

Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

May 2017 Vol 58 No. 5



“A Church for Serving”

May Services

May 7

Chorealis

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.”

Join Chorealis for their final Choral Sunday of this season as we explore how many lives we can affect without us even knowing.

May 14

“Are We White Supremacists?”

**Rev Brian J. Kiely
Service Leader: John Pater**

Now, there is a loaded term...but it has recently surfaced in our American denomination. As a sensitive response, congregations in Canada and the US are participating in 'teach-ins'. This Sunday Brian will lay out a bit of background and we will frame a conversation about our response to ourselves, our community and to the idea of privilege.

May 21

Youth Empowerment”

**CanUUdle Youth
Service Leader: Jeff Bisanz**

As youth gain confidence and competence, what roles do they play in providing service and what role does service play in helping them to become empowered? We will explore these questions with the help of two delegates to the annual youth conference for Canadian UU youth (CanUUdle), which will be held in Edmonton this weekend.

May 28

“The Limits of Service”

**Rev Brian J Kiely
Service Leader: John Pater**

We all understand what it means to serve, to give of ourselves. It feels good. It feels like we are changing the world. But are there times and good reasons when we should hold back our service?

Ministerial Musings



Don't you hate being sick? I mean, aside from the feeling lousy part of it, there is the 'depending on others' part that doesn't always feel good for people who like running their own lives.
Like me.

Pneumonia. I was diagnosed on Easter Monday. That heavy cold I thought I had wasn't... it was a lung infection. Suddenly my time was being spent getting driven to doctor's offices and pharmacies, waiting to be fed, having nurses and doctors and loved ones taking care of me. Serving me, attending to my needs and often more kindly, to my preferences. I have been well cared for.

In May our service theme is "A Church for Serving". For a lot of us, serving is a positive and desirable thing. It makes us feel good. It gives us a sense of purpose and worth. We know we are doing good.

But this illness has reminded me that being served is the other half of the equation. When you are proud of your independence, being served can be the tougher side of the formula. I am trying my best to be gracious. Let us remember to be grateful for the ability to serve. Let us also be grateful and kind for the people who may struggle to let us serve them.
See you in church.

Religion on Tap – At a New Location!

Join us for our informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening this May on Tuesday the 9th Brian Kiely will host the gathering and start a conversation. Everyone is welcome. Arcadia Bar is located at 10988 124 Street, just a couple of blocks from church.



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.

Board Update

Your UCE Board met on April 12, 2017. We were mainly concerned with preparation for the AGM which we encourage everyone to attend on Sunday, May 7 at 11:45. We also heard a presentation from the Communications Committee. 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 May 10, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.

Gloria Krenbrenk, Board Secretary

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.

Nominating Committee: Nominee Profiles

For vice-president: Karen Bilida B.A., B.Sc., CMA, CPA

Karen started attending UCE with her partner Scott Harrison, who was born into the church. Since she was brought up “anti-religion”, Karen was pleasantly surprised by such a welcoming community at UCE. Karen became increasingly more involved with the inner workings of UCE and is looking forward to becoming a member of the board.

Some of her current UCE activities are:

- Chair of Communications Committee
- Member of Auditing and Finance Committees
- Member of the Strategic Planning Group (Governance and Administration)
- Advertising for UCE Garage Sale and for UCE rental space

For board trustee: Marilyn Gaa

Marilyn joined UCE in 2007 and has attended many UU events as well as being a regular participant in Choreal. She joined and has co-chaired the Social Justice Committee. Marilyn is actively involved with Child Haven fundraising as well as "Write for Rights" with Amnesty International. Marilyn was involved in an active support position while Helen McFadyen worked to meet the requirements for ordination as a UU minister. Marilyn is a passionate member of the Raging Grannies.

For ministerial relations: David Hage!

