



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

902-429-5500  
[info@uuch.ca](mailto:info@uuch.ca)  
uuch.ca

Rev. Ben Robins  
[minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca)

Andrea Dewar  
Office Administrator  
[admin@uuch.ca](mailto: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 December Services

Join us for services this month as we gather to observe some tried and true traditions and celebrate the joys of the season. We extend a special welcome to visitors and hope you will come again.

The **Zoom link** is the same every week; it can be found under Virtual - Zoom on our home page at [uuch.ca](http://uuch.ca). If needed: User ID 666 004 431, password 010670.

### Dec 7 — Loving the World as It Is

Whether due to the state of the world or a pesky loved one, we can find ourselves emotionally stewing or emotionally detached. Today we consider Buddhist philosophies of non-attachment, and awaken our capacity to love the world. **Joe Britto and Ben Robins with Laura Bain**

### Dec 14 --- Blue Christmas

For some of us this is a tough time of year, perhaps due to grief or loneliness. In this musical service we make room for the blues. **James Morris and Ben Robins**

### Dec 20 (Saturday) 7 pm — Winter Solstice Service

This service for all ages will acknowledge the longest night of the year and celebrate the return of the light. Join us for an evening ritual of candlelight, story, music and song. **Service Leaders: Katherine Hutka and family**

### Dec 21 — Christmas Joy: Readings, Stories and Carols

Nestled between the Saturday Solstice Service and Wednesday's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we will join in community for readings, stories, and carols filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season. **Pam Griffin-Hody**

### Dec 24 (Wednesday) 3 pm — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Whether love came into the universe in an instant or over eons of evolution, it is a miracle. In this candlelight service we celebrate the birth of love. **Ben Robins**

**\*Note:** Our offering will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which helps people get through times of extra need. Donate in the basket or by e-transfer to [treasurer@uuch.ca](mailto:treasurer@uuch.ca)

### Dec 28 — Good Values in Christian Rock

From the inspirational songwriting of Bruce Cockburn to the rise and fall of Katy Perry, in this epic musical sermon you will hear interesting spiritual aspects of the history of Christian rock. **Nick Baros-Johnson with Irene Baros-Johnson**

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.

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5  5 pm Worship Committee	6 10-11:30 Brunch  
7  10:30 Service Loving the World as It Is	8	9	10  6:30 pm Board meeting	11	12	13 10 –11:30 Brunch  
14 10:30 Service Blue Christmas 7:30 pm Wizard of Oz Neptune Theatre Hanukkah begins at sundown	15	16	17  	18	19  Quoir Concert (details pending)	20 No Brunch 7 pm Solstice Service  
21  10:30 Service Joy: Readings, Stories, Carols	22  Hanukkah ends at sundown	23	24  3 pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day  	26	27  Brunch resumes on January 3rd
28 10:30 Service Christian Rock  	29  Newsletter Deadline	30	31   Party time!			



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Wednesday, Dec 24, 3 pm

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## December Programming

### Queeraoke (Karaoke night!) -- Dec 2, 7-9 pm

This is a karaoke night for members and friends of the queer community. Share your favourite tunes and cheer each other on. You're welcome to bring your own non-alcoholic drinks and snacks.

### Building Your Own Theology – Dec 7, noon-1:30

In this final session of the fall series, we consider: What do you want your tombstone to say? Or what plaque would you like in the park where your ashes are scattered? Or what message do you want your loved ones to call out to the wind?

### Youth Group: Murder Mystery – Dec 12, 6:30

We'll start to organize the murder mystery at around 7:00. For the location email Ben at:

[minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca)

**Note:** This date of the 12th (2nd Friday), is a week earlier than usual this month.

### Young Adult Crafts – Dec 13, 1-3 pm

Bring your own craft supplies! Join the UU Young Adults for an afternoon of crafts and tea. Questions? Contact [admin@uuch.ca](mailto:admin@uuch.ca).

### Circle of Trust – Dec 14, noon-1:130

Using Quaker practices from Parker Palmer's Center for Courage and Renewal, we will sit in a circle and make space for silence, personal reflection and open honest questions. Monthly on the 2nd Sunday at noon.

