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Unitarian Church of Edmonton

uce.ca



The Edmonton Unitarian: July-August 2019, Vol. 60.7

July 7

Words and Music

John Pater

Selected readings from novels I've read lately paired with music I'm listening to these days. A reflective service on how literature and music can be a spiritual practice.

July 14

Hope and Perseverance: Genocide Memorial Service

Rev. Audrey Brooks

For almost a decade Audrey has been hosting a genocide memorial service in her front garden. This 11th Anniversary of the annual Genocide Memorial Service will be held here at UCE with words, music, dancers and a potluck after the service. Sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action.

July 21

Saying Goodbye to Plastic: It Ain't Easy

Susan Ruttan

Susan shares her struggles to replace plastic in her life. There will be music, snacks and a celebration of the earth.

July 28

Prison Ministry: A Day in the Life of a Chaplain

Deana Walters

Ever wonder what it must be like to work in a federal prison with minimum, medium and maximum security inmates? Listen to the unique challenges of providing ministry in an all-women correctional facility.

***Aug 4 - Looking for a Service Leader!**

Aug 11

Lay Chaplaincy to Serve the Community

Marilyn Gaa

The Lay Chaplain's role is to perform marriages, child dedications, and memorials for those that want a meaningful event that is not constrained by traditional religion. Those attending this service will have an opportunity to share their stories of memorable "rites of passage".

***Aug 18 - Looking for a Service Leader!**

Aug 25

Creativity and Aging: The Health Benefits

Karen Stevenson

More and more studies show that engaging in creative activity improves the psychological, physical and emotional well-being of older adults. Come and learn more about how creativity at any age and skill level can support wellbeing.

SUMMER SERVICES LEADER BIOS

John Pater has been a member of UCE for 20 years. He has had a lifelong interest in the intersection of faith and culture.

Rev. Audrey Brooks is an Interfaith Chaplain at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, a member of the UCE Social Justice Working Group, and a member of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action.

Susan Ruttan is an active church member and has served on the Board of Trustees as Treasurer.

Deana Walters has been working as a Prison Chaplain at the Edmonton Institution for Women since 2011. She started volunteering there as a Master of Divinity student and quickly transitioned into a part-time position, followed by full-time employment.

Marilyn Gaa is an active UCE member who attended an intensive CUC training program to prepare for the role of Lay Chaplain this spring, and was approved by the UCE congregation to represent our church in the community.

Karen Stevenson is an art therapist and offers counselling and workshops for those experiencing life transitions and challenges of aging.

* SERVICE LEADERS WANTED

You can pick a topic and lead a service!

A service leader guide is provided to help you with all the core elements of a typical church service, but the topic and theme of the service is yours to choose!

Contact John Pater, johncpater@gmail.com to sign up for one of the remaining summer services (Aug 4th or 18th)



Chorealis Potluck - To continue our connections, we are getting together for a barbecue on Thursday July 18th at the home of Marilyn and Jim Gaa. Their address is 9318 Edinboro Road (ph 780-432-7660). Bring something to barbecue, something to share, and whatever you like to drink on a summer evening. Also bring your own dishes and cutlery and a lawn chair if you can. **This event is open to anyone from the congregation who would like to join us.**

Some of our Church Newcomers: Make Them Welcome



Brenda Cottle is a retired schoolteacher who heard about the UU church from some Seattle friends she met on a trip to Mexico. She started coming to our church last August and is now a member. She and her husband moved here from Vancouver 10 years ago. Brenda is looking forward to being part of our community and meeting likeminded friends.

Mikey Mudry started coming to our church when his girlfriend Oksana told him about this great group of people that get together on Sundays for a service that's open to anyone with a positive attitude and which is a community-based faith. He keeps coming back because of the people and themes each Sunday which speak to him. Mikey's job is driving locomotives moving rail cars from an electric company.



Alec Moorji (he/him) is a Registered Nurse and Board Member of the EMHC, a grassroots Queer Health Organization in Edmonton. Alec started attending the church in December 2018, hoping to fill a gap spiritually and to begin fostering community connections with folks from all walks of life. Alec has 2 children that join him at church most Sundays and at home he has 2 cats and a puppy. In his spare time, he enjoys taking his puppy to the dog park and spending quality time with his kids.

