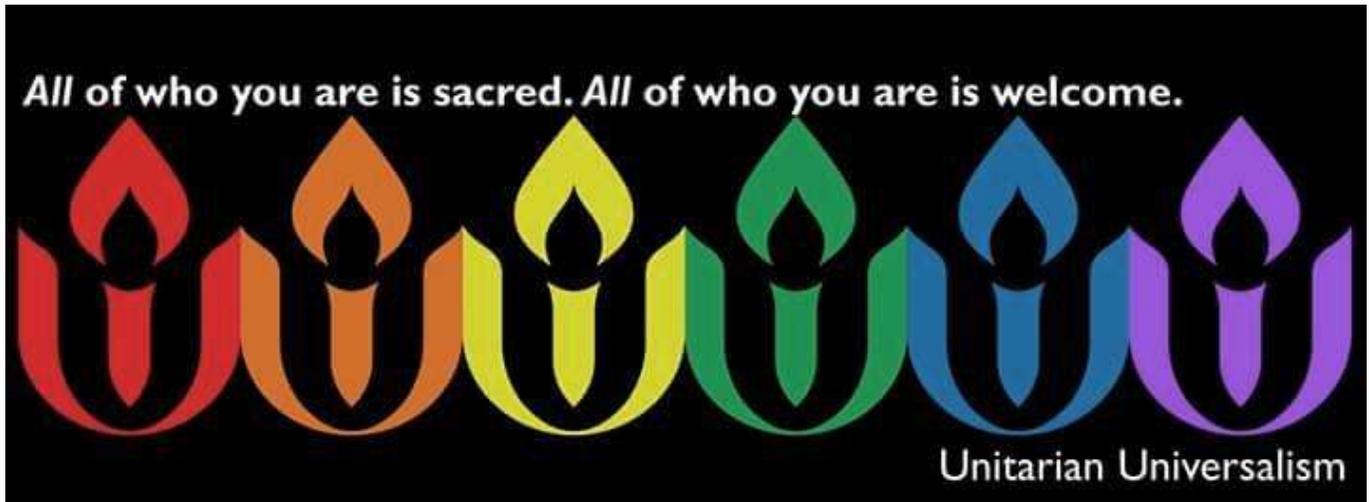


Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

January 2017 Vol 58 No. 1

January Services

Theme: "Canadian Unitarian Vision Statement"



January 1st

"Reflections on 2016"

John Pater

Join me in a reflective service where we'll look back at the top stories of our lives in 2016. We'll share the personal, the cultural (books, movies, music) and the news stories that impacted our lives in the year past.

January 8th

Singing, Shouting, Celebrating

Chorealis

In this month dedicated to learning, we'll learn about our Universalist roots through story and music. The script introduces us to the founders of Universalism in North America, and with a few stories and several hymns, illustrates their gospel of love, their yearning spirit and their social prophecy. Though some of their words sing of another time than ours, our Universalist founders pioneered the questioning mind, the loving and caring spirit, the keen sense of justice and equity that we prize today and have framed our Principles and Purposes.

January 15

"Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive"

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Last year our national body, the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a new Vision Statement. (It is listed below the service notices). As with all such documents they only become meaningful if people take some time to think more deeply about what the nice phrases might mean in our lives and in the life of the church. There are five statements. This sermon looks at the first two.

January 22

"Actively Engaged"

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Continuing with the CUC theme, a religion that stays inside of the church is of limited value. We have to find ways to live our faith in the world both as individuals and as communities.

January 29

"Theologically Alive, Spiritually Grounded"

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

The last two statements of the CUC Vision Statement remind me a little of the line "Roots hold me close, wings set me free" from *Spirit of Life*. I thought I would tackle them together.

CUC Vision Statement

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists:

Seven principles guide our choices,

Six sources nourish our spirits,

Five aspirations help us grow.

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:

- **Deeply Connected** We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within UU communities, with the broader world and with all life.
- **Radically Inclusive** We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities.
- **Actively Engaged** We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.
- **Theologically Alive** We seek to be ever-evolving in our understanding, open to new knowledge.
- **Spiritually Grounded** We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.

Ministerial Musings



As the news broke today that the NDP is seriously considering doing away with Daylight Savings, so did the news of the fall of Aleppo, the on again off again cease fires to let the innocent escape, and the culmination of all the horrors of that siege. Suddenly Daylight Savings (which I loathe from the depth of my being) seemed like an awful insignificant 'first world problem'.

