

The Edmonton Unitarian: November 2018, Vol 59 No. 10



November Theme: “What does it mean to be liberal?”

November 4

“Snowflakes and Sailors”

Chorealis

Liberal thinkers are often accused of being unrealistic or soft. This service will look at why nothing could be further from the truth and why sometimes having things be hard is good.

Note: Time change reminder - clocks “fall back” one hour today.

Children’s focus - “Our 5th Principle - We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.”

November 11

“Unitarians and the Liberal Tradition”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

We have traditionally characterized ourselves as liberals, but what does that mean? What is the root of that idea and how does it describe our religious tradition? *The children will be in for a story.*

Children’s focus - “Remembrance Day”

November 18

“The Threat to Liberalism”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

The results of the US midterm elections will be in, but the attack on liberal values there, here and elsewhere in the world where populism holds sway is real and significant. How does this affect communities like ours?

Children’s focus - “Our 6th Principle - We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.”

Fun for Everyone! Immediately following the service, you are invited to stay for the first in a monthly series of quick, fun activities for everyone.

November 25

“Reclaiming Liberalism”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Is there a future for classic liberal views in our society today? How might we reclaim those values and promote them? Or should we even bother?

Martin Kerr will be our special musical guest.

Children’s focus - “Democracy”

*** Immediately following the service, you are invited to stay for a decorating party.***

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

On October 20, my three daughters and I went to the Draggin' Youth Hallowe'en Show at the church. We hadn't been for a while, so it was nice to go back. It was the best attended of these events in the two years they have been running and a terrific night.



Perhaps you don't know much about drag shows. They are performances where individuals dress up (often extravagantly) and take to the stage lip-syncing to some popular song. Most often the performers portray characters of the opposite sex - men become drag queens, women become drag kings. But in this age when gender fluidity is becoming more recognized, even those lines have been tossed.

So what is Draggin' Youth? Well drag shows generally have been open only to adults and often took place in bars. These days more and more young people are coming to terms with sexuality and need safe places to explore. Last month we discussed the idea of sanctuary and safety in our community. Many in the LGBTQ2* community have seen our church as that kind of safe space for a long time. So Chris McSheffery and Kim Pizzey approached us and asked us to co-sponsor drag events for youth. They saw it as a great chance for young people to find affirmation in their search of self-discovery.

Watching the show on Saturday - the boisterous and entertaining show, I was struck by the mood more than anything else. No matter their age or talent, no matter their gender or body shape, every performer felt the love that night. Everyone appreciated. No one criticized. It was a very safe space, a space for exploration, a space for fun and most importantly a space for everyone to just be who they are.

It was a great time (and cheap at \$5) and the money raised all goes to youth charities.

See you in church,

Brian

RELIGION ON TAP



Religion on Tap is our monthly social/theological chat. It will be Tuesday, November 27 at 7 p.m. at Metro Billiards, 10250 106 Street at 7 p.m. These are informal gatherings where we socialize (anywhere from 3 to about 15 people) and have a religiously themed discussion that runs from 5 minutes to an hour depending on interest. Brian Kiely leads and all are welcome. Everyone (over 18) is welcome.

INVITATION TO UCE FRIENDS

If you are receiving our monthly *Newsletter* and are not yet a member of the church, but would like to be, please contact our Church Administrator, Janet Polkovsky by phone: (780) 454-8073, email at chadmin@uce.ca or on our [website](#) to start the process of becoming a fully-fledged member of our very vibrant community.

We look forward to welcoming you.

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

At our board retreat, we talked about how much UCE folks love to spend time with each other and how, after congregational get-togethers, we always hear stories that start, “I never knew [such-and-such about so-and-so]” and “why don’t we do this more often?”. When our conversation turned to the idea of radical hospitality, we also talked about how good hosts create ways for guests to connect.

With these ideas in mind, we went looking for ways everyone at UCE could be good hosts, create connections, and build on the great things already happening at UCE, and voila - Fun for Everyone was born!

The board is asking two or more people each month to take the lead on organizing some fun activities after a service. The only requirement is that there be something that everyone - regardless of age or ability - is able to participate in. Some of the activities may be higher energy and some quieter, and there will always be a conversation corner for those who would prefer to observe while knowing they are still a welcome part of the community.

For no more than 60 minutes, we’ll play, chat, discover and enjoy. And, of course, we’ll have snacks.

The board will start things off on **November 18 with a scavenger hunt and decoration making.**

If you have ideas for activities and/or would be interested in helping host a session, please let me or any other board member know.