David became a UCE member in 1984. Then he became a trustee of the Nanaimo Unitarian Church while living in Nanaimo for 10 years. In 2010, he moved back to Edmonton and became actively involved with UCE again. While David and his spouse spent their winter months in Tucson Arizona, they became involved with the Mountain Vista Unitarian Church there. David would appreciate the chance to share his knowledge if elected to the Ministerial Relations Committee to help attract and maintain a strong membership in the UCE. David has been involved in helping UCE members maintain the building as well as helping with several fund raising activities.

For ministerial relations: Julius Buski

Julius and Nonie Buski have been UCE members since 1965. Born in Poland, Julius' family escaped during World War II and came to Canada in 1948, then moved to Edmonton in 1954. A teacher by profession, Julius also served as CEO of the AB Teachers' Assoc. and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (Ottawa based). He has also served as Rotary Int'l district governor which is very dear to him. In the past, Julius has served in several leadership positions including treasurer. He is currently a member of the Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Group and chairs the Church Services Committee. Julius is looking forward to being elected to the Ministerial Relations Committee.



Service Leader and Summer Speaker Training

On Sunday June 4th Brian Kiely and John Pater will lead a short workshop in the Sanctuary for those interested in speaking in church, use of microphones; service planning and presentation will be discussed. Please contact John Pater directly if you are interested: johncpater@gmail.com.



Sharing Our Abundance

During the month of May we are sharing our abundance with the Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS). YESS provides shelter, safety and hope to youth facing difficult realities. The majority of these youth have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused. Many are affected by FASD, depression and addiction. Donations help contribute to the 50,000 meals served annually by YESS. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these youth.

Adult Religious Exploration

OWL Workshops Mondays at 6:30 pm,
May 8th and 29th:

For more information or to register,
please contact Lauren Kay at
ucekids@uce.ca Childcare is available.



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

It Was A Wizard of a Dinner!

A magical night was had by all last month at the annual UCE Fellowship Dinner. Many people wore costumes and got into character to enjoy the decorations, entertainment and food. A big thank you to the Events Task Group and their volunteers who assisted in decorating, running the sound system, MC-ing, cooking and cleaning up afterwards.



2017 W.H. Alexander and Charles Potter Awardees

Bill Lee, receiving the W.H. Alexander Award from Karen Mills, UCE vice president for sharing his sound and internet technology skills.



Marilyn Gaa was awarded Charles Potter Award for all her social justice efforts in UCE's initiatives and the community at large.

Our Mammoth Garage Sale....



...is fast approaching

Friday, May 5th 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday, May 6th 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Please bring your contributions now! The biggest job is getting set up so it would be very helpful if you would unpack your treasures and put them out on the tables in the designated areas. There are signup sheets on the credenza to help with setting up as well as running the sale and cleanup after.

This is our largest annual fundraiser and we need your help!
Ask your family and friends to bring contributions and join us to shop for great bargains!

Our Chefs will be serving up Jumbo hotdogs and drinks to workers and shoppers alike on both days of the sale from 11-2 pm.



**PLEASE JOIN US
 SPRING TIME IN PARIS SENIORS' TEA
 FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017
 DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 AM**

TO RSVP CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:

**(780) 454-8073
CHADMIN@UCE.CA**

History Committee Update

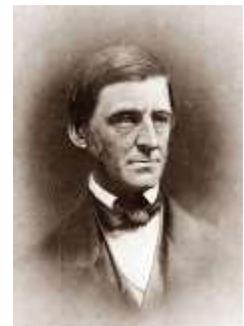
Over the next two months, look for profiles on Lynn Wolff and Jennifer Hinchcliffe. They will be posted on our web site and on our bulletin board near the credenza. You can enjoy their stories in pictures while you are having coffee before services. To date there have been 34 profiles completed. We are aiming to have completed 40 as we approach our tenth anniversary of this committee. If you have any ideas on whom we should profile next, contact LouiseCharach@Gmail.com.

Notable Unitarian of the Past: Ralph Waldo Emerson (May 25, 1803 – April 27, 1882) was a Unitarian minister for only three years but was an important part of the evolution of the Unitarian church. Please go to our Facebook page to see more information on and quotes from R.W. Emerson.

