

Our Newsletter

UU&U

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Universalist Unitarian
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Wed-Thu-Fri
10 am – 3 pm

Pam Berman
Kim Turner
Co-Presidents

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Sunday services
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome

Childcare available

Universalist Unitarian Community of Halifax

September 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, and can be found on our home page at uuch.ca under Virtual – Zoom. If needed, the meeting ID is 666 004 431, password 010670.

Sept 6 Labour Day – Let's Celebrate

Labour Day is many things: a celebration of unions and workers; a crossroad between summer and fall; and in some ways the start of a new year. We'll celebrate every aspect in story and song. We will be joined by the After Choir.

Service leaders: Pam Griffin-Hody and the Worship Committee

Sept 13 Roots and Wings (Ingathering Water Communion)

Bring water from home or a special place. We combine our water to honour the start of the congregational year, while honouring the roots that ground us and the wings that set us free.

We welcome our new Intern Minister Casey Stainsby; our new RE Coordinator for our kids' program Emily Rees; and our Sept-Dec Music Leader Vanessa Lindsay-Botten. Welcome! **Ben Robins; service assistant.**

Sept 20 Making Amends

The day before Yom Kippur, we reflect on the practice of making amends and beginning again in love. **Ben Robins; service assistant.**

Stay after the service for a pick-up choir practice, preparing for Ben's installation on October 4th, a potluck lunch at noon, followed by our congregational retreat until 3 pm.

Sept 27 Casey Stainsby, our Intern Minister, will lead her first service with us. Look for more details in the weekly email leading up to the service.

Casey Stainsby; service assistant.

Stay after the service for the last pick-up choir to prepare for Ben's installation.

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.



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 First day school	4	5
6 10:30 Service 2 pm Universalist Reunion service in Minudie	7  LABOUR DAY	8 7 pm Worship Committee meeting	9	10	11 Rosh Hashanah 11th - 13th	12 10 – 11:30 am Brunch resumes 
13 10:30 Service Ingathering Water Communion	14	15	16 12 noon Board meeting in person @ uuch	17	18 7 - 9 pm Ecstatic Dance 	19 10 - 11:30 am Brunch
20 10:30 Service Potuck Congregational Retreat Sundown Yom Kippur	21 Yom Kippur ends	22 First day of fall 	23 Newsletter Deadline 	24	25	26 10 - 11:30 am Brunch
27 10:30 Service Speaker Casey Stainsby	28	29	30 Nat.Day of Truth & Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day		Oct 1 Treaty Day	Oct 4 10:30 am Rev. Ben Robins' installation as our Settled Minister

Love Interdependence Justice
cuc.ca

Welcome Casey!

Our Student Ministerial Intern, Casey Stainsby, starts working with our congregation this month. Casey, a lifelong Unitarian, grew up in Vancouver. She served as the Youth and Young Adult Manager for the Canadian Unitarian Council from 2018 to 2024, and was a member of the CUC's Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Task Force. Casey has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre and began her Master's in Divinity in 2021 at the Vancouver School of Theology. She has worked as a Full Spectrum Doula, and has led workshops on grief and loss with middle and highschool classes. Most recently, Casey has been working as a Spiritual Care Provider for community members of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.



Rev. Ben has worked with Casey before; he and the Board are enthusiastic about the many valuable contributions she will make to our community.

Pam Berman and Kim Turner
UUCH Board Co-Presidents

From Casey:

Hello, Halifax Universalist Unitarians! As I get my feet under me after a long and amazing drive across the country, I am so excited to begin working with you. This first month, my focus will be on meeting as many of you as possible (name tags will be helpful!) and learning all I can about your unique community.

Just last year I was working as a Student Minister with the newest UU community in Canada, the UUs of the Salish Sea, and am delighted to be entering into this relationship now with you, one of the oldest congregations in Canada! I'm sure this rich history will have much to teach me, and even moreso the current members and your questions and dreams about the future. Thank you for saying yes to the project of becoming a teaching congregation. I have no doubt that this year will change and inspire us all in unexpected ways.

Our New RE Coordinator: Emily Rees

We are happy to announce that Emily Rees is our new RE Coordinator!