Karen Mills
President, UCE board



CHILDREN AND YOUTH



WRFG Youth Con: Nine of the UCE youth will be attending the fall youth con in Winnipeg this year. The theme is a Harry Potter “mUUlge and magic: share your love for Harry Potter and, more importantly, your love for the UU youth community”! It will be an amazing weekend filled with fun activities, worship, games, and multigenerational workshops and meals. They will join youth and advisors from across the Western Region for this annual youth con, which is part of the larger multigenerational Western Regional Fall Gathering.

Mystery Buddies and Christmas Party: We will be reintroducing Mystery Buddies this year. It will have a small twist. All adults will receive a package with everything you need to send your buddy a great letter and there will be a short description about them. The children will be doing the letters as their activity for those weeks so no one is running around last minute to try and get one in. Sign up will be coming soon.... Mystery Buddies Reveal and Christmas party will be held after the Mitten Tree service on December 16th in Keeler Hall from 12 to 1:30.

Youth Gatherings: The Youth Con has replaced October's Sleepover. The next one in November has yet to be confirmed and the one for December is tentatively booked for the 15th which is the same night that the Dragging Youth night. I have suggested to the youth that we meet to go to the Dragging youth event together.



Volunteers Needed: Do you have a Sunday to two that you could spare this year? Volunteer to be second in the Sunday Religious Exploration Classes. (The CUC safe practices states that there should always be two adults with any group of children or youth.) All supplies and curriculum for all classes are prepared and supplied by DRE. Volunteering is a wonderful way to increase your own knowledge of and connection to Unitarian Universalism and is one of the greatest gifts you can give to the congregation and our children. Come make a difference! Signup sheet is on the credenza.



Another way to volunteer is to sign up to provide snacks for the classroom. Snacks can be simple things like assorted fruit and/or veggies and no-sugar juice is always appreciated. Things to stay away are sugary or really processed food like cookies or chips. Also for allergy alert we ask for things with gluten, nuts, and dairy to be avoided or kept separately. There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the lobby. Or with a small cash donation we can always pick up snacks.



Youth Afternoon Drop-In: Afternoon youth drop-in will be a regular weekly event on either Wednesday or Friday from 4:30 to 6:30. It is planned to be a youth safe space that will be youth lead but will conform to safe practices. We desire to have a Peer support element to it. I have been in contact with the Pride Centre and they will be happy to forward the information to their youth contacts. Also I would like to submit a notice to the local community leagues to add it to their newsletters. I would like to start this program on either Nov 7th or 9th.

by Will Adair, RE leader

CONGREGATIONAL COMPANIONS



Erica DeNeve and Brian Kiely will co-lead a one-day Saturday workshop on becoming a Congregational Companion on Saturday, November 10th at the church from 10am -4pm. There is no cost to register and no obligation to participate in the program.

Register by email at chadmin@uce.ca or sign up at church.

What are Congregational Companions? Read on...

Unitarians reject dogma and rituals that are restrictive and limiting. But some of the more traditional religious practices have their use. Take prayer, as an example. What if we could take the idea of prayer and remove all of the “problem stuff”? No beseeching or bargaining, no begging for grace or apologizing for sin. What might we be left with? Is there any part worth trying to save? Could the practice have meaning for us, especially those suffering emotional and spiritual pain? I believe it can. And that the effort will be rewarding and enriching for those who choose to participate.

We don’t really have a role for a kind of ‘chaplain’ who could help with that in our church. Which makes sense, given that many of our congregants reject the traditional ideas of God and the practices that go along with those ideas. But I wondered, how could we modify this practice and the role to make it meaningful and relevant to our congregants today?

Our starting point on this journey is a name change. Both terms, prayer and chaplain, carry baggage. We need better terms that suit us. We have come up with Congregational Companions.

A Congregational Companion will serve as a support person for their fellow congregants. To actively, deeply listen to them, hold space for them, be empathetic to their issues and concerns. They will not be therapists. They will not be ministers. They will be companions, sharing their fellow congregants’ journey...

Please speak with Erica De Neve (edeneve@shaw.ca) or Brian for more details.

By Erica Deneve

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton donates half of the loose cash collected to a different charity.

For the month of November UCE will be donating to the CBC TURKEY DRIVE, Edmonton which raises cash and collects donations for Edmonton Food bank to ensures people in need can enjoy a festive meal.



MURAL UPDATE

At the 2017 AGM, the congregation voted to accept a mural from Change for Children to be installed, free of charge to the Church, on the exterior of our building. (The mural is currently installed on the Salvation Army building downtown.) Since that time, there have been a lot of discussions between our mural team and board and Change for Children staff about general details, logistics and feasibility.

