

U.U. & you



Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax

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August 2024

Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street
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Sunday services
start at 10:30 am

Our congregation is
lay led at present

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Joe Britto
Board President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

All are welcome



August Services

Summers at UUCH are traditionally lay led and laid back. Services over more than the last year have been lay led. These include somewhat traditional services, while some feature more relaxed services. When there's sunshine we enjoy our coffee, tea and conversation on the deck. All are welcome!

The Zoom link stays the same from week to week and can be found at the top left of our webpage at uuch.ca. If you need an ID and Password it's: ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670

August 4 When We Search (rescheduled from April 21 and May 26)

The service will focus on Michelle Huneven's novel *Search*, about a California UU congregation's quest for a new minister. This book is a tender, funny, aching portrayal of some issues in which you're sure to recognize your UU friends and acquaintances—and yourself. **Service Leader: Martha Wilson**

August 11 Seasons of Summer

When we think of summers past, do the long summers of our childhood come to mind? Our summers of young adulthood? Summer family vacations when you were the adult? All the summers like this one? A service with the music and the memories of the many seasons of summer. **Service Leader: Pam Griffin-Hody**

August 18 A Virtual Visit to Spain -- "Plus Ultra!"

A short talk and photos about Spain where Margaret and Paul Galbraith annually visit their son and his family. **Service Leaders: Margaret and Paul Galbraith**

August 25 Inherent Mirth and Dignity

Join us for the story of the UU Hysterical Society, the practical joke that accidentally turned into a 230,000- person UU community on Facebook. It's a story of feeling lost, finding yourself, and UUism-outside-the-box. **Guest Speaker (in person): Liz James, UUHS founder; Service Leader: Pam Griffin-Hody**

The August 25 service will be followed by a potluck to welcome and meet our new minister, Rev. Ben Robbins.

Since September 1st is part of our summer schedule, we include it here in our August schedule.

September 1 Those Happy Golden Years

Aging. A fact of life. We all age every day. As an experience it beats the alternative. Many fine words are written about aging; some will be read today. Then, suddenly, age takes us to meet ageism and the world changes. Golden Years. Bah, humbug.

Service Leader: Mary Lu MacDonald



Welcoming Rev. Ben Robbins

**Come out to the
welcoming gathering
for Rev. Ben Robbins,
Sunday, August 25.**

The August 25 service will be followed by a potluck meal to meet and welcome our new minister, Rev. Ben Robbins.

Let's make the occasion a warm, memorable event for him!

Consider inviting someone you have not seen at church in a long time—and as able, bring a potluck offering to share.

PRIDE 2024

This summer, like dozens upon dozens of summers past, UUCH participated in the Halifax Pride Parade. In early days, we were the only church that was openly welcoming to the gay community. In our peak we were able to rent a trailer with a hauling truck for people with limited ability to walk. This year, we couldn't find a driver – one with the ability to drive a truck and haul a big trailer. But we wanted to make a showing of some sort, so we went ahead with one small car all rainbowed-up and enough walkers to carry our banner. We hope to find that driver next year!



**Our walkers: Faith, Norm, Janet and Mitchell;
in the car: Michael & Amy with myself driving.**

Last summer, the parade was cancelled because of the “historic” flooding. The 2022 parade was the first since 2019 because of Covid. And it was everything Pride is: energetic, joyful, and a bit controversial.

A few weeks ago, Halifax Pride advised parade participants of an expected halt to the parade by protesters, along with instructions on how to deal with any protesters. Some groups decided to pull out because of personal safety concerns, including the Premier of Nova Scotia.

It was up to our individual participants to decide, and I decided my car would participate.

Our place in the parade was well past the mid-point. There were some protesters in the crowd, some obviously supporting multiple oppressions. At the end of the parade, some protesters decided to stop it. This has been reported now in

several places. We saw nothing at the time although we did hear rumours while getting the car ready to be driven back to UUCH.

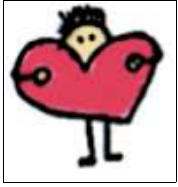
My heart breaks with such division in our community. Our national organization, the Canadian Unitarian Council, issues public statements from time to time on social justice issues that we are called to act upon as Unitarian Universalists. You can access these at www.cuc.ca. Since September, 2023, these statements have primarily addressed the horrific situation in Gaza, along with ensuing antisemitism and islamophobia, as well as the rise of hate crimes towards the LGBTQ+ community.

In 1967, Brazilian educator, Paulo Friere, wrote “The oppressed, instead of striving for liberation, tend themselves to become oppressors.” We have seen this writ large in history, for example, the French Revolution and the post-Russian Revolution, Soviet Union. We see this this happening in the Middle East today. We saw this play out at the Halifax Pride Parade.

We do not have to silo social justice. We can celebrate Pride. We can fight for justice for Palestine while condemning antisemitism. We can state that Black Lives Matter with all our hearts while still proclaiming that Every Child Matters. We can remember the fragile state of our planet in all aspects of social justice. We can and must do all those while still recognizing that we are treaty people in Mi'kma'ki.

I abhor, on a personal level, the corporatization of Pride, of our universities, our hospitals, our society in general. I also support the BDS movement. But there is a place for protests, and disrupting a celebration of LGBTQ Pride is not one of them. As Unitarian Universalists, let us remember that we covenant to affirm and promote our principles which call us to justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, and the inherent worth and dignity of all.

Pam Griffin-Hody



From the Caring Committee

Glenda Butt reports that she is much better as she tries to not overdo it on her daily walks, continues to have helpers coming to the house, and has dialysis three times a week. Keep on getting better and better Glenda!

Anne Knight-Gorman is home following hip replacement surgery and is doing well with a bit of help coming in. We are glad to know this, Anne!

The Celebration of Life for **Norm Sabowitz** led by Marilyn Shinyei took place at UUCH on July 13th. The service, informal yet intimate with many sharing their memories of Norm, was followed by a reception which included sandwiches, charcuterie and sweets.

The memorial service for **Dean White** was held in Bridgewater on July 27th at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Marilyn and Faith drove to Bridgewater for the service.

The Halifax UU community observed a moment of silence in Dean's memory on Sunday July 24th when several members shared heartfelt memories of Dean. He was indeed much loved and admired by those of us who knew him over many years.

Wishing all of you great summer days in August.

Faith, Judy, Shripad and Sylvia

UUCH Board of Directors

July 2024 – May 2025

Officers

President	Joe Britto
Vice-president	TBC
Past President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Pam Berman

Members at large

Mary-Frances Lynch
Kim Turner
Avard Woolaver

Church Directory Updates

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the September newsletter is **Wednesday, August 28th.**

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

