

Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

March 2017 Vol 58 No. 3



Theme: "A Church for Learning"
March Services

March 5 **Let Us Create a Prayer Together** **Chorealis**

"Where we meet is a sacred space and we are inspired by one another's presence. At the centre of the gathered community dwells the Holy. We are the prayer, each and all." Join Chorealis for their annual Taizé service which combines a prayerful element to music and a musical element to prayer.

March 12 **"Women and Learning"** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely**
Service Leader, Rev. Audrey Brooks

International Women's Day is March 8th. In this service we will look at the words "women" and "learning". There are so many ways to address this topic!

March 19 **"USC Canada and Seeds"** **Marti Breen**
Service Leader, Rev Brian J. Kiely

Marti Breen is the Executive Director of USC Canada - an organization that began life in the 1940's as the Unitarian Service Committee. Today, much of the work of the USC is focused on seed conservation in less developed nations.

March 26 **"Lifelong Learners"** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely**
Service Leader: Rev. Audrey Brooks

Confession time: my greatest challenge (in my opinion) is boredom. I hate the feeling of stuckness I get when I am not learning something new or trying something different. I was happy to learn the phrase 'lifelong learner'. I think it can apply to all of us.

Musical Guest: 11 year old Jack Forrestier, courtesy of the McMillan family.

Three New Songs



Our wonderful resident composer, Gordon Ritchie, has written three new songs which will get their world premiere at the March 5 UCE church service. They are exquisite, deeply moving works.

The first song is *i carry your heart*, based on the poem by e.e. cummings. The other two are shorter works written especially for the Taizé service that will be held that Sunday. Taizé is a meditative service filled with music and readings. One is based on Psalm 42, *Sicut Cervus Desiderat* (in English, As the hart longs for the water brook, so longs my soul after Thee); the second is called *Grant Us Peace*.

We are so privileged to have Gordon in our midst, sharing his talents. Don't miss this special event.

Ministerial Musings

Speaking of learning...so this happened:



On Thursday, February 9th our 13 year old van was stolen from a store parking lot. "Blueie" had been part of our family for a decade. There are a lot of fond memories.

That Sunday night and I learned that the RCMP had 'recovered' it. Turns out it was in not one but two high speed chases over the weekend. A Constable from the local RCMP detachment spoke to me. He said that he was in the first on Friday night but broke off pursuit. On Sunday he was alerted that the van was coming his way from Wetaskiwin so he set up for them. After a short pursuit the driver went off the road and crashed into a light post. As you can see the driver did a very thorough job of crashing. Three people were arrested and some others managed to get away. Odd to think of your vehicle could be involved in something like that!

The next day my younger daughter wrote, "R.I.P. Blueie the Van. You will be dearly missed. You lived an entire 12 or 13 years. You had a good life and you served your purpose."

Being a social media type I posted it all on Facebook and drew the response of nearly 100 people. The only post I ever offered that drew more attention (understandably) was last spring when that same daughter broke her arm.

The next day there was also a private email - an offer of a vehicle of similar vintage for the sum of \$1. I was speechless, but fortunately my fingers worked through the welling of tears so I was able to type, "Yes, thank you." It turns out that the Santa Fe (renamed 'Fei') is in considerably better condition than Blueie. What a gift!

So the learnings?

- *Even on a cold night when you don't think it will restart, don't leave your old van running for 8 minutes.
- *Don't Panic! (Thanks, Douglas Adams). It does no good.
- *The EPS and the RCMP can be very kind and gentle when dealing with people.
- *Even insurance companies can be understanding!
- *Once in a while there are good and generous people who will save you from your mistakes and ask nothing in return.

Although I like the idea of karma, I am not sure I believe in it. Too often terrible things have happened to good people I know, things they did not deserve. I don't think I either deserved or did not deserve to have my car stolen. It just happened. I don't think I deserved to have a new-to-me car drop in my lap either, but I sure am grateful.

The biggest learning was this: We all have the opportunity to look out for those among us who are having a struggle, be it theft, illness or hard times. We all have the opportunity to do whatever we reasonably can and to offer help with no expectation of reward. And maybe when you are the recipient, you have an obligation to pass it on.

When the time comes to sell Fei, I won't ask more than \$1.

