

## Our Newsletter

U·U·&you



Universalist Unitarian  
Community of Halifax

Vol. 62, No. 10  
June 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  
Co-Presidents

Christy-Lee Bojarski  
Coordinator  
Religious Exploration  
for Children & Youth

Etta Hamm  
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services  
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome

Childcare available

## Welcome to Our June Services

Join us in our Sunday services as we explore what it means to live our deepest values out loud. 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: Meeting ID 666 004 431, password 010670. You can also watch (live or later) on our UUCH YouTube channel using [this link](#)

### June 7 – Unleashing Love – with Tony Turner

What happens when you let yourself love with all your heart? Can you handle it? Can your friends, family, neighbours? Can the world? UU musician Tony Turner joins us on his cross-Canada tour. Stay after the service for a BBQ and concert.

**Ben Robins with Pam Griffin-Hody and guest musician Tony Turner**

### June 14 – The Silence Between

We might rush to fill silence with words, or thoughts, or maybe just by doing something. But what if we can make a friend of silence? What might it teach? In this service, Joe Britto will share the four lessons he experienced during his silent retreat in Chiang Mai, including a lesson from the jungle. *Bring a flower for our annual Flower Communion.*

**Joe Britto with Laura Bain**

### June 21 – Reconciliation as Governments Clash with Mi'kmaw First Nations - A UU View

Members of the Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Committee will provide their reflections on various disputes that have grown over the last year between the NS government and Mi'kmaw communities, including treaty rights related to cannabis sales, logging on Hunters Mountain and fossil gas and uranium exploration, as well as cuts to programs in Nova Scotia's spring budget. How do these disputes affect Reconciliation?

### June 28 – Thinking Out Loud






Speaking your thoughts is an effective way to gain clarity and understanding, but sometimes it might be best to keep your opinion to yourself. Today we consider how our principles and values shape our involvement in public discourse.

**Ben Robins with Andrew Aulenback and guest musician Jennifer Jones on violin**

**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.**

# June 2026

## National Indigenous History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7 pm Caring Committee	3 6:30 pm Board meeting	4	5 5 pm Worship Committee	6 10-11:30 Brunch
7 10:30 Service Followed by a barbecue with guest musician Tony Turner	8	9	10	11	12 6 pm Vyda's Farewell Party... CUC.ca 	13 10-11:30 Brunch 
14 10:30 Service Flower Communion  Sensory Walk Pt. Pleasant Park	15 Last day to order your T-shirt!	16	17	18	19	20 10-11:30 Brunch Last one until September
21 10:30 Service Father's Day Summer Solstice Nat. Indigenous Peoples Day	22	23	24 Newsletter Deadline 	25	26 School's out! 	27
28 10:30 Service Guest musician Jennifer Jones 	29	30				

*We are a community of open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts*

## June Programming



### BBQ & Tony Turner Concert Sunday June 7

Stay after service for a BBQ followed by a **1 pm** concert with UU musician Tony Turner as part of his cross-Canada tour. Tony is known for such hits as Circle of Song (a catchy folk song about interconnection) and

Harperman (which got him in a bit of trouble during the 2015 federal election).

### Zoom Discussion: Recognizing Scam Emails

**Tuesday Jun 9, 7 pm**

We will discuss common phone and email scams, to help you to spot them. Remember: Never send anyone money without talking to them in person first to make sure it is who they say it is (even if they say it's an emergency, and especially if they ask for gift cards). Ben will never contact you requesting money or gift cards. We will use the same Zoom link as for Sunday services, on the main page at [uuch.ca](http://uuch.ca)

### Sensory Walk from Point Pleasant Upper Parking Lot Sunday Jun 14, 12:00

Leave UUCH together at 11:50, or meet us at the UPPER parking lot at noon. The sensory walk might include smells, sounds, textures and more. Every time of year can bring wondrous connection to the natural world.

### Song Circle

**Sunday June 28, 11:45**

We'll sing a mix of soulful and fun songs, from our hymnals and beyond.

\*

### Youth Hike

**Sunday, July 4th**

**As part of our Saturday retreat**, the youth will go on a hike; location to be announced.

**Spirit Circle** will resume in the fall at a new time.



## UUCH Pride Parade 2026

**Interested in a new T-shirt for this year's parade on July 18th?**

Some people in the congregation have asked me about ordering T-shirts for the parade in July.