One UCE Board member mused last evening about how the our concerns around Christmas seem so very small compared to that massive tragedy and failure of the international community.

Part of me agrees wholeheartedly. I feel shamed for humanity as a whole. Sure, we took in a lot of refugees, but the UN and the world community did far too little to lessen the horror.

Yet, another part of me knows that personally taking on all the world's despair and suffering only serves to crush our souls. As an individual and as part of a church community that did step up, we did what we could in sponsoring and continuing to support a family of refugees. Still, it doesn't feel like it was enough.

This is one of the challenges of the information age. We can choose to know so much more about the horror in the world than our parents ever could know. We have to set some boundaries, if only for our own sanity. How do we decide which issue we will 'let in'? When is it okay to turn off the news and care for our own souls and needs? These are ethical questions that we each face and we each answer in a personal way.

In January I will offer a four session course on ethical decision-making. It is based on Richard Gilbert's "Ethics: An Exploration in Personal Morality". Richard has been a longtime leader in UU social justice circles.

We will do this over four evenings, January 17, 24, 31 and February 7 from 7-9 p.m. If there is sufficient interest, I will offer it in the afternoons as well. Please sign up on the credenza or let Janet know at chadmin@uce.ca.

Reviewing how we make our ethical decisions and taking an inventory of the tools we have to help us make those decisions is a useful exercise, worth doing every few years. If this intrigues you, come struggle along with me.

See you in church and may 2017 be a little brighter than 2016 has been.

Brian

Religion on Tap

Join us for our informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening this January on Tuesday the 10th. 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.



Treasurer's Report

- David Ready, son of long-time church member Helen Ready who died last spring, has made a \$5,000 donation to the general fund of our church. Because this is a special one-time gift, the board has chosen to direct the money in three ways: Christmas bonuses for our staff, a new Social Justice Fund which the social justice committee can use in the coming years, and boosting our current budget. Thank you, David.
- Our casino money has arrived, all \$73,000 of it. About \$46,000 will be used this month to redeem some of our debenture debt. Casino money has already been used to buy our new dishwasher. We will hold onto the rest and use it when we see an appropriate need.

Our Endowment Fund is gradually creeping back to a respectable level, sitting at about \$79,000. Ten years ago that fund was wiped out when the church borrowed \$120,000 in Endowment Fund money to buy our current building. It's going to be a while before we're rich enough to repay that loan, so it's nice that the fund has recovered so nicely on its own.

Susan Ruttan



Mitten Tree Report

We have never reported on Mitten Tree before, but it's never too late to start. First our collection was greatly enhanced by the gift from Lorna Jane Orletsky. She sent a bag with 95 pairs of colorful handmade mittens with this note:

"My mother over many years knitted hundreds of mitts for the Vegreville Christmas Bureau. She has since passed away. My mother in heaven will know that the tots she made will be keeping some people's hands very warm."

In all we collected 185 pairs of mittens, 172 pairs of socks, 65 hats and 23 scarves. They were given, as always, to Boyle Street Community Services.

Thank you and Happy 2017.

Thank you!

I'd like to extend a huge Thank You to everyone who helped produce another successful Blue Christmas. It's a big job every year, but with so many helping hands the evening really just flies by. Your contribution is valued tremendously, both by me as your coordinator and by the community we serve. Thank you again. I look forward to next year!

Christina Keast

HEART TO HEART



- * Mary Ayers has been moved from the University Hospital to a senior's care facility.
- * Sending words of care to Michelle Van Der Molen on the death of her sister-in-law Leah who died December 11th: condolences to Leah's family who will find life without wife and mother very difficult.
- * Robert Begg's mother Estelle, aged 92, has died in Selkirk, Manitoba; a special, unique and strong woman, she will be missed by all those who love her.
- * Paulette and David Hagel have sold their home in Tucson so will be coming home sooner than expected. They will miss their connections with UU churches

and their many friends and visitors with whom they enjoyed visits and events.

* On Monday, December 12, the Edmonton Vocal Minority and our UCE'S Choralis choirs sang for our annual Christmas concert and party. As always, a good time was had by all, with wonderful food and a silent auction to raise funds for the support of the LGBTQ+ community. Thank you to Paula Roberts, Karen Mills, and Gordon Ritchie our directors, to our wonderful pianist, the volunteers and to the audience – always enthusiastic participants!