### Quoir Concert – Fri, Dec 19, time & location TBD

[Quoir](#) is a local queer community choir that has been renting our space for their rehearsals every week since September and they have loved using our space. It would be great to get a group of UUCH members and friends together to go support them at their concert on the 19th. Email Andrea at [admin@uuch.ca](mailto:admin@uuch.ca) if you would like to attend as a group. Let's enjoy a fun evening of music! The price, time, and location have not yet been announced, so these details will be shared in the Friday email containing the Order of Service in the first couple weeks of December.

## The Spooky Night Report



On October 30th, Ben hosted a Spooky Poetry Night in the backyard at UUCH. We spent the evening around a campfire with hot chocolate and hot apple cider and shared a wide variety of spooky, funny, and thought-provoking poems, stories, and songs. It was a fun, interesting time!

**Andrea Dewar**

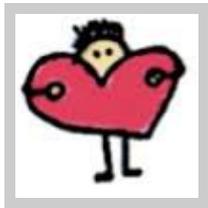


One of the CUC's bi-monthly eNews features is the *What's Making us Smile* column. The Nov 19th issue's *Smile* feature was an entertaining video, linked below. It's worth watching! The introduction to the video reads:

**"Puppy Mochi's first snow encounter** was pure magic; she leaped, nibbled snowflakes, and hopped like a bunny through the drifts, eyes wide with wonder. Watching her was a reminder how puppies and babies gift us with something precious: a mirror to the simple joy of *being*. What if we approached the familiar with that same beginner's mind: the snow we've seen a hundred times, our daily work, the people we think we know, even ourselves? There's always something new to discover when we look with fresh eyes."

**The CUC website, including current and past eNews, can be found at [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca)**

## From the Caring Committee



Our hearts are with Margrit Robinson and family. After a liver cancer diagnosis this fall, **Leslie Robinson** went into palliative care in November. He died the morning of Nov 21st, surrounded by Margrit and their children. Leslie was glad that his body would be donated to Dalhousie University for research.

As we write this in late November, **Colin Kerr** is scheduled to go home today from the hospital, after a fall in October. He expects to be walking freely in a few weeks. He is grateful for the company, the messages and the reading material that made his hospital stay more interesting.

**What we do:** We offer help to members of our UU community where support might be helpful, such as grocery shopping, drives to medical or other appointments, home or hospital visits, or other needs that may arise. We also arrange for the receptions following celebration of life services at UUCH.

If you could occasionally meet a need, such as those mentioned above, phoning or visiting someone who is ill or homebound, let us know your interest. Your cheerful help could lift someone's spirits and give them a much needed boost. Contact Ben at [minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca).

**The Caring Committee:**

**Geoff, Shripad, Steph and Ben**



## Rev. Dr. John's Ashes Scattered

On November 15th, a cloudy windy day in Halifax, Irene Baros-Johnson and her son Nicholas, gathered with a small group of UU church members at Black Rock Beach, Point Pleasant Park, to scatter into the harbour the ashes of her husband of 45 years and Nick's father.



Rev. John and Irene, August 2012

Rev. Dr. John Baros-Johnson was our minister for nine years, from 1997 to 2006. He died on November 10th, 2022 at the age of 74, some years after he retired. Also present were the UUCH Afterchoir (James Morris, Paul Galbraith and Jim Morrison), Rev. Norm and Janet Horofker, Stephen Butler, and Muriel Rosevear – and they remembered John well.

The Afterchoir (started by John) played three songs including *Uncle John's Band* (The Grateful Dead) that John modified to make it the UUCH band's theme song which they often played.

With Nick's hand open to scatter, the wind caught the first toss of his father's ashes and sent them soaring up and away into the air where they swirled artfully for some time. This was Irene's "most beautiful" moment of the day.

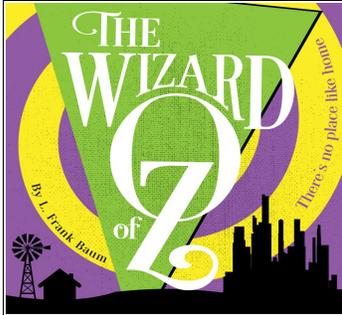
Rev. Norm concluded the ceremony with ukulele accompaniment as he led the group in the singing of *Spirit of Life* (Carolyn McDade) from our grey hymnal.

Irene and Nick are thankful to all who helped to make the occasion "so perfect".

