



*The Edmonton Unitarian, September 2020, Vol 61.8*



Although UCE has suspended in-person worship services, we invite you to participate in our compassionate, supportive community via our Sunday services online or by phone.

Please go to <https://www.uce.ca/calendar/> for links and updates.

### **September Theme: *The Journey from Here to There***

#### **August 30: *Coffee With the UCE Board on Zoom 10:30am MT***

We will have a short question and answer session followed by regular coffee hour.

#### **September 6: *Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue***

Rev. Lee Anne Washington will introduce herself to us by sharing her journey from pursuing legal justice in state and federal courts in the United States to pursuing social justice through the co-creation and support of beloved communities.

#### **September 13: *Leaving Egypt in Faith***

Every journey from here to there begins with moving away from that which has become familiar and moving toward possibilities that have not yet manifested -- that takes faith. Rev. Lee Anne Washington will introduce us to the work of interim ministry through exploration of the ancient story of the Israelite's exodus from Egypt.

#### **September 20: *The Gifts of Wandering through the Wilderness***

Likening the interim period between settled ministers to the Israelites' wandering through the wilderness, Rev. Lee Anne Washington will explore how such wandering can be a time of great spiritual growth, self-actualization, and discovery for our congregation. Though the interim period can be uncomfortable at times, it is by exploring our discomfort and by holding each other in love that the gifts we have to offer our beloved community and our next settled minister emerge.

#### **September 27: *A Rose by Any Other Name ...***

What do we call this "thing" that we "do" on Sunday morning? How do we do it? We'll explore what we think and how we feel about the ways we "do" our Sunday gatherings and how we draw from world religions and philosophies to inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life.

Service Leaders: The Church Services Committee

All Sunday Services in September and Aug 30 Coffee With The Board have the same Meeting ID and link.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/200338874>

Meeting ID: 200 338 874 +1 587 328 1099

"Doors" open at 10:00amMT. Please sign in before 10:20 am for the services.

## A Message from Reverend Lee Anne Washington

Dear Ones,

I have been eagerly awaiting the start of our shared ministry during this interim between settled ministries. September's theme is "The Journey from Here to There." While we get to know each other, we will also be deepening our understanding of interim ministry.

Since I am still awaiting the issuance of my passport, I am writing to you from my home office in White Stone, Virginia -- a small fishing and farming village of 500 people. It is from here that I will, among other things, offer Sunday worship services, participate in committee meetings, and join you in "Dessert with Rev. Lee Anne" sessions that will take place over the next few months.



Once my passport arrives, I will finalize my travel plans, ship my belongings, and self-quarantine for the requisite amounts of time in the U.S. and in Canada. So, we are still weeks away from being in the same vicinity. I am, however, just an email ([uce.interim.minister@gmail.com](mailto:uce.interim.minister@gmail.com)) or phone call (804) 436-5929 away. We can also enjoy face-to-face Zoom calls.

I look forward to getting to know you, the city of Edmonton, and the Canadian way of doing things. Until then, as we contemplate what it means to embark on this new interim journey from here to there, I share with you a lovely blessing written by Becca Reynolds and found on the [WorshipWeb](#):

