

January's Theme – Endings and Beginnings



January 5

“Endings and Beginnings”

Chorealis

The turning of the year is a good time to reflect on what we will say hello and goodbye to in the year ahead. It's a time of possibility, of fresh starts. But it can also be tinged with regret, a sense of loss, and uncertainty. We'll make space for all the thoughts and feelings as we begin our new year in community.

January 12

“A Different Kind of New Year”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Join us for a special service that will include the dedication of two babies who have come into our congregation. I will also reflect on the role and importance of Rites of Passage in our Unitarian tradition.

January 19

“What You Bring”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Sometimes UU's wonder what effect they can have on the wider world, since we are small in numbers. Today I am going to resurrect and adapt an exercise from very early in my career as a minister that will show just how much of an impact we do have in so many places, groups and issues.

January 26

“So long and Thanks for All the Fish”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

This is the title of the fourth book in Douglas Adams' five book trilogy “The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy”, a comedy sci-fi series from the early 1980's. That description demonstrates the silliness of the whole thing. But it seemed a fitting title for a final sermon in a 22 year ministry, if only because all the other titles would be less interesting.

* Please join us for a potluck and celebration of Rev Brian's retirement after the service *

Ministerial Musings

I have been dreading writing this column for over a year. **Even as I start begin typing, I really don't know what to do.** For the record this is my 220th UCE monthly newsletter column. Holy Mackerel! **And now I get to say goodbye...except I don't know how.**

I guess what I have to say is thank you...thank you for standing by me for all these years. A lot happened and you went through it with me, or maybe, we went through it together.

You supported me when I was elected to the Canadian Unitarian Council Board and later became its President. Then you gave me leave to go and work for several years as President of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, telling me that was part of the work of this church.

You were equally supportive when I joined the Steering Committee (along with Audrey Brooks) of the Capitol Region Interfaith Housing Initiative here in Edmonton.

Those were just of the few things my position here allowed me to do outside our walls. I had the honour of working alongside so many of you as we acquired and built this church building.

You were there when I started a family, and welcomed my extended, blended family as well.

You cheered me on when I took a cooking sabbatical and gave me lots of opportunities to show off my new found skills.

You have also been very kind and supportive during my eight years doing long distance cycling fundraising, **though there have been some, "Are you nuts?" quizzical looks.**

During my years of service I have worked with Boards led by 14 different Presidents, always amicably. I have worked alongside two Administrators and eight different Directors of Religious Exploration, not to mention our wonderfully constant pair of Chorealis co-directors who doubled as Sunday accompanists.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming new members, and the bittersweet joy of bidding farewell to those who choice a new path for themselves.

I have had the privilege of marrying, welcoming new life and saying farewell to those who have died. In many ways that work has felt like the prize for doing all the other tasks of ministry. Being with people in their most joyful and sorrowful moments is a gift that stays in the heart long after the service ends.

And perhaps the greatest honour of all has been that you showed up on Sundays to listen to my words. Though a sermon appears to be one person speaking to a group, in fact it is really a series of dialogues as you silently agree or disagree with my words, wander off with your own thoughts, write your own sermon, or use the droning background of white noise as a time to discover what you most need that Sunday. **However you have received the sermons, I have enjoyed the 'conversations'.** Thanks for letting be do it.

I remember feeling the call to ministry a long time ago and wondering if I was nuts. It took me some time to believe it was real or even possible. Looking back, I realize that it was one of the best choices I have ever made. I am leaving now, not because I am tired of this work, but because I wish to step back before I get tired of this work. Call it selfish, but I would hate to get to a day when I wondered if it had all been worth it. These days I am imbued with a feeling that it has, and I am satisfied.

Thank you and farewell.

See You In Church,
for a few more weeks.

Brian



“We are here, here together,”

This year’s Canvass theme is “Here Together.” It comes from the gathering hymn “Here Together” by David Glasgow that Choreal is has been singing for the last couple of months. UCE is about to change, but with your volunteer help and financial support we can all move through this period of change successfully.

“in this holy moment,”

Our church is a special place. It is special because we are here together as a supportive community. We care about our friends in the church and that make it special to all of us.

“and we’re grateful for the winding road”

During the next few years we will be taking a new road as we start the process of finding a new minister. There will be lay-led services, an interim minister, and then a search for a new minister. This road will wind its way in many directions until it leads us together to our new future. I am personally looking forward to this transition as there will be many new ideas and interesting ways for us to grow together.

“that brought us to this place.”