In this update, I have some sad news and some hopeful news. First, the sad news...

An inspection of the mural panels has revealed that 20 years of Edmonton weather have not been kind to the mural; the panels are very weather damaged. Many are beyond restoring. For those where restoration was possible, the cost far exceeded the funds Change for Children had committed to or can afford. There is also no certainty that the panels would withstand too many more Edmonton winters.

Given this, Change for Children have come to the decision—and our mural task group and our Board agree—that the mural has come to the end of its lifespan and should be demolished when the building is demolished.

Change for Children and our team explored many alternatives; they worked with multiple artists to get opinions and tried very hard to accommodate any request or question we had. Change for Children also acknowledge that the UCE congregation "bent over backwards" to accommodate this idea and that some members even decided to leave the congregation over this issue, and Change for Children regrets that they were not aware of the condition of the panels before and that the relocation cannot be completed.

The UCE board would like to thank everyone involved in exploring the possibilities for the mural; we appreciate your thoughtful work.

Now for the hopeful news...

While the mural won't be going ahead, contemplating it sparked some very creative thinking among UCE members. A variety of different art projects have been suggested. The mural team and aesthetics folks (Gordon Ritchie, Scott Harrison, Lillias Cowper, Elaine Reynard just to name a few) and the board will be exploring them further and planning next steps. If you have ideas you'd like to share, please speak to Gordon Ritchie or any board member.

Karen Mills, Board President

UCE WALKING GROUP SCHEDULE

November 2	St. Albert
November 9	Mill Creek
November 16	124 Street/Planet Organic
November 23	Kinsman Park
November 30	Laurier

Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10:00 am, or meet at the walk site at 10:20 am. There are often changes to the schedule so if you are not on the email list please call Sheila, 780-454-7581 the day before to confirm the walk.



🌹 HEART TO HEART 🌹

🌹 We are sending "Welcome home," greetings to Bev Romanyshyn, and Stephjan Szekely who were in hospital.

🌹 Ed Holmes is in the Royal Alexandra Hospital; speak with Lynn for updates on his progress.

🌹 Congratulations to all UCE members for the Habitat for Humanity lunch program donations which funded two lunches at the Prefab shop on Tuesday, October 2nd and Wednesday the 3rd of October. Audrey and Wendy Smith visited Tuesday to bring greetings from UCE. New opportunities for volunteering are available.

🌹 Keeping Liz Cloutier and Clem in our hearts as life's journey continues to be a challenge.

🌹 Heartfelt thanks to all the members who attended the Project Plowshares Salvos Prelortenzos award ceremony at City Hall on September 28, in support of Audrey Brooks.

🌹 Brian Kiely was invested with an individual award from the Alberta Cancer Foundation for 6 successful years of fundraising in the Ride to Conquer Cancer and for being co-captain of Team Cross Cancer. The team raised \$187,000 this year and Brian has personally raised \$37k over six years.

🌹 Marnie Sproule has changed apartments and is at #125 now.

🌹 To those who have furry friends who are experiencing health issues, please know that you are in our thoughts.

🌹 As the veil between the spiritual and physical worlds thins at Samhain, those who have lost loved ones in the past year and who acknowledge the Wiccan calendar are greeted and supported.

🌹 Best wishes to our youth who are headed to Winnipeg for the fall gathering, and to Will Adair, Maria Jenkins and all the parents and supporters who lovingly nurture future UCE leaders.

🌹 Thanks go out to all the volunteers who turn up on Wednesdays to ensure our building and ground stay healthy, and to our UCE board for keeping our UCE ship on the right course.

🌹 As winter is on our doorstep, take care, dear seniors, to go slowly and be aware of those slippery streets.

🌹 "Our Mission is love, our race is humanity and our faith is in each other" 🌹

DRAGGING YOUTH



Please mark your calendars for the 12th annual Crowns for Kids dinner and a show on Saturday November 17!

All proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House and Kids Kottage. Come and enjoy a festive dinner and show for \$25.00 (tickets on sale soon) or just the show for \$5.00. You are encouraged to bring new unwrapped toys for Ronald McDonald House and Kids Kottage.

Karen Bilida will have tickets for sale after Sunday services.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/268181880477678/>



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Northern Alberta



Bissell Centre

All year round you can donate to the **Bissell Centre**: All items donated to our church green box in the foyer go to the Bissell Centre Thrift Shoppe on 88st & 118 Ave. Also accepted is all bedding and linen (with the exception of cushions and pillows), small household items, CD's and videos but no books or tapes.