Please use this link to go directly to our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>

Or go to uce.ca and click on the Facebook link on the front page.



The Communications Committee



The Communications Committee is pleased to announce its rebirth. Please look for changes / events / articles of interest on the UCE.ca webpage and active Facebook group page. Not that familiar with Facebook? Look for our upcoming Facebook classes, dates TBD. Please use this link to go directly to our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/> Or go to uce.ca and click on the Facebook link on the front page.

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.

May 5	Help with UCE Garage Sale
May 12	Meet and have lunch at Mayfair
May 19	124 Street stroll (also May long weekend)
May 26	John Janzen Nature Centre

Social Justice Activities

Upcoming:

Film Night: Friday, May 5th 7p.m. at Westwood: No Impact Man follows the Manhattan-based family as they abandon their high consumption 5th Avenue lifestyle and try to live a year while making no net environmental impact. All are welcome, no admission charge.



Pride Parade: Saturday, June 10th: please save the date and look to www.uce.ca and Facebook for more updates.

This Past Month:

On Earth Day 2017 (April 22), Unitarian Universalists Marched for Science!



Edmonton

The March for Science was a peaceful rally which was a call to support and safeguard the scientific community. We had a few members of UCE to brave the cold day. The joke “where is climate change when you need it?” was making the rounds. That joke brings up the idea of “alternative facts” for me. I hope we continue to look at our Beliefs, Principles and Sources to remind us that we must fight against “alternative facts” and they do not happen only in right wing politics in the United States. We all must think for ourselves and doubt what we see on the Internet; please continue to use multiple and reliable sources for your information.

From the March for Science Facebook event page: “We are scientists and science enthusiasts. We come from all races, all religions, all gender identities, all sexual orientations, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all political perspectives, and all nationalities. Our diversity is our greatest strength: a wealth of opinions, perspectives, and ideas is critical to the scientific process. What unites us is a love of science and an insatiable curiosity. We all recognize that science is everywhere and affects everyone.”

This sounds much like a description of Unitarian Universalists. Here are a few Beliefs, Sources and Principles to remind you why Unitarian Universalists belonged at that march.

Belief - Discipline of Reason: We believe in a search for truth and right based on the weight of evidence, the thoroughness of reason and the impulse of compassion.

Principle - A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Source - Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Karen Bilida, Communications Committee Chair

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.
- 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
May 7	Barbara Forbes	Cathy Loiselle	Jennifer Hinchcliffe	Chorealis	Shiraz Kay	Chorealis	John Turvey
May 14	Erica deNeve	Maurice Bourgoin	Jeff Bisanz	John Pater	Marg Booker	Gordon Ritchie	Clair Horne
May 21	Shirley Edgar	David Rae Will Adair	Shirley Edgar	Social Justice	Kat Hartshorne	Gordon Ritchie	Clair Horne
May 28	Michelle VanDerMolen		Barbara Forbes	John Pater	Bill Lee	Karen Mills	Clair Horne

Newsletter Submissions



We are looking for articles and news items that directly involve UCE. Since we are a diverse group of people with many different interests and events, UCE cannot print everything and must limit it to UCE items. Submissions should be short and may be edited for length and content. Don't forget to submit your newsletter items before the 20th of the month and before Thursday for order of service items. Please send appropriate articles and event descriptions **electronically** to the Church Administrator chadmin@uce.ca. Thank you, the Communications Committee

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

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Vol 58 No. 5

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
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Religious Exploration Leader: Lauren Kay ucekids@uce.ca	780-454-5816
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca	780-454-8073
Campus Minister Rev. Anne Barker aebarker@ualberta.ca	780-489-8842
Head Teller: Edwina Madill	780-462-2089
Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca	780-432-0826
Communications Committee: Karen Bilida Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca	
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: Sheila Parr	780-454-7581

More Photos from the UCE Fellowship Dinner, April 8, 2017