See you in church.

Brian

Silence Is Golden

A gentle reminder that from 10- 10:25 before the service, when the lights in the Sanctuary are low, please maintain an air of quiet for those who choose meditation. Conversations, even whispered ones, can be very distracting.

Many thanks, Sunday Services Committee.

Religion on Tap

Join us for our informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening this March on Tuesday the 21st. Brian Kiely will host the gathering and start a conversation. Everyone is welcome. We meet at Metro Billiards, 103 Avenue and 106 Street. We meet at 7:00 pm but some people have notices that there are half price appies and beer specials until 7:00 so they have been getting there early.



Board Update

Your UCE Board met on February 8, 2017. Beth Jenkins is working on bylaw changes to be presented at the AGM in May. On March 5 in Keller Hall will be an opportunity for everyone to connect with UCE committees and perhaps find a volunteer opportunity to interest you. Plans are underway for delegates to attend the upcoming Canadian Unitarian Council AGM. All members are welcome to attend UCE board meetings as an observer. If you wish to speak on a particular topic, kindly contact President Mike Keast one week prior to the meeting. The next board meeting will be March 8, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.

Gloria Krenbrenk, Secretary

Board Member Nominations

The U.C.E. nominating committee has begun its work of finding church members to stand for positions on the board, the ministerial relations committee and the nominating committee. The following positions are open for the next year, starting June 15, 2017: Vice President; Trustee, one, possibly two positions; Nominating Committee one position. These positions play a vital role in keeping our church running. If you are willing to put your name forward, or would like more information, please contact Rosemary Falconer (rfalcon@shaw.ca), Cathy Loiselle (cathkarima@hotmail.com), or Lauren Kay (shirazandlauren@gmail.com)

UCE Membership Directory

There will be a Membership Directory coming out very shortly. If you have moved or changed your email address in the last year or so please send an update to Janet at chadmin@uce.ca. The convention in previous years was to include the names of the members' children. This will not happen this year. Also if you wish to remove yourself from the Directory list or confirm that you are, please get in touch.

Honour Our UCE Members

Two annual awards will be presented at the fellowship dinner on Saturday April 8:

- ⊕ The W.H. Alexander Award honours a person or persons for extraordinary services provided to benefit the church community.
- ⊕ The Charles Potter Award for Community Engagement honours a member of our congregation who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to communities outside our church, and whose work there shows exceptional commitment to UU principles and values.

Submit your nominations for these awards by March 5 to board secretary Gloria Krenbrenk by email – gkrenbrenk@gmail.com – or in writing through the church office. The board will choose the winners at its March meeting.

Rules:

- † Nominations must be made in writing by UCE members and must include reasons for nominating the person or persons.
- † Members of the board may not submit nominations.
- † People who have been staff members or members of the board within the preceding year are not eligible to receive the award.
- † Past staff members and members of the board are eligible if the services for which they are recommended were not performed during the period when they held these special positions.
- † There is no limit on the number of times a person may be nominated for, or win, the award.

Light the Way!



March is Canvass Month! This month we will have a brief talk about Canvass each Sunday service. There will also be a pledge form attached to this newsletter and to each order of service this month. By the end of the month we hope to have pledges from all of our members (and some generous friends!). After each service in March Andrew will be available to discuss your pledge if you would like to talk about it in-person.

We need everyone who plans on donating to UCE this year to return a pledge please. Even if you are an ongoing donor is it important to receive your pledge every year. Please return a pledge by no later than April 2nd.

In our Light the Way theme this year I included the subtitle, “Funding the World You Want to See.” We change things by supporting those activities that we want to see. At this time of year I am always pleased to see the receipts from UCE, USC, and the many other groups that I support. They do good work and I support them in that work. I put my money on making the world the way I want to see it. I invite you to do the same by supporting the work of our church this year.

Check out the canvass website at www.yxd.ca/2017 for more information. You can also pledge using this [electronic pledge form](#). Thank you for your support of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton.

Andrew Mills, 780-918-3288 (Cell), andrew@misc.ca

Share Fair

Sunday, March 5

Noon to 1 p.m. in Keeler Hall

Come to the carnival of new ideas and opportunities!

