



February's Theme is

Connection

February 2

Taizé Service

Chorealis

Taizé, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The music emphasizes simple phrases repeated and sometimes also sung in canon.

February 9

“Joining Hands, Changing Lives”

Social Justice Group

The service will focus on the importance of building relationships with persons living in poverty as **an integral part of UCE's anti-poverty efforts**. We will be joined by Lisa P., of SMiLE, who will speak about her experiences in organizing a grass-roots program which allows ordinary citizens to bond with, and help care for, our most vulnerable homeless neighbours. We will also hear from Robert Z., a formerly addicted homeless man, whose relationship with the SMiLE program helped him to get sober and change his circumstances. The service will be followed by a potluck lunch of homemade soups, breads and desserts.

February 16

“You People...”

Susan Ruttan

How is Canada doing as a multi-ethnic nation? We mark Black History Month by reflecting on how Canadians have behaved, in the past and today, toward minorities like indigenous peoples and those who identify as black. Guest musicians: the Peppercorn Steel Orchestra.

February 23

“Making Waves”

Maureen Day & Rhonda Jessen

Let's look to water to explore how we can have an impact while being yielding, adaptable and in the flow. This is a Sharing Our Faith service, designed to encourage greater associational awareness in UU congregations and a sense of community and connection among and between our member congregations and communities.

* Please click on underlined service title to connect to the Facebook events.

You can keep up with any changes/updates, plus you can also share with friends and family.

Letter from the President

February 2020

We are embarking on an exciting time as a congregation. From now until September, we will be a lay-led church. It will be a time to imagine and co-create **how we want to be in the world. As I've been** thinking about what life at UCE may look like over the next few months, two ideas keep coming to me. The first is from the American writer, teacher and activist Starhawk. She wrote:

*We are all longing to go home to some place
we have never been—a place half-remembered and half-envisioned
we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.*

Community.

*Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion
without having the words catch in our throats.*

Somewhere a circle of hands

will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter,

voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

Community means strength

that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.

Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing.

A circle of friends.

Someplace where we can be free.

I share her belief that we all long for community. I believe we create community at UCE, and I would hope it can be the “home” that Starhawk writes of. I also believe that, “community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.”

Over the next few months, we will have more work than usual that needs to be done. We will be creating our own services, offering all our pastoral care, and preparing to welcome an interim minister in the fall. As demonstrated by the “service tree” at the Jan. 19 service, we have a lot of talented people who bring a lot to our church. We are in great shape to carry through until September (and long after that). However, there simply will be more to be done by volunteers, and things will be different.

So, we will need to support one another. Brian was often a conduit for communication and a connector of people. Without him, it's now up to each of us to check in with one another, support new people trying out new roles, and ensure things run as smoothly as possible.

That brings me to my second idea. A few years ago, I took training in The Circle Way, a type of facilitated conversation. Before a Circle Way discussion, participants set circle agreements. One of the agreements often used is, “Ask for what you need and offer what you can.”

I love this agreement for two reasons. First, it explicitly says you need to ask for you need. It's so easy to imagine that others think like we do and that certain things are obvious. If that were true though, there would be a lot less resentment and frustration in the world. When I've had to ask for what I need, I first have to be really clear on what it actually is that I want. That's not always as easy

as it sounds. It's a bit like thinking you're hungry when what you really are is thirsty. Once a need is clearly defined and articulated though, it's so much easier to meet.

Secondly, I like that the agreement is to *offer what you can*. That gets to the heart of the give and take that is community and connection. It also doesn't set any limits or definitions on the offering. It simply creates an expectation that everyone can and will participate in the community. (In the Circle Way, even if someone chooses not to speak, they are still asked to be engaged in the dialogue by reflecting on why they chose not to speak and what effect the words of others are having for them.) "Offering what you can" also acknowledges that our lives change – that sometimes we are able to give more of our time and talents and sometimes just showing up is the most we can do – and that only you know at any given time what you can offer.

So, as we embark on this adventure together, let's be gentle and generous with each other. Let's enjoy the possibilities. Let's ask for what we need and offer what we can. Let's be the *circle of hands open to receive, the eyes that light up as others enter, and the voices that celebrate together as we come into our own power*.

Karen Mills

Coffee With The Board will continue on the fourth Sundays of the month.
February's Coffee with the board will be February 23 after the Sunday Service.



