

Searching ✨ Learning ✨ Connecting ✨ Serving

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

uce.ca



The Edmonton Unitarian: December 2018, Vol 59.11



December Theme: "What does it Mean to Be a People of Mystery?"

December 2

"Annual Carols and Lessons"

Chorealis

Today we celebrate three major festivals; the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of Hanukkah, and the Celebration of Chalica. Join Chorealis for some cool tunes and heartwarming stories.

Children's focus – All ages Service

December 9

"The Mystery of Christmas"

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Whether it is the story of the nativity or the legends of Santa Claus, we wrap our winter festivals in mystery. Is there something in the human make-up that requires such non-rational outlets?

Children's Focus - Children's focus will be "Life is a Mystery"

December 16

"Mitten Tree Service"

Rev. Kiely & Will Adair

Come join us for our annual pandemonious pre-Christmas family service. There will be stories, songs, a celebration of the new babies in our community and a complete lack of sober silence. We will also decorate the Mitten Tree with hats, scarves and mittens (and especially SOCKS), to be given to the Boyle Street. We will continue the tradition of lighting special candles to mark the arrival of new babies in our community. If you have a new child, grandchild or very special young friend you would like recognized, please let Will Adair know at 780-454-5816.

Children's Focus - All ages Service "Mitten Tree" Youth Lead service

December 23

"Mysterious Winter"

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Solstice has just passed. In the season of lights, we are surrounded by darkness. Today I will reflect on some of the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of this time of year.

Children's focus - "The mystery of the season"

December 30

"Reflections on 2018"

John Pater

Join me in a reflective service where we'll look back at the top stories of our lives in 2018. We'll share the personal, the cultural (books, movies, music) and the news stories that impacted our lives in the year past.

Children's Focus – "New beginnings"

Special Services

Saturday, December 22, 7:00 pm **“Yule and Winter Solstice”** **UCE Pagan Group**



The UCE Pagan Group welcomes you to join us for a celebration of the Winter Solstice and Yule. This will be an all ages service with music and recognition of the turning wheel of the year; followed by treats, socializing, and crafts to celebrate the coming of the light.

With the arrival of winter’s low dark sky, communities around the world look to the miracle of light as a sign of rebirth and a source of hope. We celebrate the promise of new life and recommit ourselves to the protection of everyone’s right to their own radiant humanity.

Sunday, December 23, 6:30 pm **“Blue Christmas”** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely & Friends**

This annual service is offered for those who have tough times with the Holidays. Not everyone has joyful memories from childhood, while others are mourning losses this year. This is a quiet service of readings, reflection and candle lighting. We make room to touch and honour the pain so many feel in hopes of finding solace if not outright joy. The service is followed by a free supper of homemade soups, pies and bread served up by willing volunteers. Everyone is most welcome.



Monday, December 24, 7:00 pm **“Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely**



Everyone has their own way of marking this night. For all of my life I have gone to church. Other traditions and rituals have come and gone, but there has always been a Christmas Eve service at the centre of my holiday, a time for some quiet reflection and anticipation – a breather in the hectic rush. If you need a place to mark this Eve, you are invited to spend it with my family.

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Well, the snows came early...then left...then came...then left...then came once more. Then Christmas hit the stores, in some places before Hallowe'en - a pet peeve of mine and my eldest daughter. One of the pop radio stations switched to its Christmas music playlist just after Remembrance Day. Sigh.



I love Christmas as much as the next person, maybe more. But I kinda like Christmas to be, well Christmas. I mean it should be a special season. I have always felt that it's special because it's a limited period of time, usually starting with the first Sunday in Advent. It's only then that I break out the decorations and the music and enjoy the heck out of them until the 25th. I love the familiar carols and even some of the newer music. I love the lights. Our family will be touring neighbourhoods and visiting the City Hall Tree and the Leg lights and probably Devon as well. I love the anticipation implied in the thought of Advent. The cooking the baking, the church services...I love them all.

But when the 25th is done, then I'm done. It's time to relax, listen to something different, enjoy a few quiet days, celebrate the New Year and then restart life.

So in a week or two I will start thinking about Christmas, but until then I will ignore the displays, the ads and the music in finest Grinch-like tradition! Harrumph!