In the congregational survey that was part of our strategic planning, many people said they wanted to learn about who does what in the church, and find out how to get involved.

The fair is your chance to:

- † Connect to your fellow UCE-ers,
- † Find out what's new (many groups have shifted their scopes, so it's a good time to get reintroduced), and
- † Find ways to share your talents, try out new activities and develop new skills - all while having fun and getting to know some great people a little better!

There will be no "pressure sales" and we're not looking for long-term commitments. The focus will be on "one shot jobs" and upcoming events that might be good starting points for people wanting to try out new things.



Wizard of a Dinner, Saturday April 8th



Adults \$12

Children age 2-12, \$6.

-- Doors open at 5 pm, dinner about 6 pm

-- This is a BYOB event.

Tickets available (starting March 5th) on Sundays or from church office, 780-454-8073 or

chadmin@uce.ca

Our congregation is known for its wacky and wonderful annual dinners, and this year will be no exception. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 8 for our Fellowship Dinner. This year's theme: *The Wizard of Oz*. Yes, there will be costumes, and even a yellow brick road. Music will be from the era of the famous movie, which came out in 1939 -- so, not just Judy Garland but also Glenn Miller and Billie Holliday. Lauren Kay will again be our top organizer, and Rev. Brian Kiely our chef.

If you need some inspiration for a costume to fit the theme or you just want to see the film, please join us on March 18th at 11:00 am at Cineplex Odeon South Common for their Cineplex Family Favourites. Tickets are only \$2.99 and a portion of the proceeds goes to Free the Children.

Lay Chaplaincy Training

The Lay Chaplaincy program allows congregations to empower and license individuals to perform weddings, memorials and other rites of passage on behalf of the congregation, usually for non-members. Lay Chaplains are paid for these services on a per event basis. A Lay Chaplain works closely with the minister and is required to attend a weekend training session (Friday evening through Sunday morning). Westwood will be hosting such a session on March 10-12. The cost is \$95. For some extensive detail on the program and the training event please visit:

<http://cuc.ca/event/designing-leading-rites-passage-basic-training-lay-chaplains-2>

Anyone can take the training. Afterwards you are welcome to apply to the Board for a six year appointment as our Lay Chaplain. At present that post is vacant. Former congregational Lay Chaplains include Lance Beswick, Marge Roche, Ruth Patrick, Stella Clarke, and a host of others.

If you would like to know more about this enriching work, please contact Brian Kiely or any of the retired Lay Chaplains above.

Rev. Brian Kiely

♥Heart to Heart♥

♥Lilas Lysne has moved to apartment 421 at Rosedale Estates, and would like visitors. Call her 587.521.3955 to arrange that.

♥We send support and love to Yvonne Mireau and her sister Amy as they hold vigil with their dad who is in palliative care.

♥On February 17th, Emily Katelyn was born to Kat and Herb Hartshorne and family. Grandmother Lyn Hutter and all of us say, "Welcome to the world, Emily!"

♥Condolences to Matthew Boucher, whose older brother died suddenly from a heart attack, on February 12th.

♥Holly Evans and William Hamlyn will be moving to Edmonton in July 2017.

♥Condolences to Charity Erikson, whose mother died suddenly on February 14th.

♥Cathy Loiselle expressed shock and sorrow about the anti-Islam demonstrations at a Toronto Mosque, recalling racist remarks endured by the aboriginal people of Bonnyville in Alberta. She says, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if people could face their fears and introduce themselves to a Muslim stranger. They would be pleasantly surprised."

♥Liz Cloutier expresses concern about her neighbor Big Tim, who has melanoma which has progressed under his arm.

♥A 70th birthday celebration will be held on March 11 at UCE for Jan McMillan. She will be serenaded by Choreal, by Dan Rowley who will sing operatic pieces, and Gordon Ritchie.

♥We heard that Peter Jordan of Ardrossan Alberta has died after a brief illness. He was a friend of UCE from 2009 to 2013, a gentle and kind man. He will be missed.

♥ To those who light candles of Joy and/or concern, know that you are held in the hearts of our church family. If you would like to have visit with chaplain Audrey Brooks, Please call her at 7800-489-8842 or email at audbrook@telusplanet.net to arrange a time.

UCE Represents!