We are Here Together in this church. We, and the sense of community that brings us together, are why this church exists. In the next few months we will be asking you to financially support the work of this community and this church. We can only support our “here” if we do it “together.”

You can find more information on the UCE website on the Canvass tab.



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

Acronyms

Here are some acronyms you may hear around the church and see in this newsletter

UCE = Unitarian Church of Edmonton

DRE = Director of Religion Exploration, formally Religious Education

RE = Religion Exploration formally Religious Education but here at UCE we often mean kids and youth

UU = Unitarian Universalism or Unitarian Universalist

AGM = Annual General Meeting (held in May at UCE)

CUC = Canadian Unitarian Council

UUA = Unitarian Universalist Association

CRA = Canadian Revenue Agency

LOL = Laughing Out Loud

Reminder from the UCE Board

Please remember that cheques made out to the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (or UCE) are allocated to UCE funds. Cheques made out to UCE cannot be given to individuals or other charities without a vote at the UCE board level and in some cases a vote at the AGM (an example is when UCE has sponsored refugee families).

Plus, as a rule of thumb, please remember that anything that involves money must be approved by the UCE board first.

COFFEE WITH THE BOARD will continue in the New Year – look in the order of services for future dates.

Guidelines for Booking the Church

Looking for a venue for a function you're having? Our church has lots of spaces available, at a reasonable price. There's the sanctuary, which will hold up to 140, and the foyer, which is great for receptions before and after events. Keeler Hall is also available, and the two classrooms work for smaller gatherings.

Details and prices are on our website, at <https://www.uce.ca/renting-the-facilities/>. If you have a date in mind, check with our administrator Janet about availability. She's at 780-454-8073 or chadmin@uce.ca.

Remember that because we are an official registered charity and not a private club, we are not allowed to give special deals to our members. The exception is that church members may use our building for a UU wedding service, child dedication or funeral service at no rental charge, as these are rites of our religious organization. The reception for a wedding, for example, would be considered a rental of the facilities.

Of course, there is no charge for church-run social and business events.

From the UCE Rentals Committee

Transitional Church Services Working Group

The next Transitional Church Services Working Group meeting will be taking place on Sunday January 5th at 12pm in classroom

Religion Exploration Update

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for all your support at Pancake Brunch. This month we will be talking a lot about change and renewal, as well as the importance of this time of year for many of the world religions in our Classes.

Important Religious Exploration Dates for January

- January 5th – Sixth Principle – part 1
- January 12th – Sixth Principle – **part 2, Also “Time with an Elder.”**
- January 19th – Seventh Principle – part 1
- January 19th – Youth Activity, Laser Tag @ Laser Quest from 1 to 3 pm
- January 26th – Seventh Principle – part 2
- January 26th – Family Activity, Tabletop Games and Togetherness, right after service in Keller Hall

Upcoming events to keep in mind

- The All Ages Drag Show held at UCE will be donating all proceeds from the January 18th show to the UCE youth group – please join us for the **“Beach Party”**
- Sr. High OWL classes in conjunction with Calgary
 - All youth will be welcome. We will have activities, and other sessions for the Jr high youth but will not be OWL this year.
 - There will be a small registration fee to cover the cost of food and supplies. As soon as we know the amount, we will let you know.
 - February 28th to March 1st will be here in Edmonton
 - March 13th to 16th will be in Calgary (we will head out Friday night so we can get started on activities first thing on Saturday morning)
- CanUudle
 - May 15th to 18th in Halifax

Thank you in advance for any support you can give. Will Adair, RE Director, ucekids@uce.ca

UCE Youth Fundraising

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) is happy to be one of the sponsors of the Dragging Youth Series, an all ages drag show held at the church once a month.

January’s theme is **“BEACH PARTY”** - Saturday January 18 Show at 6pm
\$5 cover charge – All money raised in January goes to the UCE Youth Fundraising for the May trip to CanUudle in Halifax. Cash Bar and Snack table too! <https://www.facebook.com/events/575451592999966/>



Mitten Tree Joy

This year our Mitten Tree decorations yielded 173 pairs of socks, 98 hats, 20 scarves and 62 pairs of gloves. Thank you for your generosity!