For further information contact Barbara Forbes 780 439 4553 or Rosemary Falconer 780 472 9287.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We are excited to have more committees and working groups meeting in the church all the time. Please remember that sometimes space can be limited. Please contact our Church Admin, Janet, at chadmin@uce.ca to book a space.

Last year the meeting rotation was:

RE met on the 1st Sunday of each month*

Social Justice met on the 2nd Sunday of each month*

Membership met on the 3rd Sunday of each month.*

Currently:

UCE Maintenance team meets every Wednesday from approximately 10am-2pm *

UCE Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month.*

*make sure you check the website calendar and orders of service for changes in schedules

TEAM WORK



THE JOY OF NAME TAGS



Sometimes it's hard to remember names. When we wear name tags, it's easier to greet and get to know each other!

If you would like a permanent name tag, please sign up on the side credenza in the lobby. If you need a name tag just for the day, please use on the sticker name tags on the membership desk.

SOCIAL MEDIA CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL ALONE

Help us help communicate to the outside world what a great community we have and stay tuned to all the latest!

Every comment, like, share, retweet, and invite helps us.

Need help with Facebook or Twitter?

Contact Karen Bilida

Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca

Click for the: [Facebook](#)

[Group](#), [Page](#),

[Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)

Find sermons on the UCE YouTube website. Need help with YouTube?

Contact Bill Lee @ 780-435-7477

or billlee@ualberta.net

"Unitarian Universalism saves lives, and I mean that literally. There are people right now who are alone and hungering for a place where they will be accepted for who they are. Not letting them in on the secret is a form of stinginess."
~ John Gibb Millspaugh

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Coffee	Greeting	Ushering	Piano	Sound Tech
November 4	John Turvey	vacant	Rosemary Falconer	Chorealis	Marg Booker
November 11	Clair Horne	Shirley Edgar	Barbara Forbes	Gordon Ritchie	Bill Lee
November 18	Clair Horne	Art Breier	Shirley Edgar	Karen Mills	Kat Hartshorne
November 25	Clair Horne	Art Breier	Jeff Bisanz	Karen Mills	Bill Lee

SOUND TECH TEAM



The church has a small team of techs who do the sound for Sunday services. Does joining us appeal to you?

You need not think of yourself as a techie--many past and current techs will agree. :) It's mostly about attention to detail.

It's a modest time commitment. If you're coming to church anyway, it's just a little time before the service and a little time after. The time after can be any time before you go home, so you needn't miss coffee!

We'll start emailing you the monthly schedule so you can connect, at your convenience, with current team members before their assigned Sunday.

On the Sunday, you'll meet them about 9:30-9:45 at the church. They will train you very gently at your own pace. You'll start by shadowing a tech or techs on one or more of their Sundays. When you feel ready, you'll take over doing the setup, sound board operation during the service, and take-down after. That Sunday's tech will coach as needed. You can continue to train for as many Sundays as you like. (And of course, you can opt out any time if you decide being a tech isn't for you.)

Once you feel ready, you can go solo: Towards the end of a month, I email team members to find out which Sundays of the next month they are available. (If you expect to be too busy, it's entirely okay to ask to sit out a month.) Once they've all replied, I match members' availability with Sundays and email the schedule to the whole team, also cc'ing Brian, Janet for the newsletter, and Karen & Gordon for Chorealis.

Current team members are Marg Booker, Kat Hartshorne, and me. We need at least one more tech who can take part most months.

If you think you might like to join us, catch one of us in church, or email, call or text me.

Bill Lee: billlee@ualberta.net, mobile 780-435-7477.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOOD BANK

There are non-lifting and lifting jobs available. You can come for one week or 52 weeks! An easy job, but a very important one! Help UCE distribute food from the Food Bank. Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 pm. We need people to cross names off of lists – something for most everybody. Please sign up in the UCE lobby.



LOST & FOUND

The Lost & Found box, a cardboard box in the church coat room, is full. If you've left something at the church, check the box by Nov. 11 and retrieve it. The next day, this box will be dumped. Be sure to check the coat racks for any coats you may have left at church. And don't forget under the bench in the entry way!



The dates are booked! Our leaders are all geared up and ready! Our guest workshops are going to be AWESOME! And our registration is live! Share around and register today because space is limited and you won't want to miss it! [Click](#) here for all the info and to register!

UU BOOK CLUBS

- The Edmonton UU Literary discussion group will be reading four Alberta award winning novels this year. We are made up of people from both UCE and Westwood. We meet every couple of months at the home of one of our members. For more information, contact John Pater at johncpater@gmail.com.
- The Westwood Unitarian [FreeThinkers' Book Club](#) meets in the basement of the Westwood Unitarian Church at 7 pm on the last Wednesday of the month from Oct-March. All are welcome. The book for the Oct. 24 meeting is *Strange Gods: A Secular History of Conversion* by Susan Jacoby. It's available in the public library.



