



Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax

Vol. 61, No. 1

September 2024

Wecome!

This is an exciting time for us at UUCH, being the first month with Rev. Ben Robins as our new minister! When there's sunshine we enjoy our coffee, tea and conversation on the deck. Masks are available on our welcome table. All are welcome. We hope to see you, or meet you!

The [Zoom](#) link stays the same from week to week and can be found at the top left of our web page at uuch.ca. If you need an ID and Password it's: ID: 666 004 431, Password: 010670

September Services

Sept 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. Suddenly, age takes us to meet ageism and the world changes. Golden Years. Bah, humbug.

Service Leader: Mary Lu MacDonald

Sept 8 — Ingathering (first service led by Rev. Ben Robins)

In our Ingathering service, we bring together our hopes and dreams for the world, blend them together, and launch a new year. Bring water and/or stones, from home or somewhere else meaningful to you. We will blend them together in our water ceremony. **Rev. Ben Robins with James Morris and the Afterchoir**

Sept 15 — The Best Laid Plans

The day after our congregational retreat (to imagine the year), we explore what happens when humans try to shape the future. **Rev. Ben Robins with Pam Griffin-Hody**

Sept 22 — Where Do the Children Play?

Amidst an international fertility crisis, we reflect on how our own towns and cities might be adapted to be natural habitats for kids and families.

Rev. Ben Robins with Margaret Galbraith

Sept 29 — Truth, Treaties and Relationship

Today we recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day, Treaty Day, and the upcoming Mi'kmaw History Month. What do respectful relations look like?

Service leaders: Our Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism team

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.

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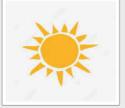









Joe Britto
Board President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Service 2 pm Minudie church reunion service	2 	3  Meet the Walkers	4	5	6	7 
8 10:30 am Service Ingathering, Water Communion	9	10 7 pm Worship meeting	11 6:30 pm Board meeting	12	13	14 10 am–1 pm Annual Retreat
15 10:30 am Service 	16	17	18	19	20	21 10 – 11:30 am Brunch resumes 
22 10:30 am Service First Fall Day 	23	24 Newsletter Deadline 	25 Happy Rosh Hashanah 	26	27	28 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
29 10:30 am Service	30 Natn'l Day of Truth & Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day 	Oct 1 Treaty Day 				

Universalist Reunion in Minudie Sunday, September 1

On Sunday, Sept 1 at 2 pm, the “second annual” Universalist Reunion service will take place at the historic Amos Seaman Church in Minudie, Cumberland County, about 2.5 hours' drive from Halifax. A simple lunch will be served after the service. Everyone is welcome.

Annual Retreat
Saturday September 14th
10 am – 1 pm at the church



Members and friends of our faith community are invited to our Annual Retreat for a congregational conversation about making our UUCH dreams come true.

Come early for breakfast, stay after for a potluck lunch.

Last year, you identified your three top priorities for your next minister:

- Offer challenging and inspiring services.
- Actively care for the welfare of all members.
- Grow the community and raise the UU profile in Halifax.

At our Sept 14th retreat we'll discuss ways of putting this vision into action. I'll bring some ideas based on conversations I've had in my first weeks with you, and we'll discuss your ideas too. The goal is an action plan that is owned by all of us. Let's make our dreams come true.

Love,
Ben



Updates From the Climate Crisis Team

The Climate Story Network

I hope you have all had a chance to check out the Climate Story Network at climatestorynetwork.ca—all positive stories about climate actions in the Maritimes. We had one of the founders, Sean Kelly, as our presenter on April 28th. A large number of new stories have been added.

Ecology Action Centre, more stories

The EAC now also shares positive climate stories at ecologyactioncentre.ca. This is a new blog, called *In Our Power*, with Atlantic Canada stories. They focus on the ordinary people in diverse communities who are stepping up to create change while ensuring that their communities thrive. Inspiring reading!

Ecology Action Centre, on Municipal Elections

The EAC is helping with our voting choices in October. There will be municipal elections throughout Nova Scotia on October 19th, and EAC has created Voters Tool Kits, one for HRM voters and one for those who live in rural municipalities. They are available at [EAC on elections](https://ecologyactioncentre.ca/eac-on-elections).

HRM Elections

There are also basic details about the election in HRM at [HRM Elections](https://hrm.election.ca) on new district boundaries, contact to check the voters list, and the list of candidates for 2024.

Why should we worry about municipal elections?

Many of the issues that we will face as the climate changes are at the municipal level, and much of the mitigation and adaptive work that can be done is local, subject to local by-laws. We need councillors and mayors across the province who are aware of the current and potential issues who will push for appropriate regulations and the necessary funding. Whether it's more affordable and available transit, or measures for coastal storm surge damage, or protected park land, or

affordable housing or energy. These are all issues that start at the municipal level, issues that our representatives need to work on for us. Check out the ECA's Tool Kits and then check out the candidates in your local election. It is something we can all do, by email, letter, telephone or in person.

Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team

UUCH Board of Directors

June 2023 – May 2024

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for contributions for the October newsletter is

Wednesday, September 25th.

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

Fridays for Future Rally (?)

Keep an eye out for an announcement of the annual Fridays for Future climate rally popping up in Halifax, potentially Friday, Sept 20th. Save the date “just in case”.

fridaysforfuture.ca

From the Caring Committee



The August newsletter mentioned that Marilyn and Faith intended to take in the **Celebration of Life for Dean White** in Bridgewater, but Marilyn later reported that eight UUs attended (about 10% of our current membership). This speaks to how well respected and beloved Dean was. Present were Marilyn Shinyei, Faith Piccolo, Kathy Spencer, Amy Moonshadow, Kim Turner, James Morris, Brian Gifford and Norm Horofker. Marilyn added that “it was a delightful event with music and memories galore, and that we learned that this kind and generous man was involved in so much more than we even knew.”