🌹 Heart to Heart 🌹

- 🌹 Congratulations to Oksana Atwood and Mike Mudry on the birth of baby Frederick.
- 🌹 The Mitten tree service with Rev. Brian Kiely and his story for all ages, led to the joyous mayhem of the children and enthusiastic adults tossing mitts, scarves, socks and good knows what else at our Christmas tree. We also lit candles for all of the new children born this year, and added new wax to the big baby candle. One family has three generations of babies recognized in that candle, the latest one being little Zacharia.
- 🌹 Sylvia Krogh has broken her ankle - "I went walking with the wonderful Unitarian women's walking group in a forest - where I broke my ankle in two places. There is some irony here as we left Edmonton to escape slippery situations - but moss is slippery too! However, after surgery, Alan is taking good care of me at home."
- 🌹 We send our support and love to Jaqueline Willette and Miguel Ferreo of Westwood Unitarian Congregation, who lost their home because of a rapidly moving fire. Miguel discovered heavy smoke in the basement, and they quickly got out of the house in their nightclothes. Though the fire department was there immediately, the fire was difficult to put out, and the house is unfixable. Jaqueline, who was on CBC making a donation to the Turkey Drive, was positive and forward looking, since she and Miguel were safe and grateful for the friends and congregation who are there for them .
- 🌹 A member of the Westwood congregation is facing hard times. In a cash crunch, he is seeking paid jobs to pay some of his bills. He has a truck and he can be hired for: snow shovelling, clearing garages/yards/basements, clean ups, moving or downsizing, and pick up & delivery, transporting items or driver. If there is work you may have for an able bodied fellow please contact **Westwood's** Compassion Banker, Sara Mac Ewan 780 426 7748

"Our mission is love, our race is humanity and our faith is in each other." Rev. Audrey Brooks
Remember that if you are experiencing loss, or would just like to chat about something, Email audbrook@telusplanet.net, or phone 780-489-8842 and ask for Chaplain Audrey

Sharing Our Abundance Recipients



UCE donates half of the loose cash collected each and every Sunday to a different charity. For the month of January UCE will be sharing with CHANGE FOR CHILDREN, Edmonton which partners with communities in Latin America and Africa who are struggling with poverty to improve access to basic needs, healthcare and education. It is a local organization but aid goes to developing countries.



News from the Social Justice Working Group

This is an active time of year for your UCE social justice crew! Our November blanket drive garnered more than 40 blankets, which were distributed to our homeless friends at the SMILE Sidewalk parties. We also took the leftovers from the senior's Christmas lunch down to the party on December 1, which were gratefully received.

The Annual Write for Rights campaign was a huge success this year, with many letters written to Amnesty International in support of young people imprisoned for their human rights advocacy. We were even visited by community members

and out-of-town visitors who were delighted for the opportunity to write a letter! Many thanks to Marilyn Gaa, who faithfully organizes this event every year at UCE.

The social justice crew has been working with the transition services team to help provide services after Brian retires. We will be taking on more services next year, and will be offering a service in February dealing with issues around neurodiversity.

Also in the New Year, we will be looking at ways we can partner with other churches to combine our anti-poverty initiatives and improve the advocacy we provide. Stay tuned for more details!

Sunday Service Volunteer Schedule

	Coffee	Ushering	Greeting	Piano	Sound Tech
January 5	John Turvey	Rhonda Jessen, Maureen Day	Brandie Moller-Reid	Chorealis	Marg Booker
January 12	Clair Horne	David Rae	Barbara Forbes		Geoff Jackson
January 19	Clair Horne	Maurice Bourgoïn	Wendy Smith		Ruth Merriott
January 26	Clair Horne	David Rae	Maurice Bourgoïn		Kat Hartshorne

UCE's Featured Artist - Karen Bishop



Born in Cheltenham, England and moved to Canada in 1992. Karen graduated from the U of A with a Fine Arts certificate in 2002. From 2011-2016 Karen was the co-owner of The Daffodil Gallery on 124 street but now enjoys the freedom of selling her art online and at art shows.

Karen's work is not intended to be faithful reproduction of the landscape before her, instead she paints by feel. You can especially see the emotion in the works that are completed on location where the surroundings and the weather

dictate the process. Karen's latest works are Watercolour on Yupo paper. Yupo is a sustainable, synthetic paper that allows her to move the pigments in a loose fluid style.

On Karen's website, you can order everything from large originals, to prints, cards, calendars, and more.

KarenBishop.ca



UCE Walking Group Schedule

January 10	(Meet at church at 10:00 am and carpool, or at RAM at 10:30 am, or take the bus)! Lunch at the RAM Café. Admission is \$14 for seniors. If 10 or more there may be a group discount.
January 17	Meet/Park at Jewish Centre at 10:15 am and take the bus to Enterprise Square (Jasper and 103 St). Meet in the Food Court in Enterprise Square.
January 24	Meet at church at 10:00 am, or Laurier (South end of Buena Vista Road) at 10:20 am.
January 31	Meet at church at 10:00 am or Picnic Site #1 at 10:15 am. Lunch at Amber Café (10166-114 Street)
ALSO, for those interested, we will plan to attend the SUNDAY PRANZO at the Santa Maria Goretti centre at noon on SUNDAY, JANUARY 19. Cost is \$28 including taxes and tip (https://santamariagoretticentre.com/pranzo)	

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.

