



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

902-429-5500
info@uuch.ca
uuch.ca

Rev. Ben Robins
On vacation
& study leave
July & August

Andrea Dewar
Office Administrator
admin@uuch.ca
902-429-5500
Wed-Thur-Fri
10 am - 3 pm

Pam Berman
Kim Turner
Co-Board Presidents

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
start at 10:30 am
All are welcome



Welcome to our August Services

Summers at UUCH are traditionally lay led and laid back. Some Sundays there will be a more traditional service, some Sundays there will be a more relaxed conversation on a topic. There is always coffee (and tea) – and (of course) every Sunday the sun will shine and we will enjoy our refreshments and further conversation on the deck.

The Zoom link stays the same from week to week and can be found under Virtual - Zoom in the centre of our home page at uuch.ca.

August 3 — A Poem Can Sustain Us

A poem is an insight or a speck of truth, distilled and put into words we can keep. Like our own UU Joys & Sorrows, a poem can remind us of the shared cloth we are all gathered around. Today, a few members of our UUCH community will share some of their most loved, and most sustaining, poems with the rest of us.

Service leaders: the Wilson & Woolaver family

August 10 — The Appeal of Kejimikujik

What is the draw of this park for over 50 years and three generations? With illustrations.

Service leader: Margaret Galbraith

August 17 — Gratitude, Blessings and High Hopes

Deborah Wiggins, with help from friends, will present a music service on the theme of gratitude, blessings and high hopes. "Things are such that someone lifting a cup, or watching the rain, petting a dog, or singing, just singing, could be doing as much for this universe as anyone." Rumi

Service Assistant: James Morris

August 24 — Persian Sufi poetry and UU Principles

This service explores the deep connections between ancient Persian Sufi poetry and Unitarian Universalist principles. Persian poetic tradition, once taught widely as a spiritual guide, emphasizes universal love, mutual acceptance, and spiritual unity – values closely aligned with UU teachings. **Service Leader: Mustafa Hussaini; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei**

August 31 — Andrew Aulenback

Andrew will lead a service on self-criticism and self-compassion.

Service Assistant: TBA

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.

August & September at a Glance

Aug 4	Halifax Natal Day (civic holiday)
Aug 16	Dinner for Eight at Karen's (filled)
Aug 26	Deadline for September newsletter
Aug 31	King Seaman Church Universalist service
Aug 31	Spirit Circle
Sep 1	Labour Day (statutory holiday)
Sep 7	Ingathering, Water Service
Sep 13	Dinner for Eight at Marilyn's
Sep 20	Annual UUCH Retreat
Sep 20	Draw the Line rally
Sep 21	New Member Ceremony



The Amos “King” Seaman Church Annual Universalist Service Sunday, August 31

Do any of the following appeal to you? Visiting interesting out-of-the-way historical sites in Nova Scotia? Learning about the early history of Nova Scotia, including the roots of our Universalist faith tradition in this province? Supporting an annual social event that celebrates both of the above? If so... read on!

Many reading this will remember Allyn Clarke, a long-time pillar of our congregation who worked to preserve the memory and the physical presence of the Amos “King” Seaman church in Minudie, possibly the oldest Universalist Church building in Canada. The

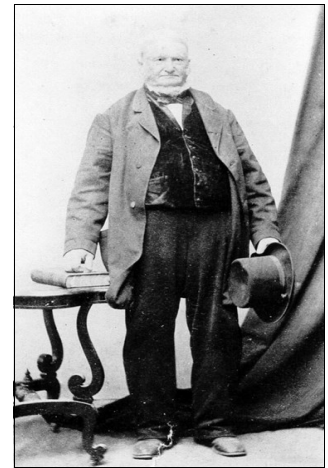


small wooden church in Minudie was built about the same time that UUCH was established in Halifax in 1837. The church was built by Amos Seaman, known as the “Grind-

stone King of Minudie” who became a Universalist after hearing a sermon in Maine.

Minudie sits at the head of the Bay of Fundy near Amherst, surrounded by dyked fields, still

holding back the tides, originally cultivated by eighteenth century Acadian farmers. There is lots to see in this unique location, including the fossil beds and the museum at Joggins. See a map of the area on the last page.



Amos “King” Seaman

On Sunday August 31, the third annual Universalist Reunion Service will be held in the church in Minudie at 2 pm, led by retired UU minister Norm Horofker. The service will be followed by a sandwich lunch at the Minudie Hall.