Happy holiday season, all

See you in church, Brian

RELIGION ON TAP



Religion on Tap is our monthly social/theological chat. It will be Tuesday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at Metro Billiards, 10250 106 St. 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.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH



This year's will be held this year on Saturday, December 15th in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am to celebrate the "age 55 and holding" members of our congregation. We are now accepting RSVPs by Phone (780) 454-8073 or email at chadmin@uce.ca or you can sign on an RSVP list on the credenza in the foyer.

******If you are not a senior and would like to help with lunch on the 15th or you would like to donate a dish, please email Rev. Kiely at briki@aol.com**

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Mystery Buddies

Dates have changed to January/ February. We will still be reintroducing Mystery Buddies this church 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. Please keep an eye out for sign- up on the credenza.

Youth Gathering's

November's youth gathering has been postponed to Dec. 1 and will be a sleep over here at the church and December's gathering will be a New Year's Party on Saturday December 29th.

Teacher Needed

We have an opening for a teacher for our Pathfinders group. This is a paid position. Curriculum is provided. All supplies for all classes are prepared and supplied by DRE prior to each Sunday's class. Teaching 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. If you are interested please contact Will at ucekids@uce.ca or in person on Sunday mornings

Volunteers Needed



Do you have a Sunday or two that you could spare? 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) 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 carrot and celery sticks or assorted fruit and maybe some kind of no-sugar juice. 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. If you would like to contribute but may not be able to bring a snack on one particular day you could give us a small cash donation and we can pick it up the stuff for snack.



Youth Together in Caring

Afternoon youth drop-in will be a regular weekly event on Fridays 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.

Young Adult's Gathering

A time for our young adults to get together and have a safe place for community in the "bridging years". I see this group something like "Religion on Tap" but instead of getting together at a pub we would maybe have a potluck here with discussion and fun (board games, Cards, etc.) Anyone Interested or know anyone that maybe interested let us know.

Kid's Fun Night

Will be one or two nights in December that parents can drop of their kids/youth and go out and do their Christmas shopping. This is away for parents to get what they need done quickly. Watch out for signup sheet.

A SPECIAL APPEAL FROM EDMONTON'S UU MINISTERS

To the members & friends of
Westwood Unitarian Congregation &
The Unitarian Church of Edmonton

November 22, 2018

Dear friends,

We are writing, together, in need of your help.

This letter is a special appeal, requesting donations in support of a family in crisis.

Two and a half years ago, the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, assisted by Westwood, sponsored a refugee family of five who were escaping war in Syria. You were generous and supportive, and the Adam family has worked hard to make a new life in Edmonton.

Eager to be independent, Mohammed secured work as a painter. The family has been proudly self-supporting for many months. Unfortunately, painting work has become scarce this fall, and they have been struggling to get by since September. We have just learned that, this week, Mohammed was laid off by his employer.

We are doing everything in our power to help. We're connecting them with employment resources; an employment counsellor has made a home visit; they have resumes and are submitting applications for appropriate work; we have put out appeals for small job, through both churches.

Mohammed is available to paint and do home handy work, and Ramza is eager to put her cooking skills to use. At the same time, their limited English is a significant barrier. They are still learning to negotiate a foreign culture, while carrying the trauma of war. As you can imagine, it is a difficult road, and has become much harder once again.

The family is very close to housing insecurity, and struggled to afford food for the past two months. We (Anne & Brian) have provided supplementary relief – but don't have the resources to make much difference, and can't cover their rent. The family isn't equipped to weather this storm on their own.

Together, our two congregations helped this family get to safety. And they need us once again. We are really their only help in Edmonton. Can we rally our resources, to help them find some stability in this tenuous time?

They have not asked for this appeal. They are proud, and want to be working. But they are also desperate. The need is immediate, and may last a while. Your contributions will help keep a roof over their heads and food on their table.

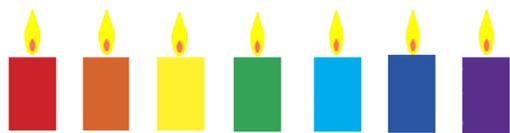
Donations may be made at either church office, or given directly to either minister. Cheques should be made out to UCE or to Westwood, marked "Special Appeal". We will help the family, to make the best use of it. Any help you can provide will make a world of difference.

With deep gratitude,

Reverend Brian Kiely & Reverend Anne Barker

CHALICA!