Phil Silver has recuperated well since being hospitalized in June and is expected back to 'work' the Saturday Brunch this month as the loyal UUCH volunteer that he is. That's our Phil!

Anne Knight-Gorman's recovery following hip surgery in June also has gone well. She takes daily walks around her block, and gets out to local appointments, errands and eateries with a niece, and with friends who pick her up and caringly deliver her safely back home. She hopes to attend church in the not too distant future. It will be good to see you, Anne!



Having been rudderless for the last 18 months, we were more than delighted to welcome **Rev. Ben Robins** into our fold at a very well-attended reception on Sunday August 25th!

We are confident of our future with Rev. Ben as we support him in 'finding his feet' as he in turn supports us.

Faith, Judy, Shripad and Sylvia

New UUCH Babysitting Service



Jenna Kedy

The UUCH Board is pleased to announce that we have hired Jenna Kedy (pictured here) to provide childcare during our Sunday services starting September 8th. Jenna comes to us highly recommended (by me)! Jenna is fully certified, and has extensive experience as a babysitter, nanny, camp leader, Girl Guide leader, Autism Nova Scotia Volunteer and more. Jenna is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts degree with a Concentration in Family Studies at the Mount. In brief, she's awesome!

I am personally looking forward to being at UUCH more often in-person with Llewyn, so I can take in the services while he is cared for and entertained by Jenna. I hope this babysitting service will make it possible for more young families to attend too.

Mary-Frances Lynch

UUCH Board member and

UU parent to Llewyn and Flannery



Actions for Peace

- The **World Week for Peace for Palestine and Israel** is September 16 – 22.
- The **International Day of Peace** is September 21.
- The **Voice of Women for Peace** is joining with other organizations to sponsor **'Walking Together for Peace'** from Pugwash to Halifax, September 8 – 21. Following is information about the walk.



'Walking Together for Peace' is a group of approximately twenty walkers travelling from Pugwash to Halifax, starting September 8th and arriving in Halifax on the International Day of Peace, September 21st.

Individuals and congregations are welcome to join along on the route as it makes its way through the numerous communities along the way. Four walkers from an Indian peace movement Jai Jagat, and one Buddhist monk from Japan will join the Canadian walkers.

The main purpose is to draw attention to the need for nuclear disarmament, and to increase Canadian support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which [Canada has not signed](#).

There will also be much opportunity for discussion of the inter-related issues of climate and climate justice, militarization, colonization and racism. There will be events as well in Pugwash, Truro and Halifax. For more details click [here](#) to target vowpeace.org's information on the walk—or email walkingtogether@vowpeace.org.

Can you provide a billet?

Volunteers are needed to billet some of these Walkers for Peace. Use [this link](#) to access the list of when, where, M/F, age, how many and how many nights are needed. Please respond to Linda Scherzinger at lindakseven@gmail.com to set up arrangements.

This just in: There will be a pre-launch event at the Halifax's Central Library, BMO Room, at **6:30 pm, Tuesday Sept 3rd** – an opportunity to meet the walkers! If the library workers are still out on strike, we will be informed of the alternate location. Stay tuned for that

Margaret Galbraith



Meet a Fellow UU: Joe Britto

by Andrea Dewar

This month I'm excited to spotlight Joe Britto, who has been a part of our community since January 2023 and has already made a big impact. After he first attended, he quickly became involved in congregational activities and became a member in the spring of 2023. From singing in the choir to taking part in the spiritual discussion group to leading services and retreats, Joe has

helped those around him reflect, grow, and live more spiritually. As our new Board President, he is actively working behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

Originally from London, England, Joe's sense of wanderlust has led him to live in different places, including British Columbia and Halifax, where he attended St Mary's University in 1999. After moving around a few more times, he returned to Nova Scotia in 2020 and now lives by the ocean on the beautiful Eastern Shore.

Joe's varied career path is also an interesting journey. He's tackled everything from tree planting and video store clerking to producing a current affairs talk show and, briefly, roofing (a job he quickly realized wasn't for him due to a fear of heights). Lately, Joe has been consulting for businesses and non-profits. However, his most exciting venture today is his writing. He's currently seeking agents for two novels he has completed. He's also an exceptional cook, a sailor, and spent a decade as a lead singer in bands.

Joe is a lifelong seeker and strives to make spirituality a living, breathing part of his life. He is open to exploring many spiritual paths, and this brought him to Unitarianism when he was living in England. He was active in two different congregations for five years there, then tried to create spiritual community in the Eastern Shore for over two years before he started attending UUCH. His deep sense of curiosity makes Joe a joy to discuss life's profound questions with. He loves to explore these questions from perspectives completely different from his own, with an open mind and heart. Some of the topics he's exploring now are what life could be like on another planet and envisioning a society without human preconceptions.

Unsurprisingly, Joe gravitates to books that ask and answer some big questions. *Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah* by Richard Bach and *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner are two novels he returns to.

This fall, Joe is really looking forward to his upcoming journey to India. After a week touring Northern India where he hopes to find many inspiring spots to meditate, he'll spend seven days in Rajasthan on a spiritual retreat. He will also spend a day meditating at Ghandi's ashram after the retreat, a fitting finale to what promises to be a transformative experience.

I'm excited to see where Joe's journey takes him next and how his unique talents will continue to enrich our community.

September 8



Ingathering, Water Communion