Rhonda Jessen grew up attending the Lakeshore Unitarian Church in Montreal. She is a recent settler in Edmonton and Treaty 6 territory, but she has lived in Alberta for about 20 years. She started attending Sunday services at UCE in early 2019 and appreciates how welcoming everyone is. Rhonda is a former teacher who now supports student engagement at Alberta Education.



Flower Communion Service Gallery on June 2nd



"Each of us is a flower, with a delicate beauty uniquely our own. We may be like sunflowers, turning always towards the light..."

...May we offer our beauty with the simplicity of flowers, expecting no recognition, hoping for nothing, giving out of what we are, and knowing it is enough."

Words by Amy Zucker Morgenstern



Photos by Art Breier

Genocide Memorial Service

Members of all faiths and ethnic groups are invited to participate in the Genocide Memorial Service

Representatives from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, First Nations and other faiths are invited to tell us how genocide affected their people. Prayers, songs and readings are interspersed throughout the program.

Inscribed memorial stones along with their stories will be presented to the audience. Later, they will be placed in a memorial garden at 9916-154 Street, where they can be viewed. The stones witness, honor and name those who died violent deaths because of wars, racism, gender identity, greed, religious persecution, slavery, ethnic cleansing and appropriation of Indigenous lands.

Genocide is unacceptable. There are ways to resolve conflict other than mass destruction of human beings in the name of politics, greed and exploitation of resources. Powerful killers still incite hate, and carry out intentional attacks on populations to take resources, destroying communities and lives. The stories of loss and grief cause by the denial of human rights will be heard and recognized at this service.



Albert Einstein said, "Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be kept by understanding...all my life I have hated war; it is the greatest curse of man's history. It comes from absolute ignorance, absolute greed, and absolute cruelty...some paths a man takes cannot be retraced. Some acts cannot be undone."



Please let me know if your group can attend. The service will be over an hour long, and is followed by a pot luck lunch. The theme of the service this year is "We are all family." If your group would like to share a song, poem or dance that represents your culture, we would be blessed to have you participate.

Contact Rev. Audrey Brooks:

audbrook@telusplanet.net or call 780-489-8842.

Please note that this is a **scent free** event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/301042367490646/>

Rev. Audrey Brooks, Chaplain Unitarian Church of Edmonton
Member of the UCE Social Justice Group

Sponsors: Unitarian Church of Edmonton and Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action

UNITARIAN RALLY FOR CHOICE

In June, members of UCE and the Raging grannies attended the Pro-GSA (gay straight alliance) and Pro-Choice rallies at the Alberta Legislature Grounds.

We hope that you will join us next time, please watch the newsletters and Facebook for upcoming events!

Unitarians for social justice aim to reduce poverty and economic injustice, discrimination based on religious, racial or other grounds, abuses of human rights whether of individuals or peoples, and abuses of democratic process.



UU's promote peace and security, environmental protection, education, and literacy in keeping with the spirit of Unitarian values.

The Social Justice committee will be meeting again in September; all are welcome to attend any or all meetings.

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) donates half of the loose cash collected each Sunday to a different charity. This summer we will be donating to:

July - 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.



August - BOYLE STREET CO-OP, Edmonton is a non-profit, inner city agency which assists individuals and families challenged by homelessness and poverty. Each year they help over 12,000 people. They provide health care, mental health and addictions support, housing, employment counseling and drop in services.

Welcome to UCE - An Accessible Place

We take pride in the easy access to our facility on many levels and we are always trying to improve our welcome.

Social media allows for even more accessibility.

There are many people that can not physically make it to our building but we still want them to feel included in our community. Social media allows many people to be able to participate with us and keep up on UCE and UU news.

Changes to Facebook this year have made it very hard for pages to reach the people who have liked them, much less new folx.

We need your likes and comments to get Facebook to see our posts as important to their algorithm. Shares are great, too, if you think your friends might appreciate seeing them.

We appreciate your participation, whatever form it takes. We don't have a huge budget for paying to get posts seen, so we count on you all to spread them.

[Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>

[Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/) - <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/>

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian) - <https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian>

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE) - <https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE>

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/) - <https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/>



Recordings of UCE Services for May & June 2019

UCE has a YouTube channel where we post recordings of Sunday services for anyone to listen to. Here are links to May and June services posted prior to the Newsletter deadline.