Monday, December 3 – Sunday, December 9, 2018



CHALICA is an unofficial holiday originally conceived by Daylene Marshall of Vancouver, BC as a way to celebrate and put into intentional practice the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist tradition - one a night, for seven nights. The celebration begins on the first Monday of December, and is marked by the lighting of a chalice each day (or evening).

You are invited to take this week to deepen your relationship with these Principles and how you choose to act them out in your everyday life. This is an excellent opportunity to light your chalice at home each night and to soak in the personal meaning of your chosen faith. You can find more information online, on our UCE TV, during the Choralis service on Dec 2, and there are booklets available at the church. <https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/chalica>



ARTIST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

UCE is embarking on a new Artist of the Month program. Artwork and the Artist's Bio will be hung in the sanctuary for a month. We are supporting local Edmonton artists and enhancing our own community.

James Gaa, Biography

Jim was born in 1948 in Urbana, Illinois. As a young boy, he was interested in photography, spent teen-aged earnings on a quality Pentax camera, and created dark rooms, where he lived in St. Louis, Mo. and Dundas, Ont. While acquiring two PhD degrees (Philosophy and Accounting) and throughout an academic career, photography was always an important life component. Now, using digital technology, Jim has been able to creatively explore the world through his camera lens, shunning "picture post card" shots, instead, seeking out what others might not have noticed. Since retirement from the U. of A., Jim has begun a study of print making as it can be combined with photographic images. He has lived in Canada with wife, Marilyn and family since 1980, in Edmonton since 1995.

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE



The Unitarian Church of Edmonton donates half of the loose cash collected to a different charity. For the month of December UCE will be donating to the Centre To End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE), Edmonton works with community partners to heal the harm of sexual exploitation which includes public education, support, bursaries, trauma recovery and emergency poverty relief.

The Social Justice Working Group is again organizing an Amnesty International Write for Rights event after church in the foyer on Dec. 9. Paper, envelopes, and files outlining the persons or causes that will be the focus of this year's campaign. These letters do save lives and correct environmental and human rights wrongs. Please allow a few minutes after church to write a simple letter or two or three...
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>



THE SPIRIT OF SOLSTICE

Edmonton Vocal Minority and Chorealisis present their annual Queer-friendly holiday event at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton on Monday, December 10th. Both choirs will perform familiar and new music to celebrate the season.



Admission is free, and children are welcome.

In addition to the singing by the choirs, there will be activities for the audience and refreshments provided by the singers. To end the evening the audience is invited to join in a sing-along and request their favourite carols and Christmas songs.

Kristy Harcourt's "cash for carols" donations will go to Edmonton's refugee and newcomers peer support group and Shades of Colour.

Chorealisis is the UCE choir and is conducted by Karen Mills and Gordon Ritchie. Paula Roberts conducts EVM and the choir is accompanied by Daniel Belland.

Visit www.evmchoir.com or <https://www.facebook.com/events/253701001971037/> for more details.



Hold the date for our Debt Free church party!
We will be having a celebration on January 12, 2019.
Please keep your eyes open for more details.

🌹 HEART TO HEART 🌹

- 🌹 Keeping Liz Cloutier and Clem in our hearts as life's journey continues to be a challenge. Liz would love to see more visitors.
 - 🌹 Caroline Foster-Boucher is recovering from surgery to repair her fractured ankle.
 - 🌹 Thank you to the UCE Youth for helping shovel snow from the doorways on Sunday mornings. (Though more help is still needed to clear the snow, especially the city sidewalks during the week.)
 - 🌹 To those who have furry friends who are experiencing health issues, please know that you are in our thoughts.
 - 🌹 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.
- 🌹 "Our Mission is love, our race is humanity and our faith is in each other" 🌹

Do the Penguin Walk!

Stay healthy and active, avoid a fall and possible injuries.

- Bend slightly and walk flat footed
- Point your feet out slightly like a penguin
- Keep your centre of gravity over your feet as much as possible
- Watch where you are stepping
- Take shorter, shuffle-like steps
- Keep your arms at your sides (not in your pockets!)
- Concentrate on keeping your balance
- Go S-L-O-W-L-Y



www.penguinwalk.ca

FLU Wants YOU!

3 Ways to Fight the Flu.

- COUGH and SNEEZE into your SLEEVE.**
Hands spread the disease.
- WASH HANDS OFTEN!**
for 20 seconds with soap and warm water
- REST is BEST.**
Stay home if you have flu symptoms:
 - Fever, 100°F/38°C and above
 - Coughing and sneezing
 - Body aches
 - Extreme fatigue

Stop the flu before it gets you.