* Sunday December 18th was our annual Mitten Tree Service. We sang, Read, meditated, then threw socks, hats, mittens and scarves on the Christmas tree with rampant enthusiasm. Brian read a most amusing and luscious Christmas tale about a moose who was perfect at decorating, baking, shopping and preparing Christmas presents. However, on Christmas Eve, his wife reminded him of one very important thing he forgot to do. He forgot to buy and decorate a Christmas tree!! Oh, my goodness! Now What? Find the book in the children's section of the book store or library. [A Mooselicious Christmas](#) by Margie Palatini, art by Henry Cole.

* Audrey Brooks and Hank Binnema have poems published in the Fire and Sky anthology that commemorates the courage and resilience of the people who survived the Fort McMurray fire. The anthology was launched at The Kasbar on Thursday, December 15th, by David Brydges, coordinator, and Jocelyne Verret, editor. Roylin Picou offered words and music for the event.

* Susan Ruttan, John Pater, and Audrey joined Westwood's Harmonia Choir at the annual Solstice service, held at City Hall on Wednesday December 21, with Rev. Anne Barker as MC. Gordon Ritchie played beautiful harp music; Terry Anderson played the dulcimer. The offering was given to the Terra Teen Parent support organization.

Labyrinth Friday

You are invited to walk our UCE Labyrinth Friday, January 6th, 2017, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 PM. Come at a time that suits you. This ancient path of pilgrimage is rich with meaning and discovery and can be seen as a metaphor for life. There are three stages to the path:

- ☸ Moving Inward-Releasing
- ☸ Centering-Receiving
- ☸ Moving Outward-Returning

Come share a quiet evening at the Church.

OWL Workshops: January 9th and 23rd
 For more information or to register,
 please contact Lauren Kay at
ucekids@uce.ca



Spotlight on our Renter



Open Doors Learning Services Ltd. offers one-on-one tutoring in the areas of Math and English from Grade 5 to the first year of university. We can also tutor any subject from Grades 5 – 9. In addition, we provide services for adult clients in ESL (English as a Second Language) and GED (General Equivalency Diploma) preparation. If you or someone you know needs a bit of extra educational help, please call or text **587-338-2008** or email us at odls@learnitnow.ca.

UCE AND ART THERAPY

Starting January, 2017 art therapy services for adults will be offered at UCE by Karen Stevenson, practicum student in St. Stephen’s College Art Therapy Program. Karen will offer one-to-one art therapy counselling sessions as well as facilitate 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. Sunday, January 29th after the service, Karen will offer an information session on art and expressive arts therapy. All are welcome to come and learn more about what she offers.

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. In the past she trained with the Music for Transition and Healing Program (MTHP) to offer bedside music and was an Artist on the Ward at the U of A Hospital in the early years of that program.

Returning to her first love - the arts and its creative potential, she currently works with senior adults and children/youth in her practicum work. Since 2014 she has trained as an Expressive Arts practitioner with Markus Alexander of World Arts and last April completed Expressive Arts and Trauma through the European Graduate School - Malta. She uses a creative arts approach blending visual art, writing, music, and movement and has explored digital storytelling to enhance healing. Call or text 780.299.3676 for more information or email sustainingwonder@gmail.com



Social Justice Action

Friends of Children in Care, in association with the Creating Hope Society, hosted a candlelight vigil for all the children that have died in care, held on November 30, 2016 at the Alberta Legislature. This event relates to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action concerning children in care, particularly calling upon the government to reduce the number of Aboriginal children in care.



Year End at the UCE



This was my second holiday season as church administrator. Like the last one, it was busy, but it went a lot smoother this time around and I was able to enjoy the atmosphere a good deal more and take in all the efforts that are made.

The Aesthetics Committee, did a smashing job again of making my workplace a beautiful one, not just at Christmas, but the whole year round. Over the seasons I see the care and attention that our choir and music leaders, Karen Mills and Gordon Ritchie, put into every service. They ensure that the congregation not only enjoys the hymns, the choir's singing and the special musical guests but also they make sure it reinforces and

compliments the entire service. I also really appreciate the new addition to our little staff, Lauren Kay, who makes the weekdays more enjoyable and in the process has reinvigorated the RE programming and OWL workshops AND still manages to find volunteer time to put on social events for all to enjoy.