### **May Love Permeate**

*May love permeate your every heartbeat*

*May faith guide your every step*

*May truth and compassion be your Eternal travelling companions*

*And may a deep, abiding Spirit rest joyously*

*In your every waking wish*

*And your every resting dream.*



Blessings,

Rev. Lee Anne

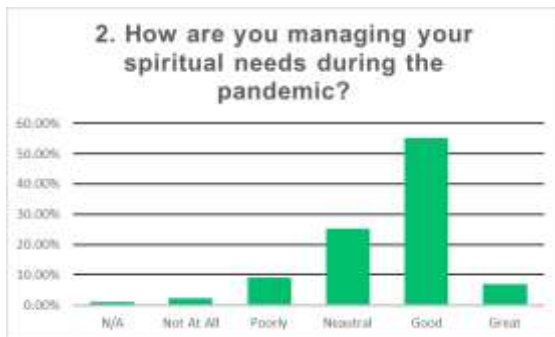
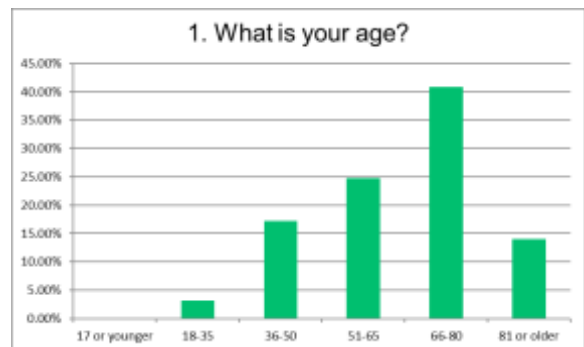
## RETURN TO SERVICES IN UCE BUILDING SURVEY

The current COVID-19 pandemic has produced some really important changes in the formats of social gatherings and worship services, in particular. June 22, 2020 the AHS has updated the requirements for reopening worship services and public spaces. The UCE Board felt it was important to gauge the congregational views on this important topic.

**Methodology:** Accordingly, a survey was prepared and distributed to the current UCE members and friends. The survey consisted of a series of nine questions, most of which had an option to provide comments or alternatives. A tenth section for open-ended comments was also included. The survey was e-mailed out to 215 participants. UCE received 91 responses online and two hard copy for a total of 93. This represents a response rate of 43%. Statistically this means a Margin of Error of 8% with a confidence level of 95%. This is considered a valid result.

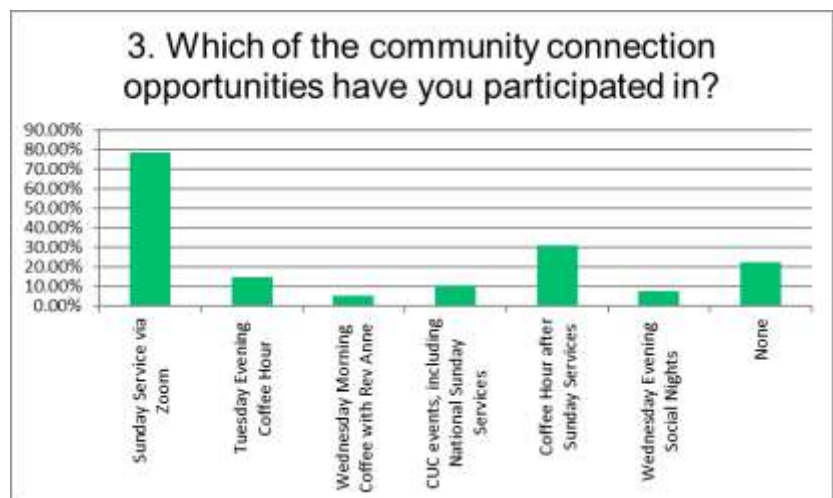
### Survey Results:

- Respondent's age:** Just over 50% of the respondents identified as being 66 years old or older. This is in the AHS high risk criteria.