For more information visit www.cityofaustin.org/pandemicflu Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

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.



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.

Social Media is ever changing. It can sometimes be overwhelming with so many different platforms to reach out to each other through our computers and smartphones. I wanted to take a moment and chat about what we like to use the different social media platforms for within the Unitarian Church of Edmonton.



Instagram is a photo sharing application that allows users to share photos and videos to preapproved followers. UCE is excited to announce we now have an Instagram page! You can follow us at [@UnitarianUCE](#), please tag us and share your adventures within our beautiful community.



Twitter is an online news social media application where users post messages known as Tweets. Get notified with the most up to date information on meetings and events happening in the community through out Twitter page! Feel free to tag, share, and Tweet [@UnitarianUCE](#)



Facebook - As always, Facebook is our core social media platform, we use the Facebook group for information, events, photos, and even link to Twitter and Instagram feeds. We currently have 332 followers on our Facebook group, so log on, be our friend, and join in the conversation!

We have some of the diverse interests that Unitarians have on the Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>)

The group has too many updates? Join the page for UCE specific updates (<https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/>)

Need help with Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter? Contact Karen Bilida Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca

YouTube is a video sharing service where users can watch, like, share, comment and upload their own videos. The video service can be accessed on PCs, laptops, tablets and via mobile phones. We post the sound from our sermons, so you can revisit interesting points you heard or if you missed a Sunday you can have a listen and catch up, a great “podcast” to listen to.

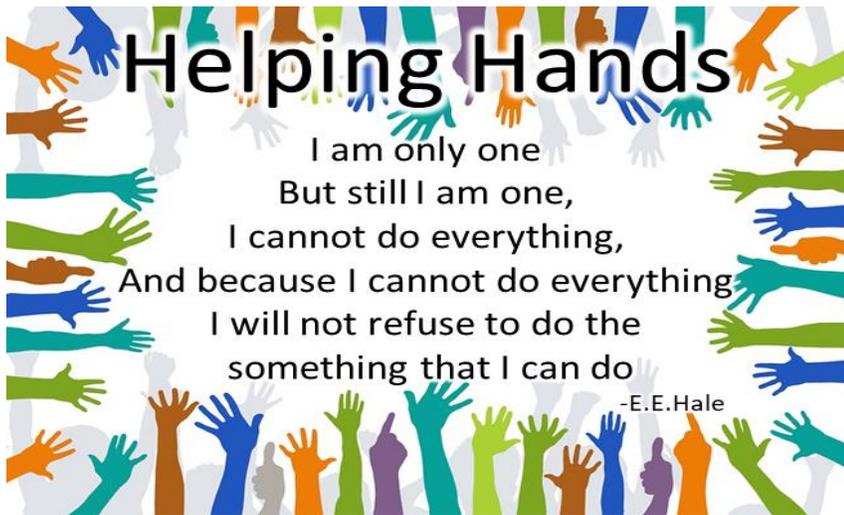


Need help with YouTube? Contact Bill Lee @ 780-435-7477 or billlee@ualberta.net

UCE WALKING GROUP SCHEDULE

Dec. 7	Meet at Planet Organic and walk 124 Street
Dec. 13	Walkers' planning meeting at Victoria Plaza at 4:30 pm
Dec. 14	Walkers' Christmas Lunch at Victoria Plaza

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.



Enrich your life and our community's by volunteering!
 This is a great way to meet new people and be more involved in the church community.
 Volunteer opportunities available for sign up on credenza in UCE lobby.
 Ushering, greeting volunteers needed in December.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Coffee	Greeting	Membership	Ushering	Piano	Sound Tech
December 2	John Turvey	Scott Harrison	Susan Ruttan		Chorealis	Marg Booker
December 9	Clair Horne	Shirley Edgar	Audrey Brooks	Maurice Bourgoin	Karen Mills	Bill Lee
December 16	Clair Horne	Scott Harrison	Karen Bilida	Jeff Bisanz	Gordon Ritchie	Marg Booker
Saturday, 7:00pm December 22	Solstice Service				Gordon Ritchie	Bill Lee
December 23	Clair Horne			Jeff Bisanz Yvonne Mireau	Gordon Ritchie	Bill Lee
Sunday, 6:30 pm December 23	Blue Christmas will have a special sign up for volunteers and food donations in the lobby in December.					
Monday, 7:00 pm December 24	Christmas Eve Service					Kat Hartshorne
December 30	Clair Horne		Susan Ruttan		No pianist	Bill Lee

SOUND TECH TEAM



We're looking for people to join our small team who do the sound for Sunday services. You don't have to be a techie, just someone who pays attention to detail. And it isn't a major time commitment: you can still enjoy coffee hour after the service.