(Some History: "Standing on the Side of Love" is a major interfaith public advocacy campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) since 2009. It has since transitioned to "Side with Love" with the purpose of using the power of love to stop exclusion, violence and injustice based on identity. Main areas of focus include Social Advocacy, Immigration Justice, and Climate Action and Democracy.)

There is still time with a deadline of **June 15th** to place an order with *Fresh Prints* in Halifax. Delivery time is estimated to be 3 weeks. The shirt is Aztec Yellow with lettering on the front and back. Lettering on the front will be STAND with LOVE IN HALIFAX, and on the back UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN COMMUNITY OF HALIFAX since 1837. This has become a handy shirt to wear at many community social justice events here in Halifax to show our united presence. The yellow & white colours of the shirts are much more vibrant than shown here!



To get a good price per shirt, we need an order of at least 40. This will provide a shirt for \$20. Payment is due upon delivery.

Information needed to order:

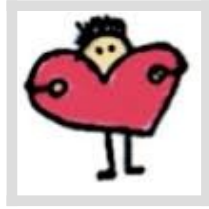
1. Style: Men's or Ladies. (Ladies is slightly fitted).
2. Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL (extra charge for XXL and 3XL). Youth sizes are available.
3. Number of shirts ordering.
4. Email your order to me at [jdhorofker@gmail.com](mailto:jdhorofker@gmail.com) or call if you have any questions.

**Note:** Wearing this shirt is not a requirement to attend or participate in the parade or any other activities with UUCH. However, you may wear the shirt anywhere, anytime, and certainly at other UU events. It's fun to wear along with your fellow UU members and friends!

**Janet Horofker**

## From the Caring Committee

Colin Kerr has the news that he has moved into a retirement home, expedited from the slow recovery from last year's fall. He appreciates the help he is getting as he continues to settle in.



The Caring Committee offers help to individuals in our UU community in circumstances where our support might be helpful. Let us know if you, or someone you know in our community, could make a couple of meals, or provide 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](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**



### Congratulations Tristan Kelloway

Special congratulations to Tristan, who on the weekend of May 16th performed his final showing for his music diploma at NSCC.

For more than a year, Tristan has been our talented pianist whose musicality we enjoy every Sunday. His music is grounding, moving and evocative. Any emotion or atmosphere that is called for, he delivers.

Tristan starts his studies for a music degree at St. Francis Xavier this coming fall, and will commute back to Halifax on weekends.

I am delighted that he will continue as our pianist, and delighted also at the enthusiastic applause when I announced this in the Sunday service on May 24th.

**Ben**

## 2026 Directory Booklets



A good number of directory booklets were handed out to members attending services in March.

Members & friends attending on Sundays (or any time you are in the building) may ask for one from Andrea or Etta, or anyone who has access to the office.

If you would like one mailed to you, call or email Andrea at [admin@uuch.ca](mailto:admin@uuch.ca) or Etta at [braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca).

No expense is 'saved' by not asking for a directory. They are printed, paid for, and free. Let's use them, rather than hoard them in the office, un-used – that would be a waste!

**Etta Hamm**

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the July newsletter is

**Wednesday, June 24**

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

### UUCH Retreat Saturday, July 4



Backyard games ... Discussions ... Workshops... Music-making ... Breakfast and lunch at UUCH and dinner on the town... Kids program... Youth hike... People coming from the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton and beyond... RSVP to [minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca)

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



Delmore Buddy Daye was a scrappy street fighter who became a featherweight boxing champion. He was a family man and a community leader with a great sense of humour who supported many African Nova Scotian youth as they struggled with police violence and other life challenges.

He became the Sergeant at Arms at the Nova Scotia Legislature and used his position to help negotiate improvements for the ANS community. His eldest daughter Melinda Daye launched her affectionate biography of her dad on May 15th at the Central Library, with music and stories from other family members and friends. Amy (a team member) and I

joined the event. A copy of the short book on his life will be available through the UUCH library, well worth a read.

June 21 is National Indigenous Day, timed to coincide with the summer solstice. In these turbulent times, it's important to keep the spirit of reconciliation alive as governments undermine the progress that has been made. We will lead a service reflecting on the ongoing, vital challenge to continue on the path of reconciliation. There is a good interview about the challenges in Nova Scotia from CBC's Mainstreet program here: [April 9, 2026: What motivated Mi'kmaq to block lanes on major highways last week?](#)

June 21 is also Father's Day this year so we will weave that into our service as well.

We also hope to visit Asitu'lisk in the coming weeks, where the Ulnooweg Education Centre near the South Shore is located. It is a good example of "land back", having been transformed from Windhorse Farm to Asitu'lisk a few years ago. Perhaps a place where UUCH can host an event?