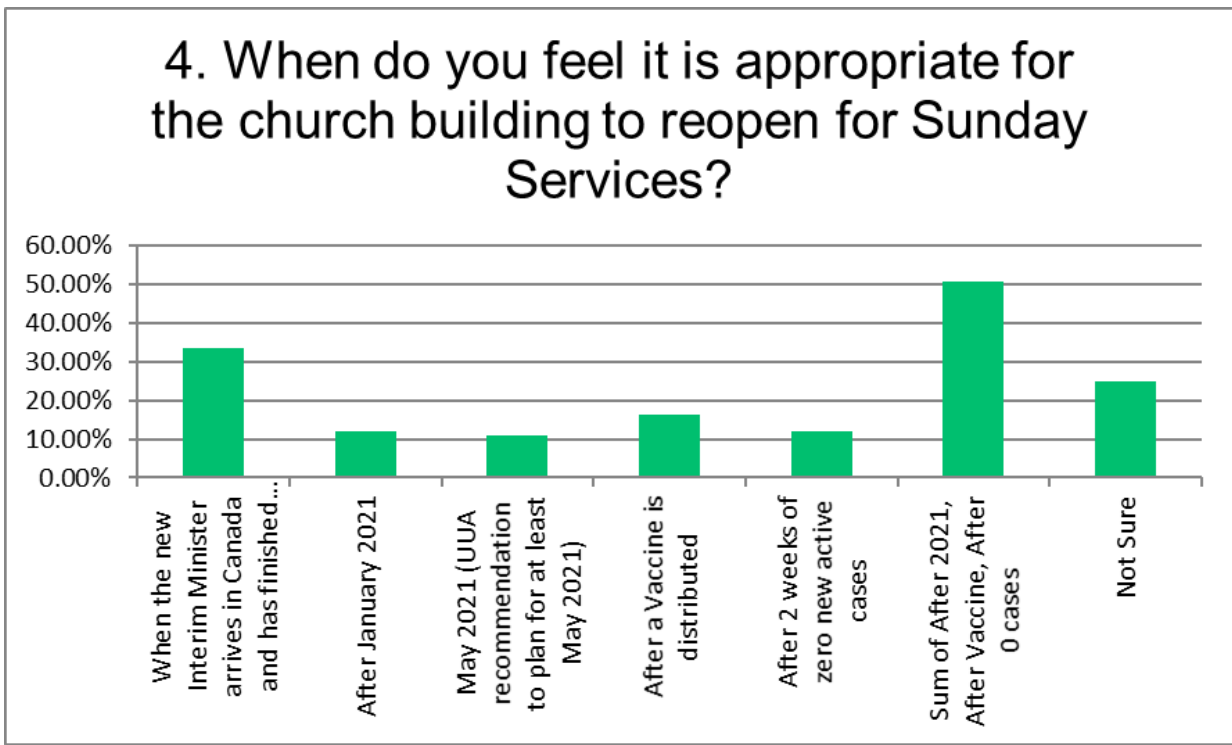


- Respondent's current spiritual needs:** The overall response placed at 3.56 which puts it midway between Neutral (25.29%) and Good (55.17%).

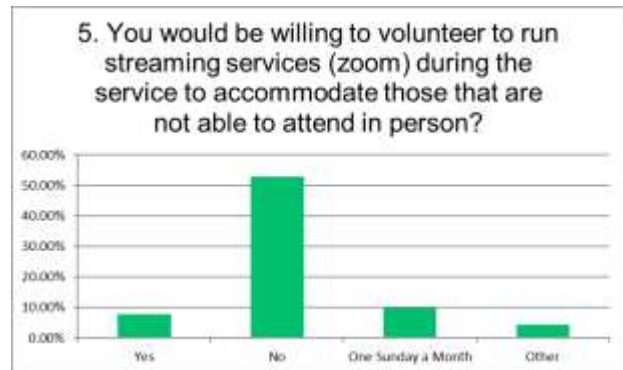
- Respondent's community participation:** Respondents were offered a list of seven formats. Almost 80% have attended Sunday Zoom services and about 32% had stayed for Sunday coffee hour. One area of note was that about 22.5% of respondents had not attended any of the UCE community opportunities.

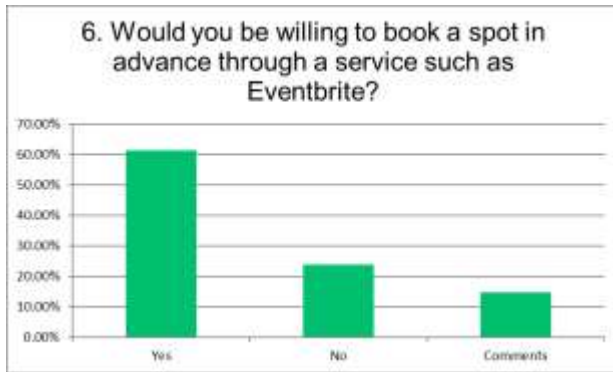


4. **Appropriate timing to resuming onsite Sunday services:** Respondents were offered a list of seven criteria. The results were mixed. Of note, the sum of the responses, After Jan 2021, May 2021, After a vaccine, and After 2 weeks of 0 new cases was the majority at 51%.