We will train you gently at your own pace. You will shadow a tech for a Sunday or two; then when you're ready, you'll take over.

I email team members to find out which Sundays of the next month they are available, then match members' availability with Sundays and email the schedule to the whole team. Current team members are Marg Booker, Kat

Hartshorne, and me. If you're willing to give it a try, 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.



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*

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



Kitchen: If your gathering or meeting uses the coffee nook and/or the kitchen:

- ☺ Please wash, dry and put away your dishes.
- ☺ Make sure the counters and tables are cleared and wiped down.
- ☺ Mop up any spills
- ☺ Make sure food is labeled and stored correctly.

WE LOVE NAME TAGS



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

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.

Coffee Hour Caution

...advice for greeting young adults at church

X - Avoid saying:

“How old are you?”

Why: Is age so important? There's no good answer. Avoid this one altogether.

✓ - Say instead:

“What did you think of the service today?”

X - Avoid saying:

“Are you new here?”

Why: A young adult may have been attending for years, you just haven't met them. This implies you think they don't belong in the church.

✓ - Say instead:

“I don't think we've met, my name is...”

X - Avoid saying:

“When are you planning to have kids?”

Why: Having or not having kids is a private matter and not one people may want to discuss. This implies you only value young adults for their future children, not as a peer adult, here and now.

✓ - Say instead:

“What brought you here today?”

X - Avoid saying:

“What do you do?” or “What year are you in school?”

Why: For those who are un- or under-employed, work is a tricky question; assuming someone is a student implies you think they are of a certain age or life stage. Give them the chance to talk about whatever is meaningful, which might not be school or a job.

✓ - Say instead:

“So tell me about yourself...”

X - Avoid saying:

“We need more young people!”

Why: Like everyone else, young adults want to be seen for who they are, not as a token for their age.

✓ - Say instead:

“Great to meet you!”

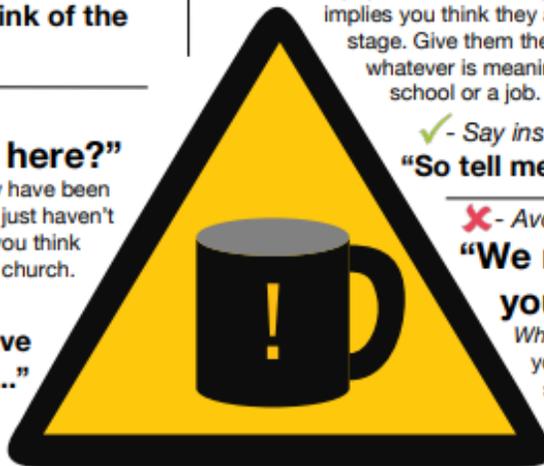
X - Avoid saying:

“Have you met our other young adult?”

Why: Young adults enjoy friends of all ages. Welcome them into faith and fellowship.

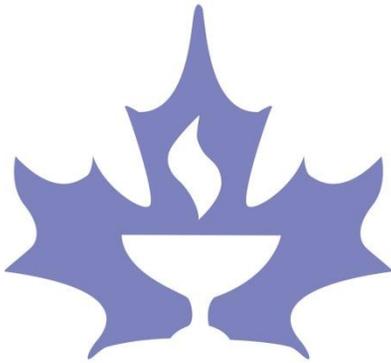
✓ - Say instead:

“Can I introduce you to my friend?”



✓ **DO:** Introduce yourself • Make friends • Be interested • Reach out • Respect boundaries

A MESSAGE FROM THE CUC



The CUC manages a variety of grants to support congregational outreach, innovation, and seminarians. Descriptions and application information for each fund are below.