Honour the Work of UCE Members

Two annual awards will be presented at our annual congregational dinner on Saturday, April 4th:

1. The W.H. Alexander Award honours a person or persons for extraordinary services provided to benefit the church community.
2. The Charles Potter Award for Community Engagement honours a member of our congregation who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to communities outside our church, and whose work there shows exceptional commitment to UU principles and values.

Nominations are due by March 3, 2020. Submit your nominations for these awards to board secretary Gloria Krenbrenk by email – gkrenbrenk@gmail.com – or in writing through the church office. The board will select the recipients.

Rules:

- Nominations must be made in writing (email is fine) by UCE members and must include reasons for nominating the person or persons.
- Board members may not submit nominations.
- Staff and current board members are not eligible.
- Past staff and board members are eligible if the services for which they are nominated were not performed during the period when they held these special positions.
- A person may be nominated for, or win, the award more than once.



This month I would like to tell our new members about canvass and how we support our church financially. The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) is a self-supporting organization. There is no support available to us from our denomination, in fact, we support them and not vice versa.

Our church receives money from three sources. The first source is the money donated by members and friends. Our second source is building rentals and our third source is casinos. We have two types of rentals. Three companies lease office space from us in the front of our building. Our second rental type is the shared church spaces that we rent for groups and events. Every two years we provide volunteers for a casino which raises money for our church. This year we will need volunteers on Apr 30th and May 1st. Let me know if you are interested in helping.

Between our rentals and casino income we are fortunate to have our building operations and maintenance costs covered. That means that the donations we get from our members and friends are almost entirely used for the programs of our church.

Canvass is where we go to our members and ask them how much financial support we can count on for the coming year. My job as the canvass person is to come up with an estimate of our projected donations in time for our annual church budget.

Between now and the end of March I need to have all of our donors complete a pledge form letting us know what they plan to contribute for the next church year (starting July 1st). Your pledge help us prepare our budgets for the coming year. You can find an online pledge form linked here: <https://yxd.wufoo.com/forms/z1fiv5eb0y2rv84/>. Forms will also be in the orders of service in March.

In February and March I will be asking everyone to complete their pledge of financial support to the church. March is canvass month so in March there will be materials, announcements, and talks in church. By the end of March all the pledges should be submitted so that I can prepare my donation estimate. That donation estimate will then be presented beside the budgets at the annual general meeting.



If you are member of the church you should be returning a pledge every year. Come and see me after church any Sunday and I will be happy to go over how to return your pledge.

You can find more information on the UCE website on the [Canvass tab](#).

I look forward to your ongoing support of our church.

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

The Symbols in Our Church

The Unitarian Universalist faith is an eclectic religion. We draw inspiration from many traditions. Some of the traditions which inspire our ethical and spiritual life are represented in the banners hanging in our sanctuary.

Please have a look around at our billboards to see descriptions of the banners.

Right now, let's look at the primary symbol of our church, the flaming chalice.

The Unitarian Universalist (UU) flaming chalice symbol had its origins in a logo designed by Austrian refugee Hans Deutsch for the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) during World War II. It became an underground symbol in occupied Europe during World War II for assistance to help Unitarians, Jews, and other people escape Nazi persecution.

The two intersecting circles represent the Unitarian and Universalist traditions which were merged to form one denomination in 1961.

Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope.



We light this chalice

Symbolic of the warmth of community and
The brightness that love brings to the world
Illuminating our search for justice and peace
~ Rev Debra Faulk, Calgary Unitarian Minister

Transitional Church Services Working Group

The Transitional Church Services Working Group will be meeting February 2nd in classroom 2 following the service.

News from the Social Justice Working Group

The UCE Social Justice Working Group has a new pamphlet, to share our aims and activities with the congregation and to encourage participation. Many thanks to Karen Bilida, for her excellent design work. Social Justice meetings normally take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month following the service, and we encourage anyone in the congregation to attend any or all meetings – February's meeting will be Feb 16.



On Sunday, February 9, we are presenting a service titled "Joining Hands- Changing Lives". Following February's theme of "Connections", we'll look at how interconnected communities can care for their members. Speakers from the SMILE sidewalk Parties will join us to share their experiences. The service will be a Soup Sunday, where we gather for food and discussion following the service. Donations of soup or bread are always welcome!

Religious Exploration February 2020

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.