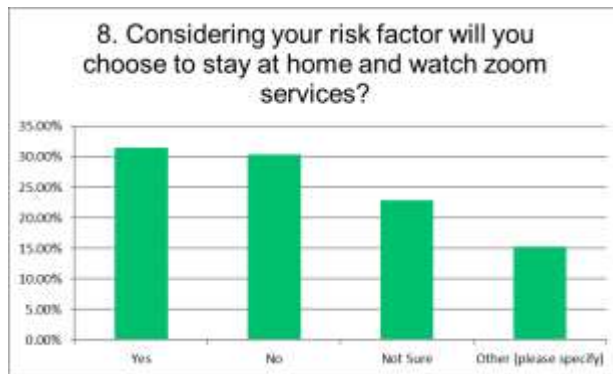
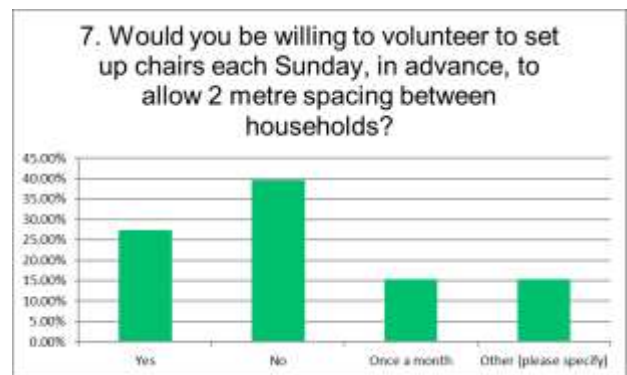
5. **Respondent's willingness to run streaming services:** The leading response was an unconditional "No" at 53%.





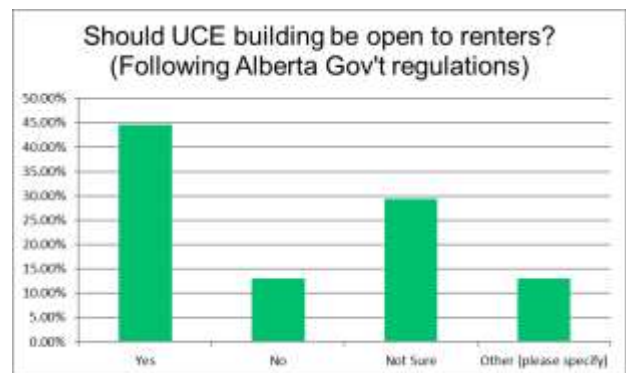
**6. Respondent's willingness to reserve attendance spot ahead of time:** The use of online booking service would prevent overcrowding in the Sanctuary. Current AHS recommendations limit the number of congregants the Sanctuary can accommodate on a given Sunday. Almost two-thirds (63%) of respondents would be willing to use a reservation system to attend Sunday services.

7. **Respondent's willingness to arrange sanctuary furniture for Sunday services:** Of the participants in the survey, 40% responded No. Comments included that they would not feel safe at this time to handle chairs.



8. **Respondent's choice of using remote services vs. personal attendance:** The respondents split fairly evenly between using remote or personal attendance for services delivery.

9. **Respondent's opinion on opening UCE building to renters:** Just under half (44%) of the respondents thought that UCE should reinstate the casual renter program. A further 29% were Not Sure.



**Conclusions:**

The range of responses to most questions varied widely. Likewise, the written comments yielded a wide range of ideas and concerns. The overarching conclusion is that members are unsure and that caution should be applied for all future decisions.

