of our newcomers are coming to reside with family already here, so the abominable housing situation doesn’t affect us too much. However, right now one of our sponsors is struggling to find a 2-bedroom apartment for four young Afghan siblings aged 11 to 23 (pictured on the right). Any ideas are welcome! Photo: I-r Mobashir, Massih, Marilyn, Beshta & Dawar



We are very excited to announce that we have hired Andrea Dewar in a joint arrangement with UUCH to be office admin and refugee program assistant. We have needed paid help for a long time and finally feel able to afford that. Andrea was already part of our SAH Team of volunteers. She will now take over a lot of the work involved in preparing applications and checking in with newcomers after they arrive. The rest of the team will still do some of this work on a volunteer basis.

Marilyn Shinyei
Refugee Program Coordinator

