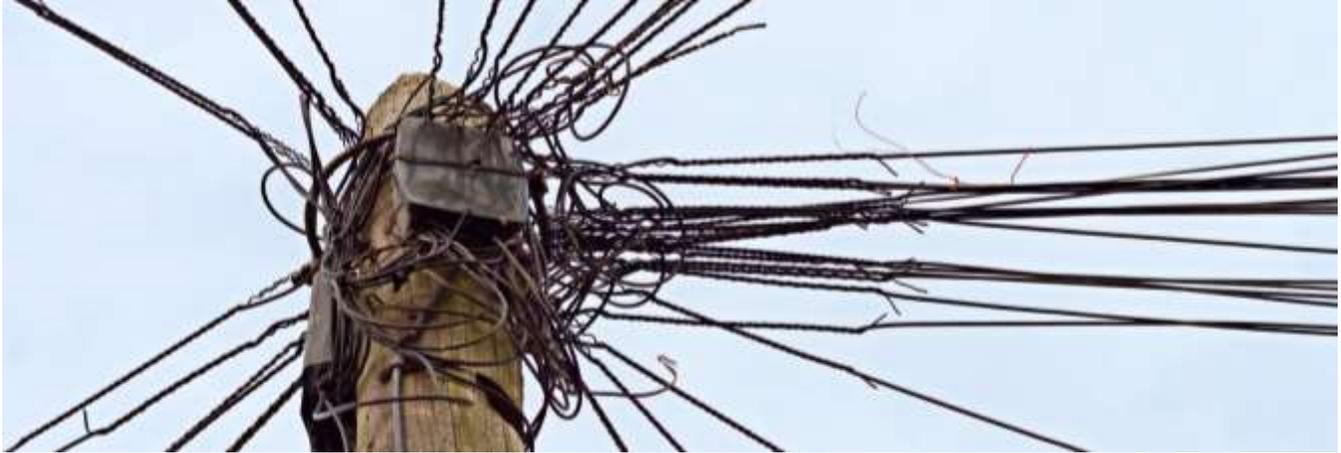


Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

April 2017 Vol 58 No. 4

“A Church for Connecting”



April Services

April 2

“Until We Are All Free, We Are None of Us Free”

Chorealis

The service title is a quote from Emma Lazarus, calling out her American Jewish community’s indifference to the plight of Eastern European Jews. Separations fueled by self-protection, greed, and fear have driven injustice and inequity for centuries. How do we create the feeling of connection that is core to understanding all life is an interdependent web?

April 9

**Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana
Service Leader, Rev. Brian J Kiely**

You may recall reading last year about Burundian minister Fulgence being arrested in his war-torn country and the successful efforts of Unitarians worldwide to get him released. Fulgence was accepted as a refugee in Canada and is now working to obtain his North American ministries credentials in Saskatoon.

April 16

“Seasonal Connection”

**Rev. Brian J. Kiely
Service Leader: Corinne Jackson**

To mark Easter as well as our theme of a “Church of Connecting” I will look at some of the variations of this religious spring festival. - they are all inter-connected.

April 23

“Web-weaving”

**Rev. Brian J. Kiely
Service Leader: Corinne Jackson**

Our seventh Principle speaks of the interconnection of all things. We all know that to be a truth. How often do we contemplate the real meaning of the idea?

April 30

“Spiritual Tools for Tough Times”

**Rev. Helen McFadyen
Service Leader: Audrey Brooks**

Author, Anne Lamott writes, “Where do we even begin in the presence of evil or catastrophe---dead or deeply lost children, a young wife’s melanoma, polar bears floating out to sea on scraps of ice? What is the point of it all when we experience the vortex of interminable depression or, conversely, when we recognize that time is tearing past us like giddy greyhounds?” Guest speaker, Rev. Helen McFadyen will offer a variety of spiritual resources that can help us through times of stress, struggle, and vulnerability.

Ministerial Musings



Tuesdays *Journal* Editorial read: *Sustained efforts needed to thwart racist behaviour.*

It was a well-timed article for me. I had been thinking for some time about the visit from Jesse Lipscombe and the #Makeitawkward campaign. He had urged us to be allies, to speak out when we saw it happening.

I had my first chance the day before.

I get my haircut in a local barbershop owned by Fadhi, a Muslim man. He's a very nice guy. He now has two shops so I don't see him as much anymore, but he employs a couple of other barbers from his community.

