



Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax
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Rev. Ben Robins
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Andrea Dewar
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Wed-Thur-Fri
1 - 6 pm

Joe Britto
Board President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
start at 10:30 am
All are welcome



Welcome to our May Services

Join us in exploring what it means to live our deepest values out loud.
We extend a special welcome to visitors and hope you will come again.

For Zoom, if needed: User ID 666 004 431, password 010670.

May 4 --- Yes, and... (with a New Member Ceremony)

"Yes, and..." means saying yes to opportunities that arise in life, while adding your own touch. This is part of a series on the blossoming of spring. During the service we will have a new member ceremony. **Speakers: Ben Robins and Mitchell Horne; Service Assistant: Mary Lu MacDonald.**

May 11 -- Planting Seeds

On Mother's Day, we'll explore the active hope found in planting seeds and creating the new. **Ben Robins with Service Assistant Amy Moonshadow.**

May 18 -- Laws of New Life

Kevin Kelly edited the *Whole Earth Review* and then *Wired Magazine*. We'll explore his "Nine Laws of God" for creating new ecosystems, whether in the natural or the human world. * Plan for extra time to get here due to the Bluenose Marathon. **Ben Robins & TBD.**

May 25 --- From the Depths (stay for soup & the AGM)

Joe Britto will be back from visiting Poland, having done a walking tour of "Jewish" Krakow, visiting Auschwitz, and praying in synagogues. He will reflect on the experience, anticipating that he might touch upon the human spirit and what it means to be human. Stay after the service for soup and our AGM. **Joe Britto with Service Assistant James Morris and the Afterchoir.**

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.

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
4 10:30 service	5	6	7 CUC AGM registration deadline	8	9	10 10 – 11:30 am Brunch
11 10:30 service 	12	13 7 pm Worship Team meeting	14 6:30 pm Board meeting	5	16	17 10 – 11:30 am Brunch <i>Long Weekend</i>
18 10:30 service Parade Meeting after the service	19 Victoria Day 	20	21	22	23	24 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
25 10:30 Service AGM after the service (with soup!)	26	27 Newsletter Deadline 	28	29	30	31 10-11:30 Brunch CUC AGM
All program dates and times follow on the next page.						

NOTICE

**The Annual General Meeting of the UUCH will take place
in person and virtually at 12 noon, Sunday, May 25th.**

The meeting will conduct the following business:

- Business arising from the minutes of the October 2024 Semi-annual General Meeting.
- Receive and approve reports from the Minister and various officers and committees.
- Nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 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.

Pam Berman
Secretary
UUCH Board of Directors

May Programming

Building Your Own Theology

This is an opportunity to develop your own personal credo --- the fundamental beliefs, values and convictions that inform and direct your life. Come to any or all of the remaining sessions on the following Sundays at noon:

- May 4th Human nature
- May 11th Ethics
- June 1st The meaning of life

Spirit Circle

Sunday, May 25th, 6 pm

A more informal service inviting openness, peace, reflection and connection to something larger. Happens on the last Sunday of the month.

Youth Event

Our May youth event is being scheduled. Contact Ben for more information, minister@uucha.ca

Circle of Trust

We're gauging interest in having a Quaker-style "circle of trust". It's a mix of silence and reflective questions to help you tap into your inner wisdom on an issue in your life. Contact Ben if you would like to participate, minister@uuch.ca

Potluck BBQ at Leslie and Allan Shaw's, June 15th

Mark your calendars now for a potluck BBQ at the Shaw's house in town, on Sunday June 15th after the Sunday service. Thank you Leslie and Allan for hosting!

UUCH Board of Directors June 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

Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Committee (RDR)

Some of this month's events may be of interest to UUCH members.

Mayworks, a wonderful month-long "Festival of Working People and the Arts".

<https://mayworkskjipuktukhfx.ca/>



Several Mayworks events relate to reconciliation and dismantling racism, including:

Reel Justice – L'nui'skw Spotlight, an evening of short films about Mi'kmaw life, Monday May 5th, 7-9 pm at the Bus Stop Theatre on Gottingen Street.

In True Colour: A Celebration of Black Canadian Animators Thursday May 8th, from 7-9 at the Bus Stop Theatre.