**Recommendations:** The UCE Board considered the survey results at the August 12, 2020 board meeting. Some of the findings and motions that were passed in our special summer Board meeting were as follows:

- ☎ UCE will continue with Zoom services on Sundays, as well as other virtual gatherings, for the foreseeable future. There will be no in person services during this time. The board and the minister will continuously evaluate the COVID-19 situation, monitor guidelines from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the provincial government, and will provide the congregation with updates.
- ☎ The church building will not be open for use by UCE groups or committees at this time, with the exception of the Building and Grounds Tuesday Maintenance Crew. The situation will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis by the board and minister.
- ☎ The rental committee are contacting the existing casual renters of the building and compiling more information for the Board to make recommendations in the September Board Meeting.
- ☎ Our church administrator, Janet, will begin working from within the church building with safety measures put in place by the Building and HR committees. We hope that this will eliminate the issues that we have been having with sending email remotely and allow easier access to files for Janet's convenience. No "in person" meetings will be scheduled with Janet for the foreseeable future.
- ☎ The arrival date and end of the 14 day quarantine period for Rev Lee Anne Washington is still not determined but is now expected to be close to mid/end October.
- ☎ A further idea that arose from the survey is that a significant number of members prefer remote access to UCE services. This will be explored further even after the COVID-19 issue passes. It and will address the inclusivity concept inherent in UCE principles and allow UCE to have further outreach and presence in the community at large.

**Zoom Coffee With The Board** – Some members of the Board will be on hand for the Sunday August 30 Coffee Hour at 10:30amMT. We will have a brief question and answer period followed by "normal" coffee hour break out rooms. Please phone in or sign in online to join us. All are Welcome!

**We encourage all Committees and Working Groups to meet via phone, email, text, &/or Zoom.**

Please let Karen Bilida ([Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca](mailto:Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca)) know if you would like to book the UCE zoom account, or need help setting up your own zoom account.

If there is any reason that you need to enter the UCE Building (with the exception of the Building and Grounds Maintenance Crew), please seek approval from the UCE Board at one of the UCE Board meetings ([board@uce.ca](mailto:board@uce.ca)) or contact Janet (church admin) at [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca)



**UCE Board** – Karen Bilida (President), Kathy Stanley (Vice President), Doug Eastwell (Treasurer), Gloria Krenbrenk (Secretary), Robert Begg (Trustee), Brandie Moller-Reid (Trustee), Jennifer Askey (Trustee), Gerard Hayduk (Trustee), Karen Mills (Past President), and Interim Minister Rev Lee Anne Washington

**Next UCE Board meeting is Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm via Zoom.**

All are welcome to attend UCE board meetings, please contact [board@uce.ca](mailto:board@uce.ca) one week before the scheduled meeting to add any items to the agenda.

## RE Update

Welcome back to a new year. I am very excited to welcome our new Interim Minister, Rev. Lee Anne Washington, to our community. Unfortunately, we will not be meeting for the foreseeable future due to Covid-19. Since we will be unable to gather, we have been looking into some new options for the Religious Exploration Program. The youth (ages 12 to 18) will continue to be in contact with each other via zoom and discord, while we further investigate other online programming we hope to roll out soon. Those under 12 years can continue to expect regular mail-outs and we are planning to provide great some digital content to coordinate with them. Please fill out a RE registration form on the UCE's website <https://www.uce.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RE-Registration-Form-2020-21.pdf> to ensure that your children and youth receive their content. We will be planning some very fun things, so please check for updates to the website and Facebook for further details. If you wish to contact me, I will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm to receive phone calls and emails. I, unfortunately, will not be able to meet in person. The office phone number is 780-454-5816 and the email is [ucekids@uce.ca](mailto:ucekids@uce.ca). I will be checking both voicemail and emails regularly and will respond as soon as I am available.

Will Adair, RE Director



**Orange Shirt Day** is coming up at the end of September. On the last Sunday of September let us fill our Zoom screens with **ORANGE**. Please wear orange on Sunday September 27 to the Sunday Service via zoom.