Yesterday I went in. The young woman was free; another client was just sitting down in the young man's chair. As I took my seat in the woman's chair I heard the other barber asking the man how short he wanted it. There was mumbling then suddenly the man stood up, whipped off his cloak, ran a comb through his uncut hair and stormed out.

"I just asked him how short he wanted it," said the young man, somewhat perplexed.

"Oh, that guy!" said my cutter. "He was in a while ago, saw me and said, 'I'm not going to have a woman cut my hair!' He didn't need to be so rude about it. Fadhi knows about him but says we need to be more generous than he is."

"Because he doesn't like women cutting his hair?" I asked.

"Yes, but also because he does not like our religion. I wonder why he even comes here."

Time to be an ally...

"Maybe because some people who don't have power in their lives like to go pick fights so they can feel powerful."

"I hadn't thought of that. But still it's sad."

"Yes, but please don't let the few noisy haters overshadow the majority of us who welcome refugees, who know Islam is a religion of peace, and who believe this country is a place of diversity. I'm happy to have you cut my hair."

"You're right...but should we have yelled at him?"

"I don't think so. Your behaviour showed me that you are better than him. You will never change his mind. To me ours is the far more important conversation, the one where allies help each other understand better and act better."

It was a very small and completely unheroic exchange, but she was grateful and I felt good about saying a word. No one took any risks or faced any danger and no one escalated the situation. But in the end, three of the four people involved felt a little better about the man's rudeness.

May we all find a kind word when the time is right. See you in church. Brian

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton will be held in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 11:45 am. Childcare will be provided. Business of the meeting will include staff and committee reports, election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees, election to congregational committee, selection of delegates to the CUC Annual Meeting, approval by-law changes, a social justice motion to accept and display free artwork on our building exterior and consideration of the Operating Budget for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Treasurer's Report for April

The new church budget, which will go to the congregation's annual meeting on May 7, will look a bit different. On advice from our finance committee, I have split our budget in two sub-budgets: a Church budget and a Building budget.

The purpose is to show members how hugely important the revenue from our building has become. Without it we'd be facing a \$45,000 deficit in church operations next fiscal year. The net revenue we get from our rentals, even after building expenses are deducted, will keep our deficit next year in acceptable territory.

If you ever wonder why we have so many renters in our building day and night, that's why: it's keeping us afloat, at least for now. Our administrator, Janet Polkovsky, rides hard on all those renters. She deserves our thanks.

There are challenges ahead of us, however. Only about 3% of our identified donations in 2016 came from people under age 50; 66 per cent of the money came from people over 65. We are an aging organization. To keep going, we're going to have to adapt and to make the most of our assets. The building is one such asset; another, of course, is the amazing people in our congregation.

Speaking of amazing, our Finance Committee members are (in alphabetical order): Karen Bilida, Julius Buski, Ruth Merriott, Andrew Mills and Wendy Smith.

Susan Ruttan, ruttans@shaw.ca

Light the Way!



This year's Light the Way Canvass is coming to a close. In a few days we will tally up the pledges and then estimate what the church's income will be for the coming year. That amount will then go into our annual budget which will be presented at the annual general meeting this month.

If you haven't pledged yet then there is still time! Please follow the link to the online pledge form and tell us your intentions for the coming year. You can also still put a pledge form in the collection plate; ask the ushers for a pledge form this Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who pledged this year. We appreciate you Lighting the Way!

Here is the link to the online pledge form <https://yxd.wufoo.com/forms/z1fiv5eb0y2rv84/>

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

Board Update

Your UCE Board met on March 8, 2017. The March 5th Share Fair was a success. We will be hiring a STEP student again this summer. Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, for presentation purposes only the UCE budget will be shown in two separate sections – Building and Church. 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 April 12, 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)

Orientation Classes for Newcomers

“The New U” is our two part session no pressure program for newcomers to our church. Led by our minister, Brian Kiely and supported by the folks on our Membership Committee, it provides an opportunity to learn more about us. In the first small group setting, participants consider what brought them to UCE and learn something of Unitarianism’s history. (It’s longer than you might think!) In the second session we discuss the theology of the Seven Principles and Six Sources and talk about life in this particular congregation.

The spring sessions will be April 2 and 9 following the service from 12-1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served. Please sign up in the foyer or let Janet know at chadmin@uce.ca. If you can only make one session, that’s fine too. Childcare will be available, but please let us know you will need it.