May	June
<p>May 5 "Questioning Our Way to a Better World" Chorealis https://youtu.be/7p0_i2ZFNfw</p>	<p>June 9 "Pride Service" UCE Youth, Erica DeNeve, Rev. Brian J. Kiely https://youtu.be/YliFCu-xoAA</p>
<p>May 12 "Where Do I Come From?" Rev. Brian J. Kiely https://youtu.be/DvDbctyWGX0</p>	<p>Recordings of Other UCE Services</p>
<p>May 19 "Divine Curiosity" Rev. Brian J. Kiely https://youtu.be/Yg5EX_GlyeE</p>	<p>Click on this link to go to the playlists of all services posted so far. Each playlist covers a church year.</p>
<p>May 26 "And in the Future" Rev. Brian J. Kiely https://youtu.be/4H3DI-IMf0k</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian/playlists?view=1&sort=dd&flow=grid</p>

Can anyone be a Unitarian?

We welcome anyone with an open mind who shares our tolerant and inclusive views, who embraces the freedom of being in a faith community that doesn't impose creeds or specific beliefs, and who bases their approach not on dogma but on reason.

#WeAreUnitarians

   **Unitarians UK**



* Thank you to the UK Unitarians for the use of this quote and image

Membership

Visitors are always welcome and can participate easily and without obligation.

If you are at least 16 years of age and in general sympathy with our purposes and program, we invite you to become a member by completing a Membership Application which you can drop off to the membership desk, minister, church office or e-mail to church administrator (chadmin@uce.ca).

There is no creedal test and no obligatory ceremony connected with becoming a member. All members, however, are expected to take an interest in their church and to contribute as they are able, both financially and through service (please see volunteer opportunities on the church credenza and in the newsletters). Please visit our [Donations & Planned Giving page](#) for more information on financial donations.

We welcome you to a church that is a fellowship of seekers, dreamers and doers.

You can find Membership forms on the [website](#) or at the membership desk.

🌹 HEART TO HEART 🌹

On Friday, June 7th, at UCE, a memorial service celebrating the life of member Marnie Sproule was held. There were many interesting family stories about Marnie. This quiet person, who did not draw attention to herself, was something of an Everywoman with multiple talents and a great love for everyone who came through her door. She was nurse, potter, lover of the arts, hiker, gardener, parent & photographer, who also had a look in her eye and a lifted thumb that made her point and kept both adults and kids in fine order.

Our UCE Wiccan group celebrated the Summer Solstice at the Sunday, June 23rd service. Thanks to Ali Hammington, Gordon Ritchie and all of the volunteers who helped make it happen. The 11th annual Genocide Memorial Service will happen on Sunday, July 14, in the sanctuary of UCE, starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch after the service. This is a scent free event.

A senior's message: "If ever the need arises and I am living in a senior's home, please come and see me when you can. Sit and talk with me awhile, or share with the recent news. Call me on the phone if you can't stop by, I'd love a chat, and it would just make my day. My biggest enemy is often loneliness, after the busy life I led even though I make new friends, it's my former life I miss the most."

"Our mission is love, our race is humanity, our faith is in each other."

Rev. Audrey Brooks, Interfaith Chaplain, UCE

In recognition of potential health risks, the Unitarian Church of Edmonton has developed a scent free policy. Everyone is asked to refrain from using or wearing scented products when entering our building. Scents are included in a very large range of products including:

- shampoo and conditioners
- hairsprays
- deodorants
- colognes and aftershaves
- fragrances and perfumes
- lotions and creams
- potpourri
- industrial and household chemicals
- soaps
- cosmetics
- air fresheners and deodorizers
- oils
- candles
- diapers
- some types of garbage bags
- laundry fragrance beads and dryer sheets



Please be considerate to others and do your best to be scent and smoke free.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATES

Summer Sundays RE Program



**ANNOUNCING OUR NEW
SUMMER RE PROGRAM**

CIRCLE OF TREES

A multi-generational program that nurtures deep connection with tree, nature and all earths living creatures.

This exciting program features some indoor and outdoor activities. We will start right at 10:30 in class for about 15 to 25 min. And then we will head outside for the rest of the morning. We will be having variety of activities all geared toward learning about nature and its part in the interconnected web. If you think your young people may enjoy joining the fun on Sunday morning of the summer, let us know.