Orange Shirt Day was designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/about-us.html>

## Sharing Our Abundance

For the month of September, the UCE has identified Camp fYrefly a summer camp and leadership retreat designed for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning youth, (LGBTQ2S+). Designed to help youth develop the leadership skills and personal resiliency necessary for them to become agents for positive change in their schools, families, and communities. <https://www.ualberta.ca/camp-fyrefly/support.html>



**Watch for special guest speakers from camp fYrefly after one of the Sunday services in September.**

## 🌹Heart to Heart🌹

🌹Incredible UCE Sunday zoom services are thankfully enjoyed by so many of us, we hear comments from members who, for various reasons, cannot make it to our church. They are finding that Zoom services are so convenient and uplifting, they hope we can continue with them in the future.

🌹So many opportunities for enrichment have appeared in our midst: our UCE Walkers have met at government house when the weather is good, and in the rain at Audrey's 'social hall.'" Many people have enjoyed neighbourhood musical events; with Martin Kerr, some of the Edmonton Symphony members playing in a park; and other performers hosted by Jan McMillan and Marilyn Gaa. Some of us went to Lac La Biche to cabin surf, hang out, eat steamed nettles, tour around washed- out sections of road, and pulled weeds from the yard. For the next newsletter let us know how you and your family have made the best of things this summer!

🌹As many of us are getting older - and it kind of sneaks up on us when we are not looking, it is important to let each other know if there is something going on in your life for which you could use a helping hand or a listening ear. I know it's hard to do this, as we are used to being independent. But there is a time for every one of us to admit to ourselves that, as my mother used to say, "The old grey mare, she ain't what she used to be."

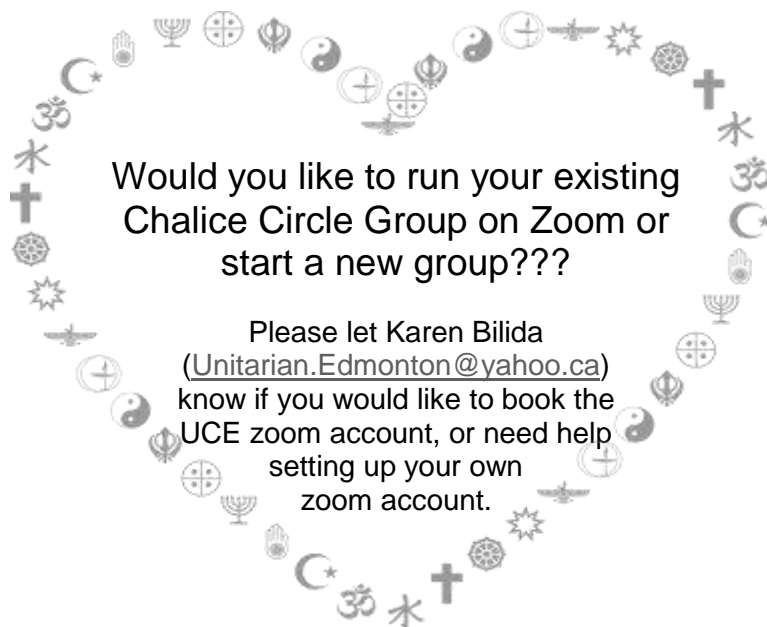
🌹For those who knew Verna Pollack from the Calgary church, she died on August 17, finally succumbing to the cancer she had since 2005. Farewell to a harpist, advocate, author and adventurer of the soul. Her After Party will be held later, due, of course, to the pandemic situation.

🌹From our hearts we send love and concern to those who are experiencing changes or losses of any kind in these unusual and challenging times. People we might want to call are: Liz Cloutier who spent a couple of days in the Leduc hospital, and is doing well back at Rosedale; Ali Hammington; Gerard Hayduk; Gertrud Janke; Marge Roche; Lynn Wolfe; Shirley Edgar; Docia Lysne; Louise Charach; Lilas Lysne, Lillias Cowper, Kathy Stanley, and Inge Hess.