Elsewhere, Mount Saint Vincent University will host **An exhibit honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people** at Evaristus Hall from 10 to 7 Monday May 4th, and from 10 to 4 Tuesday May 5th.

Brian Gifford for the RDR Committee

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is **midnight, Tuesday, May 27th, firm.** Please send your items to Etta. braeside@eastlink.ca

From the Canadian Unitarian Council: AGM Update

The CUC Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 31, online via Zoom. The CUC Board and staff invites everyone to be part of this annual process. No new motions beyond the regular business motions have been received for proposal.



Some have already joined in a hosted conversation (on April 9th) to learn about the Gradients of Agreement as a voting mechanism for the AGM (introduced in 2024). [Another discussion on this takes place on May 7th, at 8:30 pm Atlantic time](#), as well as to discuss other matters related to the AGM, to ask questions and share feedback. [Register here](#). CUC Board members will be present.

Information about Gradients can be found [here](#). Come prepared to participate in a mock vote using your smart device or computer.

In order for your congregation to have a vote at the AGM, you'll need to select delegates. [Here's some information](#) about what it involves and how many delegates your congregation is entitled to.

If you are interested in being a delegate for UUCH, please tell Pam Griffin-Hody. Delegates must be selected and registered by May 7th.

All UUs are welcome to join us for the AGM, not just delegates.

Reports and documents for the AGM will be sent out in early May to congregations and delegates.

cuc.ca/events



More from Ben ...

AA Group for Atheists and Agnostics

We are gauging interest in starting an AA group for atheists and agnostics, so that those who need a meeting can have one that fits their beliefs. Email minister@uucha.ca if you are interested.

Personal Stories Please

Think back on a moment or brief event in your life that changed how you find meaning in life. Let Ben know; perhaps it would fit as the opening story in an upcoming service. Ben minister@uucha.ca

Scam Alert

I will never email you asking for money or gift cards. Gift card scams are getting more sophisticated in ways designed to trick you, so please be careful. Also, never click a link to accept an e-transfer; this is a scam that actually sends money from your account to someone who is certainly not your friend.

Directory Updates

New address as of May 8th:

GRIFFIN-HODY, Pam
403-239 Gary Martin Drive
Bedford, NS B4B 2S1

Correct street address:

JOHNSON, Judy
1942 King Street

Correct postal code:

ONNO, Mary Ellen
K2A 3Z9

Moved one floor down:

WHITE, Susan
202-265 Tenth Street



From the Climate Crisis Team

It's That Time of Year!

As I write this, the focus is all about Earth Week, and with our own weather finally warming up we can actually enjoy being outside. Spring is really here.

Every year many of us do the same things each spring – clearing up the yard, getting out the bike, going for a longer walk than usual, planning summer flowers. Looking online isn't usually on that list, but there are surprising ideas for great family activities on the Halifax.ca website. Go to the About Halifax section, then Environment & Climate Change.

There is one menu item called Earth Day – still relevant, whenever you read this.

The first section is a list of a series of guided walks, all during Earth Week, and over by the time you get this newsletter. However they give you ideas of places to go. This section features various topics: invasive species, how to identify trees, birds at sunset – which can be engaged in at any time.

There are also very interesting tips for action during Earth Week, or again, anytime: using a rain barrel to collect the excess water running off your roof and down your downspouts; or building a rain garden that will absorb water, controlling erosion, enhancing your property and attracting pollinators; using the Parks & Recreation section of the Halifax.ca website to find parks and trails near you to explore at your leisure; and cleaning up after your pets wherever you go – runoff flows into streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean, carrying pollutants with it.

These activities are described on the Halifax.ca website, but they are possible wherever you live in the province. Every week can be Earth Week – enjoy our planet mindfully.

And plan to join the celebration on June 7th! The People's Parade for Life on Earth, started as part of Earth Week, will be on the first Saturday in June this year. See more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team

Announcing the 2025 People's Parade for Life on Earth!

Saturday, June 7



Join us for a joyful community parade on Saturday June 7th! With everything happening in the world, it's more important than ever to come together in community and celebration. We will honour the Water and Mother Earth and strengthen our collective spirit. Our joy, our love for each other and our resistance are unstoppable!