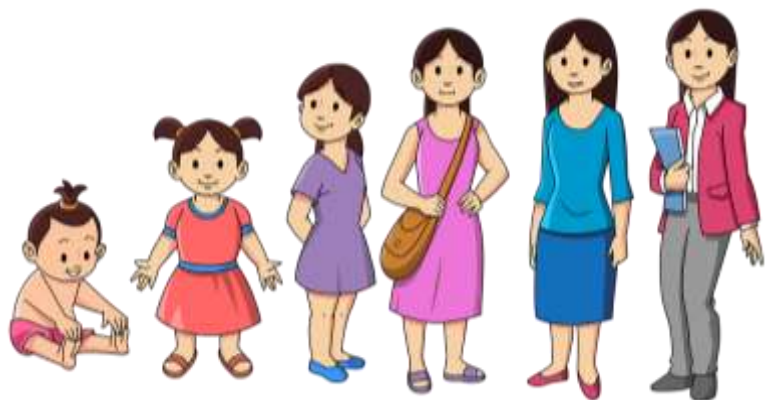
Important Religious Exploration Dates for January

- February 2nd – First Source – part 1
- February 9th – First Source – **part 2, Also “Time with an Elder.”**
- February 14th to 17th – Grades 10 to 12 OWL & Grades 7 to 9 practical skills to de-stress! In Calgary.
- February 16th – Youth not going to Calgary will be in Service and planting seeds, free play and games for children in Classroom 3
- February 23rd – Second Source – part 1
- February 28th to March 1st – Grades 10 to 12 OWL & Grades 7 to 9 practical skills to de-stress! In Edmonton.

Upcoming event to keep in mind

- Sr. High OWL classes in conjunction with Calgary
 - Sorry, Calgary had a schedule change, and we will now be going there for the family day long weekend.
 - All youth will be welcome. We will have activities and practical skills to de-stress for the Jr high youth but will not be OWL this year.
 - The Registration fee will be \$80 for both weekends.
 - February 14th to 17th will be in Calgary (we will head out Friday night so we can get started on activities first thing on Saturday morning)
 - February 28th to March 1st will be here in Edmonton
- CanUUdle
 - May 15th to 18th in Halifax
 - We have raised just over \$3500.00 toward travel expenses so far, and we have a few more events coming up in March and April. This amount is approximately half of what we will need for all youth of age to go.

Thank you in advance for any support you can give.



🌹 Heart to Heart 🌹

- 🌹 We have survived cold and wind that were far beyond what winter should be. May the rest of the season be much kinder to us, and may spring beckon us with soft days, growing things and the return of sweet-singing birds.
- 🌹 There are people who need our love and caring during times of trauma and illness:
- 🌹 Lilas Lysne, our beloved elder is doing better and has moved into a new facility in St Albert.
- 🌹 Our dear Clem Cloutier has been diagnosed with a melanoma. May Liz and his family know we will walk beside them with love as they enter another phase with regard to his care.
- 🌹 **January 1 would have been Kristina Romanyshyn's birthday. When a child dies, grief is triggered when birthdays come.** Her mother, Bev is in the hospital where she is receiving counselling and care; call her husband Vic, for updates on how she is doing.
- 🌹 Thanks go to Art Breier for the many pictures he has taken of church, events and people, that help to build memories about our church community.
- 🌹 **We have a lot of "Heart" around this church.** Our minister, Brian Kiely, is retiring and on January 26, we held a farewell celebration to say our goodbyes and to share stories, songs and food around the theme of "The Life of Brian". **Stay tuned for what happened next!!**
- 🌹 To all our volunteers who make this church a welcoming, safe and smoothly functioning place for all who enter here, we say a heartfelt thank you! When we see the enthusiasm with which our members step in and do what they see needs doing, we know we could not be the church we are without your caring hands and hearts.

"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

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) donates half of the loose cash collected every Sunday to a different charity.

February 23rd, Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) – Sharing Our Faith provides funds for congregational initiatives which enhance ministry, aid projects and outreach for congregations, and enhances the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada.



February -- iHUMAN Youth Society, Edmonton supports youth to obtain housing, get mental health and addictions support and build on their creative strengths. Their mission is to work with traumatized and marginalized youth who live high risk lifestyles.

UCE Walking Group Schedule

February 7	Mill Creek Ravine, lunch at Mill Creek Café
February 14	Rainbow Valle Campground/Whitemud Ravine
February 21	St. Albert, meet and lunch at the Seniors' Centre
February 28	Walk TBS, lunch at Ernest's Restaurant at NAIT

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.

UCE Casino Volunteer Request

Unitarian Church of Edmonton Casino April 30th and May 1st 2020

As you all know this is an extremely important fundraiser for the church.

All help is very much appreciated.

Please sign up at the following link: www.volunteersignup.org/DQ8BK or by

contacting Brandie Moller-Reid at church or by email at

brmoller@hotmail.com to sign up.