There are so many others who are behind the scenes the whole year round: Jan McMillan and her army of volunteers who put on the annual UCE Garage Sale, Clair Horne who is a fixture at the Sunday coffee counter, Bill Lee who puts the sound tech schedule together, Christina Keast who makes sure everyone is fed on Blue Christmas, our intrepid building and grounds volunteers (Alan Boyle, Gaylord Madill, Art Breier, David Hagel and Horst Konrad) who keep the building together and entertain me every Wednesday – and these were just some of the “fun” jobs our volunteers do! I also admire and respect everyone who volunteers to sit on our Board making the difficult decisions, the tellers (under the leadership of Edwina Madill) who tally up the week's transactions, Andrew Mills, who is waist deep in the PowerChurch Database, implementing an overall structure and Jennifer Hinchcliffe who flags down people to be the welcoming faces every Sunday who greet and usher. UCE wouldn't be the church that it is without our committees either! There is so much going on that we aren't aware of on these committees, but we all can appreciate the outcomes.

Thank you to everyone and I wish you all the very best of health and happiness for 2017! Janet

UCE Walking Group



The UCE Walking Group capped off a varied and exciting year with a pot-luck lunch held in the church kitchen. We had a lovely year of fellowship and companionship on our weekly walks. Some of the activities the walkers took part in were exploring a good number of the river valley trails, sailing on Lake Wabamum, shopping and dining in Camrose. We took in the wonderful Christmas displays at Greenland Garden Centre, and one of the favourite activities was an overnight trip to Rosebud to attend a superb musical. We support many local businesses along the way and as we have lunch following our walks, it's been a great way to try out new restaurants.

A custom we started last year during our annual pot-luck in the church kitchen was to bring our own place settings and to take home our dirty dishes afterwards, so there was next-to-no cleanup. We challenge other UCE function organizers to consider doing the same, when and where possible. I am sure we would be alarmed at the cost of firing up the [new] sanitizer and dishwasher, and the use of soap and kitchen cloths, etc.

Come and join us sometime. You will be made most welcome. The weekly schedule is printed in the monthly *Newsletter (below)*.

Schedule

Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10am, or meet at the walk site at 10.20am. 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.

January 6	Laurier Park
January 13	Park and Lunch at Royal Mayfair
January 20	River Loop Trail: N on Riverbend Rd (from 53 Ave you turn right R on Riverbend Rd), then left on 58 th Ave and follow the road down and it becomes Whitemud Rd and park in the circle at the bottom of the hill)
January 27	Muttart Conservatory

What's Happening at Westwood?

- Monthly Mindfulness Meditation Drop in for silent and guided meditation, no experience necessary. 4th Saturday 10:00 AM to noon.
- Sacred Circle Dances: A relaxing evening of movement and music. 2nd Friday 7:00-9:00 PM.
- Free Thinker's Book Club: Share your thoughts on popular atheist, humanist and free thinker books. Last Wednesday 7:00-8:30 PM.
- Social Justice Film night Enjoy a thoughtful movie followed by stimulating discussion. First Friday of Month 7:00 PM



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	Coffee
January 1 st	Michelle VanDerMolen			John Pater	Bill Lee	
January 8 th	Erica DeNeve	Rosemary Falconer	Will Adair David Rae	Chorealis	Marg Booker	John Turvey
January 15 th	Jolien Pauw		Jeff Bisanz	Not available at time of printing	Shiraz Kay	Clair Horne
January 22 nd	David Rae Will Adair	Audrey Brooks	Kathy Loiselle	Not available at time of printing	Marg Booker	Clair Horne
January 29 th	Michelle VanDerMolen	Bryce Missall Stella Clarke	Maurice Bourgoin	Not available at time of printing	Bill Lee	Clair Horne

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.

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UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON
10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
PHONE 780-454-8073 FAX 780-452-1641
E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEB PAGE www.uce.ca
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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: Mike Keast mikekeast@shaw.ca	780-471-0872
Religious Exploration Leader: Lauren Kay ucekids@uce.ca	780-454-5816
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca	780-454-8073
Campus Minister Rev. Audrey Brooks audbrook@telusplanet.net	780-489-8842
Head Teller: Edwina Madill	780-462-2089
Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca	780-432-0826
Chaplain's Office: Audrey Brooks audbrook@telusplanet.net	780-489-8842
Property Management: Mike Keast	780-471-0872
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