**Brian Gifford**

**for the Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Committee:**

**Amy, Pam, Margaret, Irene, Scott and Kaitlin**

## Religious Exploration for Children

Hello everyone!

Religious Exploration in May explored the theme of Awe, Wonder, and Change. Together, we practiced noticing the world with curious eyes and open hearts.

We began with nature, wondering about pine cones, feathers, stones, and tiny beautiful things hidden in nature. The children created Nature Wonder Journals to take with them into the outdoors as they explore and learn.

As the month continued, we looked upward to the moon, stars, and distant galaxies. We created phasing moons, shared hopes and dreams, and talked about how humans have always looked to the sky, searching for meaning and connection.

Later in the month, we explored change and the ways we help one another through difficult moments. Through stories, movement, and conversation, the children reflected on courage, listening, and the many ways people can offer comfort and care. They created “Comfort Shields” filled with the people, places, and activities that help them feel safe and strong when life changes unexpectedly.

Our science fiction and imagination session invited children to dream about kinder futures. They answered questions from curious “alien ambassadors,” and created extraterrestrial friends they could explore similarities and differences with.



“Extraterrestrials”

We closed the month with mindfulness, breathing exercises, and quiet reflection. The children practiced slowing down, noticing the present moment, and appreciating the small good things happening right now. Glitter in jars swirled and settled as reminders that thoughts and feelings can do the same.

Throughout May, the children reminded us that awe is everywhere: in stars, in questions, in imagination, in friendship, and in moments of quiet attention.

Warmly,

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



## From the Climate Crisis Team

*Install a rainwater collection system*

We are told to expect a hot summer – hot and wet, or hot and dry, or just right? We do not know, but **rain barrels** are a great idea, as our friend from NB, Carl Duivenvoorden, writes in “Change your Corner – Green Ideas” [www.changeyourcorner.com](http://www.changeyourcorner.com) Carl's article follows:

“Last year was one of the driest years my province has ever experienced. Where I live, in a rural area with lots of forest, it was a bit scary: the feeling that we were just one spark, one bad decision, one lightning strike away from serious consequences. And my garden was not very happy with the dry weather either.

Fire safety and water for the garden are two good reasons to invest in a rainwater collection system. In more urban areas, rain collection systems can help on the other end of moisture extremes too: preventing storm sewers from becoming overwhelmed in heavy rain events.

A rain collection system need not be complicated:

- You can buy rain barrels at many garden centers or hardware stores
- You can make your own, if you can find a local supply of barrels
- If you want to go the full monty, you can source a used 1000 litre tote

Then all you need are a few eavestrough parts – mainly elbows and screws – to redirect your downspout into your container.

To make it handier still, you can install a tap in the bottom of a container so you can connect a garden hose. You can find the parts you need at hardware or plumbing stores. Last year's drought prompted me to upgrade from barrels to totes.

There's rain in the forecast here, so hopefully everything will be nice and full soon, and ready for come-what-may!”

Here in Yarmouth we bought empty soap barrels from a carwash. Standing the barrel on a support (eg. a crate) will make it easier to fill a watering can. Please cover the top to prevent mosquito hatching.

**Margrit Robinson**  
*for the Climate Crisis Team*

P.S. Helpful info from the NS government:

[https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/Drop\\_on\\_Water\\_English.pdf](https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/Drop_on_Water_English.pdf) P. 37

**This summer, collect rainwater**



**for plants and for protection!**

## Vyda's Farewell Party: New Adventures Await Friday, June 12, 2026

**On Zoom: 6:00 pm AT**

Join us for a joyful and heartfelt gathering as we celebrate Vyda Ng's time with the Canadian Unitarian Council and wish her well on her next adventure.

We'll share memories, music, and tributes honouring Vyda's leadership while also making space for laughter, storytelling, and connection across our community in Canada and beyond.



This will be a warm, welcoming, and celebratory event, featuring reflections from colleagues and friends, and a few lighthearted moments along the way.

We also invite you to take part in the celebration:

- Come ready to enjoy and share stories. If you would like to speak or have a video, photos or a favourite recipe to share, please email [communications@cuc.ca](mailto:communications@cuc.ca)
- We hope you'll join us; whether you can or not, please consider signing this [Kudoboard](#) eCard.

Whether you've worked closely with Vyda or connected with her from afar, you are warmly invited to be part of this special moment.

Fill out the short registration form at [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca), no later than June 11th.