Thank you,

Brandie Moller-Reid



Sunday Service Volunteer Schedule

	Coffee	Ushering	Greeting	Piano	Sound Tech
February 2	John Turvey	David Rae	Pauline Atwood	Chorealis	Marg Booker
February 9	Clair Horne	Stephen Greenhalgh, Gerard Hayduk	Wendy Smith	Gordon Ritchie	Geoff Jackson
February 16	Clair Horne	Rosemary Falconer	Sue Lynch	Gordon Ritchie	Ruth Merriott
February 23	Clair Horne	Rosemary Falconer	Brandy Moller-Reid, Sue Lynch	Karen Mills	Kat Hartshorne

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
February 5	Marg Roche	Susan Ruttan, Susanne Goshko
February 12	Scott Harrison	
February 19		
February 26		



Multifaith Concert



A multifaith and multicultural concert with music and poetry from across the globe

Featuring U of A Prof. of Ethnomusicology Michael Frishkopf and members of the Middle Eastern & North African Music Ensemble

Sunday February 9, 2020 at 2 p.m. Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Silent Auction & Refreshments, Entrance fee: \$10, children free

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1028117134231258/>

Loving Drag!



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.

This month's theme is Valentine's Day and Love.

Saturday February 15 Show at 6pm

\$5 cover charge, Cash Bar and UCE Youth Snack table too!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2754080661337210/>



Imbolc Labyrinth Walk

The Pagan sabbat of Imbolc is a time of purification, of burning off old unneeded energies and setting ourselves on a path to new growth. You are invited to join the UCE Pagan Chalice Circle for a time of personal contemplation, to walk the labyrinth and meditate on this time of change. We will finish by using our creative gifts to enhance our spiritual development.

This event is suitable for adults and teens. Coffee and tea will be available, and we invite you to bring a snack to share. We look forward to seeing you there! Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 7 PM – 9 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/events/854061888357950/>



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:

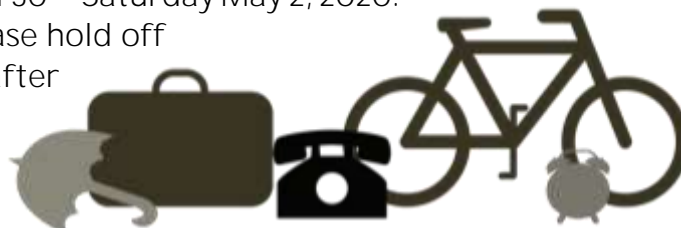
April 4	Membership Dinner
April 30 – May 1	Casino Fundraiser
April 30 – May 2	Annual UCE Garage Sale
May 3	UCE AGM

Unfortunately, the Choreal's Cabaret has been cancelled this year. We look forward to a fantastic Cabaret in 2021!

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

UCE Annual Garage Sale

The annual garage sale will be Thursday April 30 – Saturday May 2, 2020. We look forward to your donations but please hold off dropping your donations off at UCE until after April 20. Thank you so much!



Westwood Social Justice Film Night



Feb 14, 2020- (Sources of service) – Flow: For Love of Water (NFB) 2008 1h 23min
Irena Salina's award-winning documentary examines the conflict of the global water crisis. Is water for people, or for profit? Best Documentary winner of the 2008 Vail Film Festival, and nominated for the 2008 Sundance Jury Prize.

Free event! All welcome. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2448238885288436/>

CUC Events



Join other UU 18-35 year olds on Zoom (a video-conferencing platform) for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community. Gathered Here will continue to take place generally on the second Monday evening of each month at 6pm Mountain. February 10, March 9, April 13, June 8, July 13 and August 10. Gathered Here takes a break in May for our national conference.



Coming Spring 2020

CUC National Annual General Meeting.

CanUUdle XX: Celebrate 20 years of CanUUdle!

Chorus 2020: National Young Adult Conference

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

LISTEN TO PAST SERVICES AS PODCASTS

Recordings of UCE Services for December 2019 & January 2020

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 December services and to the January services published prior to the Newsletter deadline.

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

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

January 5: *Endings and Beginnings*, Chorealis, <https://bit.ly/36wb3lk>

January 12: *A Different Kind of New Year*, Rev. Brian J. Kiely, <https://bit.ly/2uPnm4C>

January 19: *What You Bring*, Rev. Brian J. Kiely, https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827/20200119_what-you-bring_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>

Plus, 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/>

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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Please send your article to chadmin@uce.ca

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