INVITATION TO NEWCOMERS

If you are receiving our monthly *Newsletter* and are not yet a member of the church, but would like to be, please contact [Church Administrator, Janet Polkovsky, Phone: (780) 454-8073 -- chadmin@uce.ca] to start the process of becoming a fully-fledged member of our very vibrant community. We look forward to welcoming you.

♥Heart to Heart♥

- ♥ Our condolences to Lauren Kay who has returned from Louisiana after attending the funeral of her grandfather.
- ♥ Florence Campbell, a long time beloved member of our church has died. Her memorial service will be held at UCE on Saturday, April 29th at 3 p.m. Florence’s strength of character, wit and generous spirit will be missed.
- ♥ The history project team invites you to visit their newest biography posting located in the foyer of UCE. This month we feature members Gordon Ritchie and Robert Begg. The History Project gathers stories of our members as a way of developing a History Archive for our church.
- ♥ If you would like to speak with a chaplain, please call Rev. Audrey Brooks at 780-489-8842, or email her at audbrook@telusplanet.net to arrange an appointment.

Adult Religious Exploration

OWL Workshops Mondays at 6:30 pm:
April 3rd will feature Karen Stevenson to discuss “Sexuality and the Arts” and on April 24th the group will discuss “Self-Love”
For more information or to register, please contact Lauren Kay at ucekids@uce.ca Childcare is available.

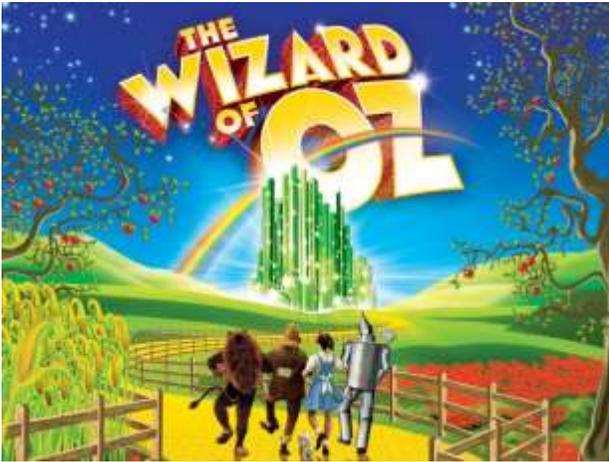


Religion on Tap

Join us for our informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening this April on Tuesday the 25th. 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.



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.

UCE AND ART THERAPY

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



Interested in the concept of "intentional communities" and their potential for ageing Unitarians?

Doctoral researcher, Rev. Helen McFadyen will facilitate a focus group on Tuesday, April 25 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 pm at UCE. If you are aged 55 years + and are willing to share your views candidly within a small group (up to 10 individuals), please contact Helen as soon as possible to register. No associated cost, but a research participant agreement form must be completed. Refreshments will be provided. uuministerkamloops@gmail.com or (250) 572-2018.

Mural for Our Church?

At the AGM on May 7 the Social Justice Working Group will present a motion in support of accepting a special gift from Change for Children. The gift is a large, colourful mural that was painted by youth from Alberta, Nicaragua, and El Salvador and unveiled in 2001 in recognition of Change for Children's 25th anniversary. The mural is currently mounted on the exterior of the Salvation Army building downtown, which is slated to be demolished to make way for a new LRT line. Change for Children has offered the mural to our church free of charge; they will cover the cost of transporting and mounting it. The mural is known informally as "The Peace Mural." Below the mural is a plaque with words from UNESCO's Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace: "Respect all life, listen to understand, reject violence, preserve the planet, share with others, rediscover solidarity."

On Sunday, April 30, immediately after the morning service, the Social Justice Working Group will hold an information session about the mural. Lorraine Swift, Executive Director of the Change for Children Association, will attend, along with some of the people originally involved in creating the mural. This event will be a good time to learn about the mural, as well as for discussion. All are welcome!

Jackie Withers and Jeff Bisanz, for the Social Justice Working Group

Contributions to Homeless Connect

Twice a year Edmonton hosts an event that provides guests—who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless—access to essential and dignity-enhancing services. It is called Homeless Connect Edmonton and its mission is to provide services that will create paths out of homelessness, build lasting partnerships, raise public awareness about homelessness, and provide a vehicle for community involvement in addressing the problems of homelessness.