On February 3, 2017, many members of UCE, plus other friends of Donna Hamar, attended the *One!International Fundraising Gala* in Edmonton. Over 300 people had a wonderful time, eating, learning to dance Bollywood style (Audrey Brookes), socializing, and raising funds for *One!International*, whose mission is to teach literacy, numeracy and life skills to children living on the streets of Mumbai. This is the where Donna is currently donating her time (and from where she sends the most marvelous emails). During the gala we were able to Skype with Donna and see the children she teaches. Some of them recited poems, sang songs and read essays. A really heart-warming experience.



Submitted by Sheila Parr

We Support Our Muslim Friends

It's a very small gesture, really, but given the increasing number of attacks on Muslims in this nation, the Board voted to authorize a banner affirming our support of Islam. It will be displayed at our church and at appropriate rallies.



Save the Date for CanUUdle XVII!

CanUUdle XVII is being hosted by the Unitarian Church of Edmonton on the May 2017 long weekend: May 19-22, 2017. The CanUUdle national youth conference is at the heart of our national UU youth community, building friendships and developing leadership skills for our UU world. Last year over 80 youth and advisors participated in Vancouver. Save the date! See you in Edmonton!

Save the Date for Justice Con 2017!

A young adult con for all ages!

- **When?** May 19 – 22, 2017
- **Where?** Westwood Unitarian Congregation – Edmonton, Alberta
- **Who?** Young adults (18-35) and people of all ages who are young at heart. Limit of 45 people.
- **What?** A “Con-style gathering” – where everyone participates in leadership, and everyone helps to create beloved community through worship, workshops, cooking and activities.
- **More Info:** <http://cuc.ca/save-date-justice-con-2017>

UCE AND ART THERAPY

Starting last month, an art therapy service for adults is being offered at UCE by Karen Stevenson, practicum student in St. Stephen’s College Art Therapy Program. Karen offers one-to-one art therapy counselling sessions as well as a series of Open Studio workshops entitled *From the HeArt*.

Creative self-care, life journey, issues of aging, addiction recover and gender identity support are her areas of interest..

BIO: Karen Stevenson is a member of UCE, an educator, musician and currently completing her training as an Art Therapist at St. Stephen’s College.

Call or text 780.299.3676 for more information or email

sustainingwonder@gmail.com



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

⊕ The annual Interfaith Habitat build begins on February 27 and goes to April 23rd. Each year many members of UCE volunteer at the prefab shop, the Restore, and at construction sites. This year is special because President Jimmy Carter will be coming to launch one of the biggest builds this summer. Thank you to those who have signed up. We will have fun and meet people from other congregations who are committed to working with the City of Edmonton, Homeward Trust and Habitat for Humanity to help end homelessness and poverty. Truly a work from our hearts to the hearts of those in need. See Audrey Brooks about becoming a part of this Year’s Habitat build. If this hasn’t convinced you, here’s a ringing endorsement from Rosemary Falconer:

Picture your granny wielding a nail gun or operating a table saw. What is in your picture? Screams for help and missing digits? If so, you have probably never been to a Habitat for Humanity Interfaith build. Several of the members of this congregation have participated, had a great time doing so, and come away intact. There is an opportunity to get involved this spring. If you choose to attend, you will be given assignments within your capability. The staff and experienced volunteers teach and supervise us, as well as ensure the finished product meets standards. The work shift is from 0800 to 1530. You will be given all required safety equipment and coverage by WCB. Snacks and lunch are provided. It is a great opportunity for a new adventure alongside your fellow Unitarians. Please see Audrey Brooks for information on how to register.

Info update: To register as a volunteer, sign up for shifts and locations you can volunteer at, please visit us at www.hfh.org and click on volunteer then follow the instructions. You must register on our on-line system first and then you can self-register on-line for any available shifts at any location you like. Kim Dedeugd, Volunteer coordinator: phone 780-451-3416 Extension 232.

