

# Our Newsletter



Universalist Unitarian  
Community of Halifax

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March 2026

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  
Board Co-Presidents

Christy-Lee Bojarski  
Director, Religious  
Exploration for  
Children & Youth

Etta Hamm  
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services  
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome

Childcare available

## March Services

Welcome one and all to our Sunday services. 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.

**March 1 --- The Good and the Great** There is the goodness of making music with friends, and there is the greatness of playing at Carnegie Hall. With guest musician Ellen Gibling on harp, we explore the dynamic between the good and the great. At noon there will be a vote to call Ben as our settled minister. **Ben Robins with Laura Bain**

**Mar 8 --- International Women's Day – Women's Activism in Nova Scotia**  
Amy will show how our Unitarian community values of interdependence, equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity and justice, centered in love, apply to the actions and songs of the Raging Grannies movement, past, present and future. **Amy Moonshadow with a Service Assistant**


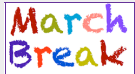




**Mar 15 --- Changing the World Part 1: Persuasion**  
Sometimes we offer our opinions lightly, encouraging others to do their own thinking, tuned into their own consciences; and sometimes we speak boldly, calling for change. Today we consider how and when to change minds. **Ben Robins with Brett Richardson**

**Mar 22 --- Changing the World Part 2: Protest and Building Bridges**  
At its best, political protest can expand the love and justice in the world; but protest can sometimes feed an us-vs-them mentality. Today we consider how to protest in a way that overcomes division, whether within communities, countries or the world. **Ben Robins with Pam Griffin-Hody**

**Mar 29 --- The Danger of Uranium Mining**  
The spectre of uranium exploration and mining has arisen again in our province, with the government lifting their long-established ban. Dr. Nancy Covington of our UU Community and a member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment will speak to us about the danger of uranium mining for people and the environment and the urgency of this situation. **Dr. Nancy Covington with Margaret Galbraith and the Climate Action 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.

## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 am Service Rev. Ben Robins  Congregational Meeting, see below	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7 pm Worship Committee meeting	<b>7</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch  Spring forward, 2 am 
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Time in effect  10:30 am Service Intl Women's Day: Amy Moonshadow	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  11:30 am Caring Committee meeting	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm Board meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch
<b>15</b> 10:30 am Service Rev. Ben Robins Brett Richardson	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 7 pm Climate Action Team meeting  Ramadan ends	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch 
<b>22</b> 10:30 am Service Rev. Ben Robins	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Newsletter Deadline	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch
<b>29</b> 10:30 am Service Climate Crisis Team with Dr. Nancy Covington 12:00 Pride Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

### Reminder of Special Meeting Sunday, March 1, at 12 noon

The Board welcomes members and friends of UUCH to a special meeting (in-person and on Zoom) after the service on March 1st to discuss calling Ben as our settled minister, followed by a vote of the members. Friends (non-members) are most welcome to attend, but only members can vote. For those attending in person there will be cake!

**Pam Berman**  
 UUCH Board Co-president

## March Programming

### Note: Ramadan Space Rental

Mar 4th – 18th, every evening, 4:30 – 9:30

### UU Principles Reflection Circle (online)

**Tues Mar 3rd, 7 pm – 8:30 pm.** The series runs January through April, 1st and 2nd Tuesdays, on Zoom. It is the same Zoom link as our Sunday services.

In each session we explore one of our Eight Principles: What the principle means to you; how it has shown up in your life; how you might live it more fully; how it enhances or challenges your other deeply held beliefs.

In this reflection circle, we help each other to tune into our own inner teachers. This is not a space for advising, correcting, steering or testing each other. Come as a fellow traveller as we weave our learning journeys together.

You are encouraged to attend most or all sessions. Drop-ins are also welcome. Email Ben to receive reflection questions in advance of each session, [minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca).

### UU Principles Reflection Circle (online)

**Tues March 10th, 7 pm – 8:30 pm**

Same description as the March 3rd session.

