

Our Newsletter

UU&U

Vol 62, No. 11

Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street
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Rev. Ben Robins
On vacation
& study leave
July 7th to
August 23rd

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

Pam Berman
Kim Turner
Co-Presidents

Christy-Lee Bojarski
Co-ordinator
Religious Exploration
for Children & Youth

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome

Childcare available

Universalist Unitarian Community of Halifax

July 2026

Welcome to our Sunday 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 on our home page at uuch.ca under Virtual – Zoom. If needed: meeting ID 666 004-431, password 010670. From our home page you can also watch our services live or later, on our UUCH YouTube channel.

July 5 – Flavours of You

You contain far more potential than you can realize in one lifetime. Today we consider how many sides of yourself to develop, and we honour the parts of yourself that will have to wait for your next life. **Ben Robins with James Morris**

Note: The service will be followed by our end-of-season barbecue. As able, please bring a salad, side, or snack.

July 12 – The Joys of Summer

Lupins to sunflowers; strawberries to blueberries; road trips planned and spontaneous; ice cream and lobster rolls – on our first Summer Sunday, join Pam Griffin-Hody to celebrate the joys of summer, past and present. **Pam Griffin-Hody**

July 19 – Pride: Our Enthusiasm for Equality

The day after the Halifax Pride Parade, our Pride Parade Committee will lead our Sunday service, celebrating our enthusiasm for equality. **Irene Baros-Johnson, Janet Horofker and Amy Moonshadow**

Note: UUCH is also hosting an **Interfaith Pride Service** at 2 pm. Details coming.

July 26 – Impactful Music

Why do certain songs have a special meaning and still resonate with us sometimes years after we first heard them. The Afterchoir will explore the power of song and endeavor to play for and with you any *early submitted* requests that they receive. **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.

July 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Canada Day	2	3	4 Full day Retreat! Schedule on next page
5 10:30 Service Rev. Ben End-of-season barbecue	6	7	8	9	10	11 Last day to sign up for <i>Rent at</i> Neptune Theatre August. See Shripad's note
12 10:30 Service Pam Griffin-Hody	13	14	15	16	17	18 Pride Parade Stay tuned for details
19 10:30 Service Irene, Janet & Amy 2 pm Interfaith Pride Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 Service James Afterchoir	27 Newsletter Deadline	28 Last day to comment on NS site re Protected Areas Plan (see Climate page)	29	30	31	

Note: Had challenges with software in producing this issue as usual, so graphics are missing but all important content is intact.

July Programming

RETREAT – SATURDAY, JULY 4

Join us as we host our exciting one-day retreat -- with guests coming from the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton and a young adult family from the UU Church of Saint John. Let us enthusiastically welcome them; they are coming a long way to join us! There will be adult and youth programming as well as times built in for fun and relaxed conversation.

Our New Brunswick guests will find their own lodging and make their dinner arrangements. Some of our own members and friends may want to join them as new UU friends for dinner on the town.

A nominal fee will be charged to pay for the cost of breakfast and lunch. RSVP to minister@uuch.ca so that we can determine numbers for breakfast and lunch.

Schedule

9-10 am

Breakfast at UUCH. Includes vegan & gluten free

10 – 10:30 am

Welcome words

... a song or two; a description of the day

10:30 am

Youth leave for hike

Thanks to Tracy Boyer for providing leadership and lunch

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Change Rooted in UU Principles

Sanctuary: Panel discussion and small groups.
Themes: personal change and social change

Ben's office: Arts & crafts

Outside: Conversation

Kids: Upstairs or backyard, weather-dependent

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

Includes vegan gluten free

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Create Change

Sanctuary: Panel discussion and small groups.
How to Create Change. Same structure as the morning panel discussion.

(Also 1:30 – 3 pm)

Ben's office: Arts and crafts

Outside: Conversation

Kids: Upstairs or backyard, weather-dependent

Young Adults: Self-organized activity

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Adult program -- decided day-of

Young Adults: Worship Planning led by Andrew Pollock
(of Saint John)

Outside: Afterchoir provides background music for casual conversation

5 pm

Dinner on the town

7 – 8 pm

Worship service

Led by Young Adults

8 pm

Music jam, conversation

Board games

Later

Young Adults out

Sunday, July 5

End-of-year barbecue following the service.

As able, please bring a salad, side, or snack.

Thank you to Michael Smith for providing burgers, buns and hot dogs.

Sunday, July 19, 2 pm

Pride Interfaith Service at UUCH

We are hosting this annual interfaith service that is a part of the Halifax Pride Festival. Expect service participants from a variety of traditions. Watch for more details as the date nears.

Board Buzz

As you may have heard at the AGM our Religious Exploration Co-ordinator, Christy Lee Bojarski, has accepted a full time position with the Halifax Regional Library. Great news for Christy but we will miss her fabulous programming. The Board will attempt to hire a co-ordinator to start in September.