She has moved from Montreal to Halifax to do a Masters in Art Education. She already has a Masters degree in Art History and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History with a minor in Religions and Cultures.

Emily has experience in puppet theatre, organizing music and arts events and handling social media and promotional content.

She is familiar with Unitarian Universalism having attended the Unitarian Church of Montreal as a child with her grandfather. Emily recently started going again as a young adult and says she "found a sense of belonging and community as a young queer woman".

Rev. Ian White Maher, the minister for the Montreal congregation said in his reference that we are getting "an amazing new person" for our community. The Board is excited to have Emily for our new RE season!

The first RE program is scheduled for September 20th. **Pamela Berman**

Seniors' Climate Witness Week of September 19th to 23rd

Seniors, people of faith and allies are organizing a *Seniors' Climate Witness*, a week of public witness and nonviolent action in Ottawa coinciding with the opening of Parliament. Low-carbon caravans from each coast will meet other supporters in Ottawa to call on the federal government to reject new fossil fuel pipelines. They are asking government to uphold its climate commitments, respect Indigenous rights, and protect a livable future for the coming generations. For more information check them out on Facebook or Instagram. Or email seniors.climate.witness@proton.me

September Programming

Pick-up Choir after the service Sept 13th

Join Vanessa Lindsay-Botten for open-hearted singing in preparation for Ben's installation in the Oct 4th service.

Ecstatic Dance - Friday, Sept 18th, 7-9 pm

The dance will be influenced by our experiences with The Move Collective in Toronto, who write "We hold the strong intention to honour movement and dance as an essential and powerful expression of self and connection to others."

Dance in bare feet with clothing that allows for ease of movement. Facilitated by Penny Kuhn, Tanya Kowalenko and Ben Robins



Pick-up Choir after the service, Sept 20th

Join Vanessa Lindsay-Botten for open-hearted singing in preparation for Ben's installation in the Oct 4th service.

Potluck and Congregational Retreat Sun, Sept 20, 12-3 pm.



Bring a contribution for our delicious potluck and stay for our **annual September retreat** to reflect on where you want to put your energy this year, in your personal life, the life of the congregation and the larger world.

Pick-up Choir after the service, Sept 27th

Join Vanessa Lindsay-Botten for open-hearted singing in preparation for Ben's installation in the Oct 4th service.

Ben's Installation as Our Settled Minister Oct 4th, 10:30 am

We mark our deepening commitment with Ben as he becomes our settled minister. UU ministers from across the country will join us, challenging us and Ben to live fully into this era in the long history of our community. Stay for a celebratory lunch, with music outside by the After Choir.



A Good Time Was Had by All

Karen Woolhouse

Nothing could be nicer than a session of picking blueberries in the sunshine followed by a delicious lunch with friends in a warm and welcoming home. That's what a group of lucky UUs enjoyed on Monday August 24.



We arrived at Martha and Avard's house in Brooklyn at about 11:00 a.m. to enjoy some welcoming beverages. The weather forecast was iffy but we decided to risk it, and upon arriving at Blueberry Acres in Centreville we were rewarded with beautiful sunny weather. The bushes were laden with ripe blueberries, and we soon had picked all that we wanted. Our only mishap was that it was so hot among the bushes in the sun that Marilyn had a touch of heatstroke, but recovered after drinking cold water and sitting in the shade for a bit.



The rain started again during our drive back to Martha and Avard's but by the time we were back in Brooklyn the weather had cleared again. The potluck lunch was set out when we arrived, and it was truly a feast. Freshly made chili, several kinds of salad, Marilyn's renowned egg salad sandwiches, and to top it all off, a blueberry crumble made by Martha from the Pioneer Women cookbook and served with vanilla ice cream.

Part of the pleasure was enjoying Martha and Avard's home. The core of the house is from the 1700's, and it has been added to since then. It has been owned by Avard's family since 1837, handed from one generation to the next, and Avard grew up in it. It is full of character and the warmth and welcome of generations.