### Discussion: Changing Minds

**Sun March 15th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

What makes you change your mind? How do you approach trying to persuade someone else to change their mind? How do your principles influence how you engage in the art of persuasion?

### Discussion: Protest and Building Bridges

**Sun Mar 22nd, 12:00-1:00 pm**

How can we best engage in political protest when the goal is both changing the world and over-coming divisions?

### Youth Group Crafting and Board Games

**Friday, March 27th, 7 pm – 9 pm**

Note the date is not our usual 3rd Friday of the month due to March Break.

We provide a space where youth can build meaningful relationships and grow into themselves in a community that nurtures good values. Email for the location: [minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca)

**March 29th** is reserved for a Pride Parade planning meeting with volunteers. See the Pride Parade page.



## Coffeehouse Coming Up!



**Friday April 24 — 7 - 10 pm**

**Read about it here!**

The coffeehouse will feature musical acts from both within and outside of our UU community.

Adam Johnson, pianist, member of the band "Dancing Queen" and accompanist for Choirs for Change, will start us off with some lively piano music, while Nelle Callanan, musician and director of the Lyra Choir will join him to get us all singing along with new and old songs. Think of the fun!

We will be looking for other acts as well, so if you are interested in performing, tune up your instruments and get your amazing act together!

We are also looking for volunteers to get involved in the planning of the event. To perform or volunteer, please contact:

**Molly at [molly.hurd@gmail.com](mailto:molly.hurd@gmail.com)  
or Joe at [joebrittomac@gmail.com](mailto:joebrittomac@gmail.com).**

More details soon !

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the April newsletter is

**Wednesday, March 25th**

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

# Pride Parade 2026... Join the Team!



The UUCH members and friends in this picture are supporting the LGBTQ+ community in our city while having lots of fun publicizing the ideals of Unitarian Universalism. Since the 1990's UUCH has participated in the Halifax annual Pride Parade. Now in 2026 more than ever, we need to stand up for the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that are central to our faith.

In the weeks ahead, your Pride Planning Committee will be working to prepare for this year's parade on **July 18th**. Volunteers are needed.

The above photo of happy fun-loving UUs was taken on Parade Day, 2019. **YOU** could be in the picture this year! If you would like to be, contact ...

Irene Baros-Johnson at 902-422-8641  
or Janet Horofker at [jdhorofker@gmail.com](mailto:jdhorofker@gmail.com) or 902-477-6790

**The more the merrier!**

**The next Pride Committee meeting  
will be after the service on March 29th.**

## From the Caring Committee



A memorial service for **Mary Lu MacDonald** who died on January 19th will be held at UUCH on **Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 pm.** Mary Lu joined UUCH on Christmas Day, 1977 (48 years ago). She was instrumental in the formation of the Canadian Unitarian Council, and was a member of the CUC Board of Trustees, serving as its president from 1970-1972. She was a member of Unitarian congregations in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. At UUCH she served on the Board of Directors, the Worship committee, other groups, and as service leader for Sunday services until the fall of 2025. Her death is a great loss.

**Denyse Brothers**, another longtime member, died on January 30th at the age of 97 at Parkland at the Gardens, Halifax. Denyse attended services at UUCH through the 1990s, lived in Montreal for a time, and returned to Halifax (and UUCH) in 2017. Denyse, born in Quebec, was a teacher of French at several Dartmouth schools for 23 years, and was remarkably articulate on many subjects. She was an endearing person and is missed. A memorial service is planned for immediate family. For more, see [haverstocks.com](http://haverstocks.com).



Welcome **Haydon Mariner** to the Caring Committee. Haydon is a new member of UUCH, very active in our after-service discussions and evening events.

**What we do:** 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.

**Can you help?** 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](mailto:minister@uuch.ca) We very much appreciate the help and support those in our community give to other UUCH members and friends.

**Geoff, Shripad, Haydon and Ben**

## Where the Newsletters Hide

**Have you ever** needed to look back to a former newsletter for information you needed and went to the UUCH.ca website to look for it?