Recordings of UCE Services for November & December 2019



UCE podcasts the audio of Sunday services on SoundCloud.com. Anyone using a podcast app can subscribe to our channel and receive new episodes as soon as they are published. To subscribe, open your app and search for *Unitarian Church of Edmonton* or for *UCE*. Once subscribed, you can stream any service or you can download it to your phone, tablet, or computer and then listen without an internet connection.

If you don't wish to use a podcast app, you can stream the services directly from the SoundCloud host. Here are direct links to the November services and to the December services published prior to the Newsletter deadline.

November 3 *Finding Each Other*, Chorealís
<https://bit.ly/34A9XtT>

November 10 *Find Yourself First*, Rev. Brian J. Kiely
<https://bit.ly/36ZpfKq>

November 17 *Connection in a Social Media World*, Rev. Brian J. Kiely
<https://bit.ly/2QvrrDN>

November 24 *Risk*, Rev. Brian J. Kiely
 Recordings of Other UCE Services

The home link of the SoundCloud channel is <https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827/>.

For services for church years 2018-2019 and previous, click this link to the playlists on YouTube. Each playlist covers a church year.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian/playlists?view=1&sort=dd&flow=grid>

<https://bit.ly/2XGhHIA>

December 1 *A Pioneer Christmas*, Chorealís
<https://bit.ly/2sTzfFH>

December 8 *Christmas Tradition*, Rev. Brian J. Kiely
<https://bit.ly/35e4Osd>

Wednesday Night Food Bank Distribution



UCE Edmonton donated \$510.34 to this year's Turkey Drive from November's contributions to Sharing Our Abundance.

UCE volunteers distributed 1172kg of food plus 36 hams and turkeys on Dec 18, helping feed 40 families.

UCE volunteers distribute food bank hampers every Wednesday,
Join us any week!

Food Bank Distribution Signup Sheet

Volunteer shift is Wednesday evening 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

Please come help, there will be somebody here that can show you what to do.

	Key Holder	Additional Volunteers
January 8	Marg Booker	Stephen Greenhalgh, Gerard Hayduk
January 15	Scott Harrison	Jan McMillan
January 22	Marg Booker	Robert Begg
January 29	Scott Harrison	Jan McMillan



Calendar of Church Events

Here are some upcoming dates in 2020 to mark in your calendar. Please watch upcoming newsletters and social media for details and any possible changes:

January 26	Celebrate with Brian! It is Brian's final service with us and let's party. Pot luck after the service. Bring food, your own plate and cutlery. Please contact Kathy Stanley for more information at kathystanley@shaw.ca .
March 14	Chorealis Cabaret
April 4	Membership Dinner
April 30 – May 1	Casino Fundraiser
May 3	UCE AGM

***Please remember that events can be added or changed.

You can keep up with us online

We would love to see more comments on our Facebook and Twitter posts – please give it a try!



Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>

Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/>



Twitter - <https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE>



Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/>



YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian>



UCE website calendar - <https://www.uce.ca/calendar/>

News from Other UU's



www.UUhystericalsociety.com

The Refugee project was a Holiday project of The UU Hysterical Society Coffee Hour. There is a group of six people who were forced to flee Burundi several years ago for participating in pro-democracy protests.

Rev Fulgence Ndagijimana and friends have been working hard to get these people to Canada, and this project is a part of that effort. The project includes several product sets, and 100% of the profits go to funding their settlement. Please learn more about the project at: <https://www.flaminginternational.org/>

CUC Events



Coming Spring 2020, CanUUdle XX: Celebrate 20 years of CanUUdle! Chorus 2020: National Young Adult Conference [CUC National Annual General Meeting](#)

Hosted by the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax May 15 – 17, 2020

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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Phone 780-454-8073 Fax 780-452-1641
Office Hours: Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEB PAGE www.uce.ca

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: Karen Mills karenmills@me.com	780-432-0826
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca	780-454-8073
Religious Exploration Leader: Will Adair ucekids@uce.ca	780-454-5816
Head Teller: Edwina Madill	780-462-2089
Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca	780-432-0826
Communications: Karen Bilida Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca	780-807-6380
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 mikekeast@shaw.ca	780-497-1303