Avard making us coffee turned into a highlight of the afternoon, as it involved him using his home coffee roaster to turn raw beans into roasted beans to go into the grinder and coffee pot. It was interesting to see the beans turn from green to dark brown, and to listen for the crack which signals the progress of the roasting.

Shripad took pictures, some of which are shown here. In addition to those already mentioned, Paul and Margaret, Cea, Amy, Pam Griffin-Hody, and Karen with friends Susan and David were in on the fun day. Judy Johnson came to join us for lunch. It was all a lot of fun, and a good time was definitely had by all.

Thank you to Marilyn for organizing the event, and most of all, thank you to Martha and Avard for being such warm and welcoming hosts.



From the Climate Crisis Team

MORE SOLAR!

Solar is now the cheapest source of new electricity generation anywhere in the world in history, and it is totally renewable. Here in Nova Scotia, up to 47% of our power is still produced from coal.

Utility-scale solar is the cheapest form, but there are drawbacks to the very large-scale solar farms, e.g., large numbers of solar panels need a lot of space and we do not really want to cover over farmland. More and more alternatives are being established, such as agrovoltaics, which are established higher off the ground so that crops and grazing animals can grow underneath, or vertical panels which can be hung in water. Solar panels on rooftops are not as efficient, but relatively easy for homeowners to have installed and connected to the grid. Some governments have a policy of installing solar panels on all government buildings, old and new, and in many places they are also installed on rooftops over parking lots. This could be encouraged here as well.

More and more people live in apartment and condo buildings with no access to rooftop solar, but now there are balcony solar panels. They don't provide enough electricity for the average household, but they contribute significantly. In Europe this type of solar panel has become very popular; Germany has more than 1.2 million of them installed! They just plug into an ordinary outlet. Let's do the same!



However, at the moment we in North America have a different electricity standard which would not allow us to install balcony solar panels. Several states in the USA have, or are in the process of making, the necessary changes. The State of Utah has created the first North American safety standard for plug-in solar, the UL3700. (It covers anti-islanding, overcurrent protection, ground fault detection, and touch safety.) Canada could adopt the same standard into our Canadian Electrical Code. This code is updated every three years, and is due for an update in 2027 – perfect timing to include this new UL3700 standard!

For more information on this type of solar panel and how to help make the changes required at both the federal level and in Nova Scotia, check out the website <https://pluginsolarpower.ca/nova-scotia>. There are two sections, with a petition to the federal government for signature, and one for the provincial government. Both suggest letters to the MP and MLA for your riding.

Also, for those who live in HRM, our local government is looking for feedback on proposed changes to planning policies and land use by-laws governing large-scale solar farms across the region. They require different policies than those on buildings. Take the survey at engagehalifax.ca by September 4th and let them know your thoughts about appropriate locations and considerations for communities.

Let's get more solar!

**Margrit Robinson and Margaret Galbraith
for the Climate Crisis Team**



Saturday Brunch resumes Sept 12th 10 - 11:30 am

Brunch volunteers serve a full, cooked breakfast to the needy in our community – consisting of panckes or french toast, sausage, ham or bologna, sometimes soup or chili, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, sweets, juice, tea and coffee.

Our patrons, often numbering 30 or more, deeply appreciate the meal and the fellowship, including the company of UUCH members and friends who are also welcome to to a meal. It means a lot to our patrons to be in fellowship with us – and you get to see your donations in action.

Contact or see Faith Piccolo if you are interested in volunteering.

The brunch is supported solely by donations, not the UUCH. You can give any time via e-transfer to:

treasurer@uuch.ca

or by cheque (see address on the first page). Either way, please note that your donation is for the brunch.

From the Caring Committee



Colin Kerr is settling in and enjoying living in the Berkeley—and experiencing better hearing with his improved hearing aids. He now comes to UUCH with rides kindly offered by Allan and Leslie Shaw, and by Geoff Richardson.

What we do: 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 celebrations 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 homebound. Let us know your interest. Ben at 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

UUCH Board of Directors June 2026 to May 2027

Officers

Co-presidents	Kim Turner Pam Berman
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 to submit items for the October newsletter is

Wednesday Sept 23rd.

Early submissions will help us get the newsletter out in good time.

Thank you.

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