Our long time tenant, the Halifax Early Childhood School, is applying for grants to turn part of the backyard into an outdoor learning environment. We are working with HECS, so if the plan goes ahead it will work for both the school's children and our congregation. In the meantime HECS has some work party sessions planned that involve moving garden beds and sandboxes, so keep an eye out for that!

Our annual congregational retreat to *take stock and set priorities* has been set for after the service on Sunday, September 20th.

Have a fun and relaxing summer!

Pam Berman
Co-President

From the Caring Committee

Home visits

We have an enthusiastic volunteer offering to do home visits to those stuck at home, and/or provide help with getting groceries. Let us know if you would appreciate this.

Wheelchair needed

A regular at the Saturday Brunch is in need of an electric wheelchair. Let us know if you have any leads.

While Ben is on vacation/study leave July 7th to Aug 23rd, you can contact the Caring Committee via admin@uuch.ca, with news about yourself or others. Ben will be notified of any major news.

Last but not least, we thank Sheila Morrison for this message: **Pat Sarratt**, a long time member of the UU Church, passed away June 11th. Pat left Halifax 16 years ago, following a stroke, to live near her family in Qualicum Beach BC where she was well looked after by a great circle of support. She loved receiving the newsletter by mail. Our members of long standing will remember Pat very fondly.

Geoff, Shripad, Haydon and Ben

Shall we go to the theatre?

Neptune is presenting **Rent**, a musical playing from July 7th to August 31st. *Rent* was such a popular show that it ran on Broadway for 12 years for a total of 5,123 performances.

If you are interested in joining other UUs to see this play, please let me know by email **by Saturday, July 11th**. I will then contact you to co-ordinate a date **in the first half of August** to see the play and arrange for tickets. After seeing a play, UUs and friends usually meet for a coffee or a drink for a fun discussion about the performance and anything else that may come up.

Rent is Jonathan Larson's iconic Pulitzer Prize- winning musical that shaped a generation of audiences and taught us all to measure our life in love.

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Boheme*, *Rent* follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Theatre at its best; exuberant, passionate and joyous!

Shripad Pendse
shripen@yahoo.ca

Ben on Vacation & Study Leave

Do take note of Ben's vacation/study leave, July 7th to August 23rd. Urgent congregational matters will be relayed to him through Andrea Dewar, our office administrator.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit for the August newsletter is **Monday, July 27th**.

Please send your items to:
braeside@eastlink.ca

Thank you to the contributors who habitually submit early.

Food Box Appeal

The Saturday brunch is on break in July and August but we still have the food box in the porch where hungry people drop by looking for something they can take away. Let's surprise them! As you are able, please bring non-perishables on Sundays or even on weekdays. The door to the porch is not locked. It will be a kindness.

From the Climate Crisis Team

Land preservation — or not?

In 2021 the NS government pledged to protect 20% of our land by 2030. According to recent reports, we now protect about 14.5%. But some of this land is saved because it isn't suitable for forestry activity, such as steep slopes or buffer areas between watercourses and forestry operations.

Ange Whiteway, manager of operations for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Nova Scotia, said... this is "horrible news for conservation." Whiteway said protected areas should always prioritize land of high conservation value. "These would be areas that protect intact forest ecosystems, areas that are housing rare and at-risk species and ecosystems," she said in an interview. "These are places important to Nova Scotians on a cultural level, places that are irreplaceable if lost."

Now the government is asking the public for comments on what land should be preserved. "55 organizations got together and are suggesting further areas to protect to get closer and faster to the 20%. The Healthy Forest Coalition created a map with further areas proposed, each with a description and reason for protection. See **Community Proposed Protected Areas in NS at:** <https://nspubliclands.ca/map/>

These are remaining old forests, mixed or hardwood forests, and wetlands. Mature trees and wetlands absorb and store CO₂, the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activity; protecting them will contribute to climate change mitigation.

Comments can be made until July 28

It is suggested to mention and recommend the Community Proposed Protected Areas map *as additional areas to protect* at the very start of the consultation form. Here is the link for the site: <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/>

This next article explains more about the necessity of saving our forests and wetlands: [20% Protection by 2030 | Nova Scotia Forest Matters](#)

For more information you can read this article by Elizabeth May about preserving land across Canada: [Hill-Times-Op-Ed-June-11-2026.pdf](#)

We care for what we love.

Terry Choyce
for the Climate Crisis Team

The Canadian Unitarian Council (The CUC)

Our Mission

The Canadian Unitarian Council is an organization of Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists, acting to enhance, nurture and promote the Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist religion in Canada.

New to UU? Sneak a peek ...

See everything CUC at cuc.ca
You will be amazed.

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