**Etta Hamm**

## We're off to see the Wizard Sunday, Dec 14th

Some of us UUs are "Off to see the Wizard" (of Oz), the much-loved musical, on Sunday, December 14th at 7:30 pm at Neptune Theatre. Would you like to join us?



The original Wizard of Oz movie came out in 1939, and has 26 songs, including *Over the Rainbow*.

Tickets are selling fast. There are some \$40 seats left, and Shripad has arranged to put aside a few of them for UUs. There are also many other seats at prices ranging from \$64 to \$94, depending on whether you are a senior or a student. An after-the-play snacks-and-drinks event is likely. Please book your ticket and let Shripad know that you are coming.

If you would like one of the \$40 tickets, **contact Shripad at [shripen@yahoo.ca](mailto:shripen@yahoo.ca) by December 8th.**

The play explores universal themes such as the search for identity, the importance of home, and the journey of self-discovery. Dorothy's quest to return home symbolizes the desire for belonging and the realization that what we seek is often found within ourselves.

The character arcs of the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion emphasize the qualities of wisdom, love and courage, making the story relatable and meaningful across different contexts.

The Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, Toto, and certainly Dorothy, are looking forward to seeing you in the audience.



## Please Donate to the Minister's Discretionary Fund

The fund provides assistance to members, friends and those in the larger community who need help to get through a particularly tough time. The Christmas season is a good time for giving. Donate by e-transfer to [treasurer@uuch.ca](mailto:treasurer@uuch.ca) and note that it is for the MDF.



## UUCH Board of Directors June 2025 – May 2026

### Officers

Co-Presidents	Pam Berman Kim Turner
Vice-president	Vacant
Past President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Karen Woolhouse

### Members at large

Paul Galbraith Scott Wood

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the January 2026 newsletter is **Monday, December 29th.**

Please send your items to Etta at [braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)

## From the Climate Crisis Team

### *There Must Be A Better Way*

The Province of Nova Scotia is fast-tracking the housing development of 16 Special Planning Areas. Public information sessions were held for two of them in November. Both will be created on land that is primarily still forested, with streams and lakes.



The Sandy Lake development is in Bedford, with its main access from the already congested Hammond's Plains Road, near Exit 3 of Hwy 102. The lead developer, Clayton Developments, is proposing approximately 7,000 housing units (none are planned to be affordable or subsidized) on the west end of beautiful Sandy Lake, potentially polluting the streams that feed the lake and interrupting the wildlife corridors through there. The early projected cost for HRM taxpayers to build the necessary road and waste water infrastructure alone is estimated to be at least \$131 million. The province is also proposing a new highway right through the middle of the development.

The second project is a strip of land called Highway 102 West Corridor Special Planning Area, between Kearney Lake Road and Lacewood Drive, and includes part of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area. This land was designated as a national urban park 15 years ago, but so far it has not been fully protected. Again, it is mostly forested, with several lakes and streams, and another wildlife corridor. There are several developers including Clayton Developments, Annapolis Group and Stevens Developers, with at least 18,000 units planned, and commercial spaces. The new provincial highway is also planned to go through here. We don't have the cost estimate for services for this area, but again it will be millions of dollars.



The environmental impact of both of these developments will be huge for HRM. The wetlands and forests absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and prevent flooding. Protecting the lakes from pollution will be difficult. And the plants, animals, and fish will all be negatively affected. Plus we will lose beautiful places to enjoy nature. The huge increase in population in these basically unserved areas will dramatically affect traffic, schools, hospitals, and the life quality of us all.

To learn more, go to:

<http://www.bluemountainfriends.ca>

<https://www.sandylakecoalition.ca>

<https://ecologyaction.ca/sandy-lake-bmbcl-public-consultation>

And PLEASE contact your MLA, city councillor, and Member of Parliament to express your opinion on these developments. Thank you

**From Terry Choyce and Margaret Galbraith  
for the Climate Crisis team**

## Barbara's Birthday



Here is a group of us celebrating Barbara Harsanyi's 92nd birthday following the service on November 23rd. Barbara loves her UU community and goes to great lengths to be present for every service or event she can possibly attend by Access-a-Bus as she has done for some time. There was birthday cake (thank you, Faith), picture-taking, lots of love for Barbara, and she was delighted! She even sang "happy birthday to you" along with the rest of us!

*Etta Hamm; photo by Jessica Friesen*



*Peace, rest, and good health to you  
throughout the holidays and beyond.*