At the next event (May 7), over 1,000 guests will access over 70 services such as dentistry, hair cutting, housing information, and employment training. They will have the opportunity to create genuine connections within the community, share their stories with volunteers, and build relationships with representatives from various community organizations that they can carry on after the event.

The Social Justice Working Group will again be collecting donations for Homeless Connect. **This year Homeless Connect needs backpacks, gently used men's clothing, and new socks and underwear for women, men, and children.** (They already have all the women's clothing they need from a previous donation drive.) **The final day for donations will be Sunday, April 16.** Please place donations in the green donation bin near the coffee counter and label them "Homeless Connect." Labels will be located on the counter just to the left of the donation bin.

For information about Homeless Connect, see <http://www.homelessconnectyeg.com/>

For information about volunteering, see <http://www.homelessconnectyeg.com/volunteer>

Jackie Withers and Jeff Bisanz, Social Justice Working Group



If your garage, basement or even your house looks like this, it is time to de-clutter!

Our Annual Mammoth Garage Sale

Friday, May 5th 8 am-6 pm
Saturday May 6th 8 am-4 pm

Bring your contributions in **but not before Sunday, April 23rd**
We need good saleable items such as books, CDs, furniture, (no mattresses or stuffed furniture) toys, pictures, linens, tools, jewelry, collectibles, household items, etc. (Please no clothes, old TV's or computers)

Please help with this major UCE fundraiser. There are signups on the credenza in the lounge to help with setting up as well as running the sale and then cleanup after.

Be a National Delegate

For the first time ever, our national UU organization is holding its annual meeting primarily as an on-line affair. The Canadian Unitarian Council's meeting will be in Toronto on Saturday, May 13. But because there is no annual conference this year, it's expected that few people will fly to Toronto merely for the annual meeting.

Instead, most delegates to the meeting will participate via computer hookup. So, why not become a UCE delegate at this meeting? It's your chance to learn how the national organization works.

We get four delegates, and I will be one of them – in person in Toronto, because I sit on the CUC board. But we need three other people. You need to be a church member, be willing to spend some hours watching and participating in a meeting via computer, and willing to learn a bit about it all beforehand.

The main business will be voting on a proposed change in the way congregations support the CUC – it's called the Annual Program Contribution. Right now we pay \$93 per member each year. There are some who think that encourages congregations to downplay their membership count. So a new method is being proposed, one in which congregations would pay a percentage of their annual expenditures as their CUC payment.

On meeting day, you will likely gather at our church around a big TV to attend the meeting. Hopefully other church members will join you – we'll make sure you have something to eat. It may also be possible to participate from your home; I have to check this out.

The CUC is holding orientation sessions about how to do on-line participation and voting. If you're interested in learning, let me know and I'll arrange it.

Interested in being a delegate? Please contact me.

Susan Ruttan, CUC board member, susan@cuc.ca

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.

April 7	Walk from Jan's condo. Parking Details to follow.
April 14	Muttart Conservatory, <i>"Rain is wet and spring is sweet, our bulb show this year is sure to be neat. Hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils are nifty, and this year we have special bulbs called "Canada 150!"</i>
April 21	124 th Street Stroll. Parking under Planet Organic.
April 28	Help with Garage Sale.

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 105Ave & 96St 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).

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Membership Desk	Greeter	Usher	Service Leader	Sound Technician	Piano	Coffee
April 2	Erica Deneve	Cathy Loiselle	Art Breier	Chorealis	Marg Booker	Chorealis	John Turvey
April 9	Will Adair and David Rae	Wendy Smith	Rosemary Falconer	Brian Kiley	Bill Lee	Gordon Ritchie	Clair Horne
April 16	Michelle VanDerMolen	David Rae William Adair	Maurice Bourgoïn	Corinne Jackson	Marg Booker	Karen Mills	Clair Horne
April 23	Michelle VanDerMolen	Kathy Stanley	Jeff Bisanz	Corinne Jackson	Bill Lee	Gordon Ritchie	Clair Horne
April 30	Sheila Parr	Lilas Lysne	Barbara	Lilas Lysne	Shiraz Kay	Karen Mills	Clair Horne

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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.

Easter Hours

The UCE Administrator's Office will be closed from Friday, April 14th and will reopen Tuesday, April 18th.

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

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