Volunteers Needed



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR RE**

Do you have a Sunday to two that you could spare? Volunteer to be second in the Sunday Religious Exploration Classes. Come make a difference! Now using SignUp Genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DA9AB2CA4F58-reclassroom1>

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! Now using SignUp Genius check out the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DA9AB2CA4F58-reclassroom1>

SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Coffee	Greeting	Ushering	Piano	Sound Tech
Jul 7		Kathy Stanley	Rosemary F.		John Pater
Jul 14	Karen Bilida & Scott Harrison	Wendy Smith			Bill Lee
Jul 21		John Sproule			Bill Lee
Jul 28		Mike Mudry	Rhonda Jessen		John Pater
Aug 4		Gertrud J.	Rosemary F.		Ruth Merriott
Aug 11		Gertrud Janke			Ruth Merriott
Aug 18		Gertrud Janke			Bill Lee
Aug 25					Bill Lee

**Still looking for volunteers. Sign-up sheet is in the lobby on the credenza.*

Edmonton Food Bank Volunteers

Volunteer Shift is Wednesday evening 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

	Key Holder	Person #2	Person #3
Jul 3	Marge Roche	Brian Kiely	Erica Slevin
Jul 10	Sylvia Krogh	Rosemary Falconer	
Jul 17	Sylvia Krogh		
Jul 24	Brian Kiely	Lily Kiely	Erica Slevin
Jul 31	Marge Roche		
Aug 7	Brian Kiely	Violet T.	Erica Slevin
Aug 14	Marge Roche		
Aug 21			
Aug 28	Brian Kiely	Lily Kiely	Erica Slevin

UCE WALKING GROUP SCHEDULE

26-Jul-19	Westlock led by Sylvia Krogh
9-Aug-19	Indigenous Art Park led by Christine Mowat
16-Aug-19	Fringe
23-Aug-19	Fringe
30-Aug-19	Sunshine Bay Yacht Club courtesy of Sylvia & Alan

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.

BOARD UPDATE

The UCE Board has wrapped up for the year. We will start our new year with a board retreat in September. We look forward to our upcoming year which will likely be full of change and opportunities for growth.

MESSAGES FROM THE CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL (CUC)

UCE is part of a wider family of Canadian Unitarian and Universalist congregations and communities in Canada. These make up the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), the national association of member congregations. The CUC, as the national office, is a voice for our vibrant, liberal faith community, within the interfaith community in Canada, and within the international UU community.

As a member of your congregation, by extension, you also have a relationship with the CUC.

Please learn more at <https://cuc.ca/> and don't forget to sign up for the CUC online newsletter

Of special interest to Young Adults:

[Gathered Here: Young Adult Check-In](#), July 8 and August 12, 8:00 p.m. ET

Gathered Here is a monthly online check-in and gathering for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults.

CUC Leadership Training:

[Serving With Spirit Nurturing UU Leaders – WEST](#), 3-day retreat, August 9 – 11

Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, AB, Registration deadline: July 10

Facilitators: Revs. Anne Barker and Chris Wulff

[Serving With Spirit: Stronger Together, Planning for Partnership](#), 1-day workshop, August 10 - In-person or online

Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, AB, Registration deadline: July 10

Facilitator: Rev. Joan Van Becelaer

CATCH A FRINGE PREVIEW AT UCE

WHERE HEROES LIE
A Play by David Haas

A Canadian soldier's
Daughter & Great Granddaughter
visit his grave in France
and learn a decades old secret
about his heroic death in battle

Pre-Fringe Preview At UCE

Saturday, August 10 – Doors 7:00 p.m. – Show 7:30 p.m.
Admission Free – Members & Non-Members
Donations to Collection Plate or Foodbank Welcome

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.

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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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Religious Exploration Leader: Will Adair ucekids@uce.ca	780-454-5816
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Chaplain Services: Reverend Audrey Brooks audbrook@telusplanet.net	780-489-8842
Lay Chaplain, Marilyn Gaa marilyngaa@telusplanet.net	780-432-7660
Property Management: Mike Keast	780-497-1303

**You do not have to be a member of the congregation to make a
Tax Deductible contribution to UCE.**

- ☞ You can donate online by Credit card through [Canada Helps](#) or [ATB Cares](#)
- ☞ Place your donation in the basket during a Sunday service
- ☞ Contact the office for other donation methods