Sharing Our Faith

The Sharing Our Faith program provides funds for congregational initiatives which enhance ministry, aid congregational projects and outreach, and enhance the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. Once a year, congregations are encouraged to hold a “Sharing Our Faith” worship service focused on the UU faith in Canada, with a special collection for the Sharing Our Faith fund. The fund consists of these monies, supplemented by a Foundation Fund administered by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. The funds are allocated in the form of grants to congregations for growth projects and initiatives.

Grant applications are **due by March 31** of each year with all required documents. Completed applications can be e-mailed to sharing-our-faith@cuc.ca. Please note that Sharing Our Faith grants are normally under \$5,000. For a larger grant, your congregation may want to consider applying for the Northern Lights award (see below).

Theological Education Funds

CUC Theological Education Funds (TEF) bursaries are intended to assist Canadian Unitarian Universalists with expenses incurred while studying for the ministry. In special circumstances, applicants who have achieved only aspirant status may be approved. Disbursements are made by the CUC Board on the recommendation of the Board’s Theological Education Committee. [Application form and more information](#)

Northern Lights

The CUC’s Northern Lights team is looking for ambitious, innovative projects that can make a real difference. The Northern Lights Team welcomes applications for projects worth \$5,000 or greater. For smaller projects, there are the Sharing Our Faith grants.

Please **alert us by February 1, 2019**, at northernlights@cuc.ca that you intend to apply for Northern Lights support. The **full application is due by March 31**. To qualify for Northern Lights support, a congregation must have at least 20% of its members registered as Chalice Lighters.

BUILDING BIENVENUE



Get your tickets and mark your calendar for Friday January 25, 2019.

Delicious African inspired food, entertainment, and friends: don't miss out.

Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana, a Unitarian Universalist minister and refugee from Burundi, will be back to talk about his experience as a UU francophone in exile, and his passionate desire to make the transformative messages of Unitarian Universalism available to French speakers throughout the world.

This event is jointly sponsored by Unitarian church of Edmonton (UCE) and Westwood Unitarian Congregation and will be held at UCE, 10804-119 Street NW Edmonton.

[Click here for more details](#) and look for a poster in the UCE lobby. [Click here for tickets.](#)

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 October to March. All are welcome.



SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM NIGHT: Waterwalker

This feature-length documentary follows naturalist Bill Mason on his journey by canoe into the Ontario wilderness. The filmmaker and artist begins on Lake Superior, then explores winding and sometimes tortuous river waters to the meadowlands of the river's source. Along the way, Mason paints scenes that capture his attention and muses about his love of the canoe, his artwork and his own sense of the land.

Mason also uses the film as a commentary on the link between God and nature and the vast array of beautiful canvases God created for him to paint. Features breathtaking visuals and exciting whitewater footage, with a musical score by Bruce Cockburn.

This will take place December 14th at 7:00 pm at Westwood Unitarian, 11135 – 65 Avenue. All are welcome, short discussion to follow.

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! (All cleaning supplies you'll likely need are in the Caretaker's Room in the back hallway.)
- **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.

And To All a Good-Night!

It was the night before Christmas, and all through
the house,
The family was sleeping, except for my spouse!
I in my pajamas, the kids in their shifts,
Had all settled down to dream of our gifts.
But down in the kitchen, I could hear someone
mutter,
“Where are those gloves, I bought for my mother?”
I called down the stairs, “Oh, come on to bed!
Get all those Christmas things out of your head!”

We were all weary of wrapping so much of that stuff,
As far as I knew, we had purchased enough-
From Walmart, The Bay, MEC and The Gap,
All I wanted now, was my long winter’s nap!
I ran down the stairs, tripping over the dog,
To find my dear wife collapsed on the rug!

“Oh, my darling, what can be the matter?” I cried,
(From the look on her face, it was hard to decide,
If the love of my life was alive, or was just exhausted,
For her eyes were glassy, and her hand was
extended!)

So, I glanced ‘round the room to see what was the
matter,
And saw St. Nicholas’ ghost, standing there, looking
at her!

I drew in my breath, and my heart took a leap,
For the look on his face was not very pleased!
“My son and my daughter, what are you doing?
You’ve taken gift giving right to your ruining!
My intention way back was to reward good behavior,
On this day that is sacred to the birth of our Savior!
But folk have perverted my original intent,
Christmas is now greed and a commercial event!”