This year the work of many volunteers is culminating in a significant project to preserve this beautiful old building and the legacy it represents. In August, the building will be raised and a new concrete foundation will be installed under it to preserve it for the future. Please contact me If you would like to attend the service. We will arrange rides and car pools so that anyone interested can be with us there in community.

Rev. Norm Horofker

President of the Amos King Seaman Church Society (a registered charity)

Cell phone: 902-229-9239

Email: nhorofker@aol.com





Climate News

A Big New Tool for Climate Justice!

There has been a significant legal breakthrough in global climate rulings in the last week. The International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court, has ruled for the first time on climate change and its opinion, while advisory, is unanimous and wide-ranging. Summarizing their rulings from an article in the *National Observer*:

- Countries must tackle fossil fuels – both burning and extraction – and that failing to curb climate change compromises human rights.
- Rich, historically high polluting countries have a particular obligation to act and are responsible for the actions of corporations operating in their territories.
- Failing to regulate and take meaningful action on climate change creates the legal basis for compensation and other kinds of “reparations” to nations suffering climate damages.

In part of the 140-page ruling the judges very clearly warn that, “Failure of a State to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from GHG emissions — including through fossil fuel production, fossil fuel consumption, the granting of fossil fuel exploration licences or the provision of fossil fuel subsidies—may constitute an internationally wrongful act which is attributable to that State.” Oil-producing countries, including Canada, argued that they had no obligations beyond their voluntary pledges under the 2015 Paris Agreement but the ICJ rejected those arguments. Their opinion listed legal obligations well beyond voluntary contributions to put countries on notice that they could be held liable for damages.

For more details about the ramifications of this most significant ruling, and the unlikely beginnings of the court case, see [HERE](#) for the article “World Court throws F-bombs (and lots of them)” by Chris Hatch, writer of *Zero Carbon*, a newsletter of the *National Observer*.

I hope it fires you up to join in the next giant event for climate action! Save the date for September 20, 2025—Draw the Line—a rally on the Canadian Day of Action, part of an international weekend of protests around the world to demand action.

Margaret and the Climate Crisis Team: Leslie, Marie, Judy and Terry

Potluck Dinners for 8



Aug 16th:
The dinner that Karen Woolhouse has kindly offered for August 16th is full!

Sep 13th: Marilyn Shinyei's high tea and Downton

Abbey movie still has spaces left. To attend contact Marilyn at marilyneshinyei@gmail.com

Oct/Nov/Dec: I would love to hear from more members and friends who would like to offer an event later in the year.

Email marilyneshinyei@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the September newsletter is

midnight, Tuesday, August 26th, firm.

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

Spirit Circle

Sunday August 31, 6 pm

A more informal service inviting openness where we explore spiritual but non-religious ideas through discussion, meditation and song. Happens on the last Sunday of every month.

Pride Parade Outcome



Many parts of our community came together to march in the Pride Parade Saturday, July 19, totalling seventeen people. There were five people from our Sunday morning services, four from our Saturday morning brunch, four from our Earth Spirit Society, and four from our refugee newcomers outreach.

The latter resolved that next year we will register early, rent a truck and decorate creatively!

The enthusiasm of marchers and onlookers seemed unbounded and made the experience so much fun. The reason may be that though life is sometimes difficult, encouragement to be our full and best selves instead of hidden is fundamental, especially now.

Irene Baros-Johnson



Thank you, Irene! Without your having stepped forward, UUCH's participation in this year's Pride Parade would not have happened. Good job—and you've made us proud!

Bring Water, September 7



Collect water this summer to bring to our ingathering service on Sunday Sept 7th. In the water ceremony we combine our water as we launch the congregational year. It might be water from home or from any place that is meaningful to you.

UUCH Annual Congregational Retreat

September 20th
10 am – 1 pm



Draw the Line Rally September 20



Save this date! Consider joining in the next giant event for climate action! Draw the Line, a rally on the Canadian Day of Action, part of an international weekend of protests around the world to demand action. See Margaret's Climate News on a previous page.

New Member Ceremony September 21

Are you considering becoming a member of UUCH?

If so, please contact Ben at minister@uuch.ca.

He will get in touch when he is back in early September to talk with you about UUCH and what membership means.

New member ceremonies take place about twice a year during a Sunday service and the next one is September 21st.



UUCH Board of Directors June 2024 – May 2025

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Vice-president	Vacant
Past President	Joe Britto
Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Vacant

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Paul Galbraith
Scott Wood