UUCH will be registered as a participant in this great event --- first the parade at 2 pm along the Halifax waterfront, and then a community gathering and potluck feast together at the end of the Waterfront boardwalk. It will be simple this year -- no motor vehicles, no businesses, no politics, no gathering this year at Peace and Friendship Park --- just a parade of celebrating people of all ages, costumes, music, fun "floats" --- and communal food at the end.

Come join your Climate Crisis Team and the RE children as we participate in the People's Parade. What part of the interdependent web do you want to be?

We will have a planning meeting after church on Sunday, May 18th.

Margaret

**Sponsored by Ecology Action Centre, Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre,
and SchoolStrike4Climate HFX**

Refugee Committee News

It has been a very long time since we last updated you about our Refugee Settlement work. There is much to tell. We welcomed 111 newcomers in 2024. There were 11 Afghans, 50 Syrians, 36 Africans (Eritrean, Ethiopian, & Somali), 5 Iranian and 9 Rainbow Refugees from several countries.



Free internet photo

It would be nice to tell you that all went well but we always have our challenges and 2024 was no exception — newcomers moving to other provinces, newcomers with mental health issues, family disagreements, relationship breakdowns, and even sponsors failing to fulfill their responsibilities. It's always interesting and we are grateful for our team, their collective wisdom, resources and the help they give us. In fact, two of our newcomers are living with two of our team members due to co-sponsor breakdowns.

And then there are the miracles — like the Afghan family of seven arriving on Christmas Eve after a very long and tumultuous path. We also had two babies born last year — Clement and Sylvie's Aliannah in April, then a Somali baby girl in September. Those newborn girl clothes are really making the circuit as I just delivered them to an Ethiopian mom who is also expecting a girl. Another Unitarian Rwandan family (and friends of Clement & Sylvie) arrived to the Peterborough UU congregation in November; the CUC was their SAH.

Unfortunately, the Canadian government (Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada) threw us some curve balls in late 2024. First, they paused the Groups of Five Stream — not something we do, but an important program for refugees that complements our Private Sponsorship Stream. Next, they announced a reduction in the arrival levels over the next three years. This means the backlog of 100,000 refugees with applications already submitted will have to wait longer and longer. They cut funding by 20% which impacts their own staffing levels and all their funded groups like ISANS here in Halifax. Sponsorship Agreement Holders (that's us) are not funded, BTW. And finally they cut the number of spaces each SAH can have so that means we get 100 this year instead of the 125 requested

Here we are one-third of the way through 2025 and seeing a definite slow-down in arrivals. We have had only 21 arrivals and that should be at least 40. We are still waiting for 227 people we applied for pre-2024. One of those has been waiting since 2019. Here's hoping the rest of the year picks up. Meanwhile, Andrea and I are plugging away at getting the 2025 applications done.

Marilyn Shinyei

From the Caring Committee



Glenda Butt has shared with Sylvia that she has a detached retina, which unfortunately delays the plan for home dialysis by a few weeks. We continue to wish her well.

AA Agnostics: We are gauging interest in starting an AA group for atheists and agnostics so that those who need a meeting can have one that fits their beliefs. Email minister@uucha.ca if interested

Can you help? The Caring Committee offers help to individuals in our UU community in circumstances where your support might be helpful. Let us know if you, or someone you know in our community, could use a drive to medical or other appointments, home or hospital visits, grocery shopping, or other needs that arise. We also arrange for the receptions following celebration of life services at UUCH.

If you could occasionally meet a need, it would be a big help — perhaps phoning to check in on someone who is ill or home-bound. Let us know your interest; email Ben at minister@uuch.ca

We very much appreciate the help and support those in our community give to other UUCH members and friends.

From the Caring Committee:
Faith, Shripad, Sylvia, Geoff and Ben



**The
(lonely)
Food Box**

If you are able, please pick up a few non-perishable food items at the store and drop them in the plastic bin in the porch. The need is real. Thank you.

2025 Directory Distribution



Did you get your free 2025 church directory? Members (including new ones) can ask for one on Sundays from Andrea, Etta, Pam Berman, Pam Griffin-Hody or anyone who has access to the office.

If you need to have one mailed to you, contact Andrea, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 1-6 pm: 902-429-5500, or admin@uuch.ca.

No expense is spared by not asking for one as they are already printed and paid for. Let's use them rather than hoard them for no good reason! There are some left to be given away.

Etta Hamm

UU & you