“What are we to do?” my wife feebly squealed,
We’ve spent all this money to give gifts, this year!”
“Take them all back; you’ve got your receipts,
And plan a new Christmas around traditional treats.
Visit your relatives, bring them good cheer,
And offer them gifts that will last the whole year.
Offer some small jobs, like shoveling or cleaning
Or baking, or visiting, walking, or singing!
Offer a foot-rub, a story; give some of your time,
It will be appreciated, and you won’t spend a dime!”
He looked at the wrapping paper scattered around,

And pointed to our credit cards, with a look most
profound.
“It’s not about what you have, or have not, I’ve said
all along,
It’s not about getting or giving things, no, that’s all
wrong!
It’s about babies and mothers, and kittens and song’
It’s about families, and sharing, and laughter and
love:
It’s about friendship and caring and other Real
Stuff!”

As he turned to go, by the door, not the chimney,
My wife turned to me and said, “By Jiminy,
He’s right! This is the last year we struggle and fight
To get through a Christmas that’s emotionally tight!
Next year we do what Old St. Nicholas said,
And have a real Christmas with family and friends!”

We went up to bed to have a good snooze
And think about ways to spread our good news.
I in my pajamas, and my wife now in bed,
With visions of Next Year dancing in our heads.
My wife said with feeling, and a great big huge sigh,
“This is our last stressful Christmas, you bet your
sweet life,
Merry Christmas dear husband, its now past
midnight.”
“Merry Christmas, dear wife, and to you a good-
night!”

And I heard the voice of Good St. Nicholas singing,
As I drifted off to sleep, “Christmas is a ‘coming, and
the turkey’s getting fat - please to put a cookie in this
old man’s hat. If you haven’t got a cookie, a sweet
cake will do; if you haven’t got a sweet cake, good
wishes will do!”



Rev. Audrey Brooks, Unitarian Chaplain
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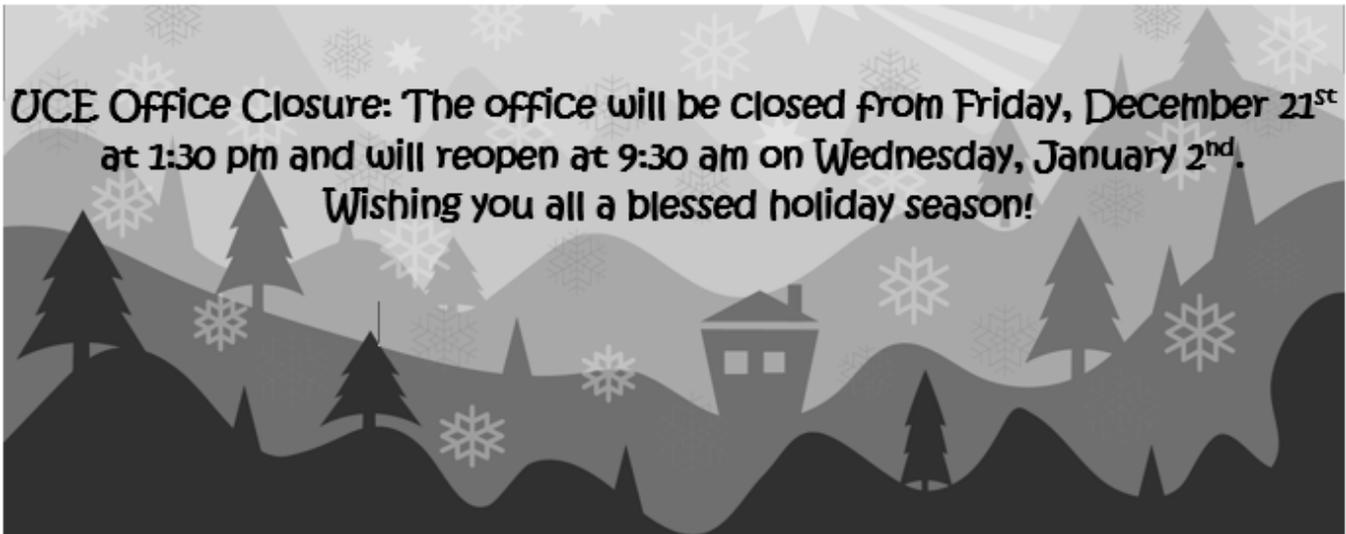
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January Newsletter Submission Deadline is the December 15th.

Please send your article to chadmin@uce.ca



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