You spent longer than you'd thought you would; "newsletter" did not appear on the home page as you expected; you poked around for a bit ... here's what to do next time:

### On the home page

Click on the 3-bar menu icon, upper right  
Next, on drop-down, Upcoming Events  
Next, Newsletters!

And there they are, every monthly issue as far back as May 2014, all 143 of them at the time of this writing.

**Etta Hamm**

## Coffeehouse

Friday April 24

7 - 10 pm

Save the date

Get your act together



## 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



## From the Climate Crisis Team

### Defend and Protect our Province

The Houston government has run up huge debts over the last couple of years, much of it by spending \$1 billion annually beyond the confines of its budgets. Now it is \$1.2 billion in debt and its new budget, tabled on Feb. 23rd, is forced to cut back in a number of areas, including cancelling the positions of over 1,000 civil servants.

One of the most significant cuts will result in the dismantling of the wildlife division of the Department of Natural Resources. This is the section that, over the years, has built up the expertise and knowledge that informs the conservation work, the environmental protection work and the endangered species/species-at-risk programs essential for the protection of our wildlife. The managers of the various sections have been laid off, before the tabling of the budget, and the individual scientists have been reassigned to other sections, breaking up the cohesive established working groups. The government plans for the Department are to “modernize” the process of approving projects, which appears to mean that the way is being cleared for resource projects – the other half of the mandate for the Department of Natural Resources.

Since his re-election more than a year ago, Premier Houston has put major emphasis on natural resource development as a way to generate new revenue streams for the province.

There is more information on these changes in CBC articles and the Halifax Examiner of February 20th. If you are concerned about these changes please write to your MLA and the Premier to let them know. They need to hear from Nova Scotians.

One resource extraction project that our Premier is anticipating will bring us more revenue is uranium mining. We will be hearing more about that on March 29th, when our speaker will be our own Dr. Nancy Covington, UU, member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and the NS Uranium Resistance Group.

There were decades of consultation, research and widespread opposition from the public, experts and Mi'kmaq communities to uranium exploration throughout the 70's and 80's, such that eventually the NS government passed a moratorium on exploring for uranium. Last year, without a mandate from the election just months earlier, Premier Houston lifted that ban and opened the province up for uranium exploration again.

**There is a petition to reinstate the ban which will be presented in the legislature, on March 3rd. It is possible to sign it until it is actually presented, and we will have a copy of it at our UU service on March 1st.**

***Margaret Galbraith  
for the Climate Crisis Team***

## From the Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Committee (RDR)

Treno Morton was our speaker at the February 22 service organized by the RDR team. He is the founder and CEO of the North End Halifax New Roots Community Land Trust. At the end of his talk, he described three ways people can help. A UUCH member asked us to circulate his suggestions, so here they are:

- **Donate Used Laptops** ☐ ☐  
We need 10-15 working laptops for our Financial Literacy Program  
Contact Treno to arrange for drop off or pick-up.
- **Write to Regional Council**  
Support New Roots' land access in the Cogswell District  
We'll provide a simple template you can send.
- **Become a Monthly Partner** ☐ ☐  
\$25/month supports community programs and operations  
\$50/month helps us work toward land acquisition and community development

To pursue these suggestions, contact Treno at [tmorton@nehclt.ca](mailto:tmorton@nehclt.ca) or go to the land trust's website: <https://www.nehclt.ca/>

### Looking Back, Moving Forward

February 15, 8:00 am – April 13, 5:00 pm

Celebrate African Nova Scotian Heritage Month with Nova Scotia Archives and a new exhibit of selected documents, photographs and other meaningful archival material reflecting centuries of history and heritage. February 2nd – March 31st, 2026 Chase Gallery, Public Archives Building, 6016 University Ave., Halifax. Mon -Tues: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm; Wed 8:30 am – 8 pm; Thurs– Fri: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm; Sat: 10 am – 3 pm; Sun: closed.

### Lift Every Voice 11: African Heritage Month Musical Showcase

Tues, March 10, 7:00 – 8:45 pm, Central Library.

**Lift Every Voice** is a showcase of amazing talent from our African Nova Scotian music community, produced by the African Nova Scotian Music Association.