- ⊕ On Tuesday, January 30th, Anglican Bishop Jane Alexander presented an update on the End Poverty Edmonton, to the Steering Committee of the Capital Region Interfaith Initiative on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. This involves a community plan to end poverty and create shared prosperity for all Edmontonians. Currently, 108,000 Edmontonians- including 34,000 children are living in poverty. In March, 2014, Edmonton City Council created the Mayor's Task Force to Eliminate Poverty. The Task Force was co-chaired by Mayor Don Iveson and Bishop Jane Alexander. Jeff Bisanz from the Unitarian Church of Edmonton serves on that Committee and Audrey Brooks volunteers on the board of the Interfaith Steering Committee on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. A community plan is based on consultation with Indigenous leaders, newcomers, business, community agencies, educators, and people with lived experiences worked together to come up with a road map that involves:
 - ⊕ Creating of EndPovertyEdmonton, as a convening entity. * A target of lifting 10,000 people out of poverty in 5 years.
 - ⊕ Five strategic goals with actions to be implemented in the first five years. * An Evaluation Approach to track progress.
 - ⊕ An advocacy agenda focused on policy and systems change. * A guide to first steps in Transition and Year One. A detailed copy of the End Poverty in a Generation Road Map is available on the credenza in the foyer. Opportunities for Interfaith groups to become involved include choosing parts of the plan to implement by members of churches and Social Justice groups. Watch for more information at the March 5 Action Fair to be held in Keeler Hall at UCE.

UCE Walking Group Schedule



Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10 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.

March 3	Legislature Grounds and Federal Building
March 10	Mill Creek (meet by swimming pool)
March 17	Government House, south end of Groat Road
March 24	Emily Murphy Park, turn left as you enter park and meet at the lower parking lot.

Movie Night at Westwood

Social Justice Film night Enjoy a thoughtful movie followed by stimulating discussion. This month's film on March 3rd is "FREEDOM'S LAND", a film about the Underground Railway to Canada, which helped African Americans escape slavery. A discussion will follow. The film is free. Westwood Unitarian is located at 11135-65 Avenue NW.

Around Our Church

- Sermons: On the YouTube website, <http://www.youtube.com/EdmUnitarian> Need help: Contact Bill Lee billlee@ualberta.net or 780-435-7477
- Brunch: Going for brunch after church is a UCE tradition. Want to join? Contact Marge Roche or Jennifer Hinchcliffe at church
- Young Adults: If you're 15-25ish, unmarried and childless, check out our Facebook group, Edmonton UU "junior" Young Adults

- 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
- Bissell Centre: All items donated to our church green box in the foyer go to the Bissell Centre Thrift Shoppe on 88St & 118 Ave. There they are sorted, some going to the store, some to various other programs including the Community Closet at 105 Ave & 96 St where they are dispensed for free. Earnings from the Thrift Shoppe support the Community Closet. 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.
- 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.
- Food: If you use our kitchen, clean it up afterward and don't leave any food behind. Public Health Regulations prohibit the storing of perishable food for more than one day
- 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).

Minister's Office Hours

Brian is usually in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 until 2:30. Sometimes community meetings and visits cause him to be away. People dropping by are most welcome, but it's always best to call ahead and check to make sure he is there.

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2

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Vol 58 No. 3

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

People Finder

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Social Justice Committee: Jeff Bisanz	780-435-8209
Church Services Committee: Julius Buski	780-973-6820
Membership Committee: Michelle Van Der Molen	780-289-7576



Yes! I want to light the way and fund the world I want to see.
Here is my financial pledge to the Unitarian Church of Edmonton for the coming year:

My name is: _____

I would like: (choose one)

- to pledge 10% more than last year
- to pledge the same as last year
- to pledge a specific amount:

For the period 1 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018 _____
(how much per month or how much per year?)

I will pay my pledge: (choose one)

- with the preauthorized deposits that I have already set up
- with preauthorized deposits that I would like to set up now please (call Andrew)
- with cash, cheques, or online donation that:
 - I will send or donate now (include with pledge form)
 - I will send later (I've explained when in the notes)
 - I will pay as I am able (explain in the notes)

If you have any other notes, instructions, or comments please include them here or call or email me any time.

The canvass page at www.yxd.ca/2017 has more info and an electronic pledge form
Andrew Mills 780-432-0826 (home), 780-918-3288 (cell), andrew@misc.ca

Put your completed pledge form in the return envelope; place in the collection, mail to the church, or drop at the office.

Light the Way
10804-119 Street NW
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