#HateFreeYEG



I am pleased that the Unitarian church of Edmonton's board has voted to support Hate Free YEG.

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) is proud of our long history of promoting love, justice, and the inherent worth and dignity of all people. We denounce any racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism, body shaming.

We completely agree that everyone deserves to live their life without the threat of hatred and discrimination and we believe people should feel safe in their communities.

UCE is a welcoming congregation; this means our community is open to all without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or income.

Love is the Spirit of this Church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

Karen Bilida, UCE Board VP

AROUND OUR CHURCH

- **Snow Removal** – We are looking for some hardy volunteers who can keep the main doors and fire exits clear of snow on Sundays before the service and throughout the week if possible. The city sidewalk also needs to be maintained.
- **Kitchen:** If your gathering or meeting uses the coffee nook and/or the kitchen: 1) Please wash, dry and put away your dishes. 2) Make sure the counters and tables are cleared and wiped down. 3) Mop up any spills, 4) empty full garbage and bring the bags to the dumpster. 4) Ensure all the doors to the kitchen are locked. 5) Make sure food is labeled and stored correctly.
- **If you see a non-emergency problem**, i.e. something that is broken or a spill not cleaned up, please follow these guidelines (if you are able): 1) Photograph the issue and email it to the Office Administrator: chadmin@uce.ca . 2) If it's a hazard for falling or other injury, please do your best to clean it safely 3) If it's something that will stain please attempt to clean it. 4) If it's broken, please ensure that it will not get damaged further or cause injury to anyone and notify the Administrator. Thank you for your vigilance!
- **UCE is a scent-free zone.** We have members, some of them small children, with severe allergies. So avoid wearing any scents when you come to gatherings at the church – colognes, hair spray, etc. Also please remember when cleaning church property (tablecloths, counter tops, dishes, etc.) to use scent-free products.
- **Brunch:** Going for brunch after church is a UCE tradition. Want to join? Contact Marge Roche or Jennifer Hinchcliffe at church.
- **Recycling:** We don't have recycling pickup at the church, so we need help with taking blue bags home for home collection or to the Recycle Centre. The bags are in the kitchen and/or social hall
- **Walls:** Please do not use scotch tape on a painted wall. If you need a sign printed and posted in the church please contact the office, chadmin@uce.ca .
- **Pop Cans:** We raise money from returnable bottles, tetra packs etc. donated by members. Drop your contribution in the second storage room (the single door) in Keeler Hall.
- **Security:** If your committee or groups are meeting after Church hours, please make sure all the exit doors are locked before setting the alarm and leaving. The exits that need to be checked are Keeler Hall and the side door (on the same as the main doors, by the picnic table).
- **UCE Equipment:** from time to time, members and friends of UCE find themselves in need of certain tools or other items for the short term and would like to borrow them instead of purchasing. If you are someone who would like to use something that belongs to the UCE, please let the [Church Administrator](#) know that you need something and for how long. We hope to prevent additional costs to the church by not having to replace items that are "loaned out".

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton is a liberal, multi-generational, religious community. We celebrate a rich mosaic of free-thinking, spiritually-questing individuals joined in common support and action. We welcome diversity including diversity of beliefs from divine believers to humanists, from pagans to atheists and agnostics. We believe in the compassion of the human heart, the warmth of community, the pursuit of justice and the search of meaning in our lives.

We gather with gratitude on traditional Cree lands that are now a part of Treaty Six and shared by many nations. A treaty is an inheritance, a responsibility and a relationship. May we be good neighbours to one another, good stewards to our planet and good ancestors to our children.

**THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON Vol 59 No. 10**

**10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
PHONE 780-454-8073 FAX 780-452-1641
Office Hours: Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**

E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEB PAGE www.uce.ca

Newsletter Submission Deadline is the 20th of every month. Please send your article to chadmin@uce.ca

People Finder

Minister: Reverend Brian J. Kiely briekie@aol.com	780-455-9797
President: Karen Mills karenmills@me.com	780-432-0826
Religious Exploration Leader: Will Adair ucekids@uce.ca	780-454-8073
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca	780-454-8073
Head Teller: Edwina Madill	780-462-2089
Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca	780-432-0826
Communications: Karen Bilida Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca	780-807-6380
Chaplain Services: Reverend Audrey Brooks audbrook@telusplanet.net	780-489-8842
Property Management: Mike Keast	780-497-1303