Whether the subject be blues, jazz, rock and roll, folk, gospel, R&B, soul, pop, hip-hop, or rap, there is no way to talk about music without talking about Black music and musicians. This annual event has a reputation for being good for the soul, energizing for the heart, and a grand-scale celebration of Nova Scotia talent. You can attend in person, or virtually. A live-stream link will be provided on the library's website closer to the event date. Seating will be first come, first served. We recommend arriving early.

**Brian Gifford**

**for the Reconciliation and  
Dismantling Racism Committee**

## Religious Exploration for Children

Hello Everyone!

It has been such a joy to be back with our Children's Religious Exploration community. Thank you all for the incredibly warm welcome. I am having so much fun settling into this role and getting to know your wonderful kids a little better each week.

In February, our theme was *Love and Connection*, and we explored all the different ways love shows up in our lives. We talked about loving ourselves just as we are, being kind and caring friends, the many shapes that families can take, and how love grows when we share it with our wider community.



Along the way we played affirmation-based games, built communities with blocks, created flower crowns with friends, made Valentines for our congregational family, and worked together on a collaborative "Ever Expanding Umbrella" to remind us that there is always room for everyone.

I am really looking forward to diving into our March theme of *Change* as we begin to explore how we grow, adapt, and support one another through life's many transitions.

We are also excited for the first multi-generational service of the year on April 26th, when our RE kids will be joining the rest of the congregation for what promises to be a joyful and meaningful time together.



Thank you again for welcoming me back into this community. I can't wait to see what the coming months bring!

**Christy-Lee Bojarski**  
**Religious Exploration Coordinator**

*From the CUC website, [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca)*

## **Rev. Nicoline Guerrier** **Congregational Life, Lead – Central & Eastern Region**

Rev. Nicoline Guerrier (she/they) is a queer, multiracial (Japanese/European) lifelong UU, having grown up at the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga and at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. Despite hearing her call to ministry as a young adult, she ended up celebrating over 25 years in a parallel career as social worker before finally graduating from Chicago's Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2014. Prior to completing her ministerial training, Nicoline served as Lay Chaplain for the Unitarian Church of Montreal, designed and offered workshops for the CUC both regionally and nationally, and trained as an OWL Facilitator.



Nicoline served the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg as Interim Minister from 2015 through 2017. Though still a resident of Montreal, she was minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Plattsburgh, NY, from 2018 through 2025. She has specialized training in transitional ministry, was the compensation consultant for Canadian UU congregations, served as treasurer of the UU Ministers of Canada, and Vice-President/Acting President of the St. Lawrence Ministers' Chapter in upstate New York.

In the role of Congregational Life Lead for the Central and Eastern regions, Rev. Nicoline's work includes:

- supporting religious professionals and lay leaders, as they work to strengthen their faith communities
- involvement in staff transitions, ministerial settlement, conflict management, governance reviews, planning, program development, leadership training, needs assessment, worship, membership integration strategies, and more.
- developing and sharing resources to aid in congregational relevance and vitality, creating and facilitating learning opportunities for congregations and leaders.

Outside of ministry, Rev. Nicoline is passionate about reducing her carbon footprint, trying to get better at print-making, and exploring the embodied wisdom of Qigong. Fully bilingual, she is happy to call Montreal home – especially since both of her adult children live nearby.

You can reach Nicoline at [nicoline.guerrier@cuc.ca](mailto:nicoline.guerrier@cuc.ca)

[Note:

Rev. Nicoline Guerrier officially began her position as the *Congregational Life Lead for the Central and Eastern Regions* with the Canadian Unitarian Council on June 1, 2025, part-time, and moved to full-time after August 1, 2025.]

*From Worm Moon  
by Mary Oliver*

*In March the earth remembers its own name.  
Everywhere the plates of snow are cracking.  
The rivers begin to sing.*



*In the sky the winter stars are sliding away;  
new stars appear as, later, small blades of  
grain will shine in the dark fields. And the  
name of every place is joyful.*