"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](mailto:audbrook@telusplanet.net), or phone 780-489-8842 and ask for Chaplain Audrey





## Tuesday Night Coffee Hours Are Back!

With Pauline Atwood hosting, each person brings their music choice and we talk about why we chose the song, what was happening in our lives, what was happening in the larger society, the artist, the context...  
<https://zoom.us/j/95656434070> Meeting ID 956 5643 4070

## Have you missed a Sunday Service or Want to Watch or Listen again?

Go to Our YouTube Channel or our Podcast on SoundCloud.

## Let's Keep Connecting

What's one of your favourite things about UCE? I bet most of you said, "the people"! I would agree. Keeping up these conversations while we're physically distancing is important – for UCE attendees and for those who are seeking community. How can we do it? Online! UCE already has established social media accounts, but they need your help to keep them engaging, conversational and diverse.

- [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/>
- [Twitter](https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE) - <https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE>
- [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/) - <https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/>
- [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian) - <https://www.youtube.com/user/EdmUnitarian>
- [Podcast](https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827) - <https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827>



## Want to start a Zoom Book Club?

Please contact Karen Bilida ([Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca](mailto:Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca)) if you would like to book the UCE zoom account, or need help setting up your own zoom account.



## UU's Around Canada



**\*\* 2pmMT Special Service Time\*\*** *Sunday August 30 Westwood's service is the "CUC Sunday Summer Services Series" feature. We'll be joined by guests from across the country*

Topic: **NATURE in the Six Sources**

Westwood's 2019-2020 theme was **Drawing on our Sources**. This summer, we will explore one key word each Sunday – a word drawn from *one* of the Six Unitarian Universalist Sources, but alive in *many*. This week's word is NATURE. Speaker: Reverend Anne Barker

## Save the Dates!

The **CUC 2020 National Fall and Regional Gathering** will take place from **Friday, November 13 to Sunday, November 15**. Join us for regional conversations, interesting workshops, and a national Sunday Service.

Our **Fall Youth Con** is being planned for the weekend of **October 23-25** and is open to youth and advisors all over Canada.

### Exploration of World Religions

South Fraser (SFUC) and Calgary Unitarians (UCC) are pleased to offer an exploration of nine of the major world religions/faith traditions this coming year – one a month from September through to May. This program is open to Unitarian Universalists in Western Canada. You'll be able to participate several ways:

- A monthly Sunday service when we will have a guest speaker from the faith tradition we are exploring in the program;
- Each of the monthly Soul Matters/Reflections packets will contain a spiritual practice, readings and resources from the traditions under consideration, and
- Twice monthly gatherings where you'll be able to delve deeper into the history and current practices of that tradition. Our twice monthly gatherings will meet on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 Mountain.

Together we'll be exploring:

September – Judaism – September 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>;  
October – Wicca – October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>;  
November – Hindu – November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>;  
December – Christianity – December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>;  
January – Bahai – January 5 and 19<sup>th</sup>;  
February – Buddhism – February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>;  
March – Sikhism – March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>;  
April – Islam – April 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>;  
May – Indigenous Spirituality – May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

As there are significant expenses for the resources being used, we are asking for a free-will donation of \$10.00 per session on a sliding scale basis.

To register simply click on the World Religions Exploration Program link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V-ZQ\\_MwW6vky2ulxhCUU-DaCbMyHYuegtZTEMAhJfkM/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V-ZQ_MwW6vky2ulxhCUU-DaCbMyHYuegtZTEMAhJfkM/edit)

Registration Deadline: Sept. 6 or when maximum participant level of 50 is reached.

Please contact anyone of the following for more information:

Rev. Debra Faulk - [debra@calgaryunitarians.ca](mailto:debra@calgaryunitarians.ca) 403-702-6486

Lynn Nugent - [adultprograms@calgaryunitarians.ca](mailto:adultprograms@calgaryunitarians.ca)

Rev. Samaya Oakley - [minister@surreyunitarians.ca](mailto:minister@surreyunitarians.ca); 604-323-4341

## **CUC Releases Statement On Guaranteed Income – August 5, 2020**

Poverty and economic instability have profound effects on the health, education, social engagement and inclusion, and future economic prospects of those who experience them. Poverty disproportionately affects children, women and racialized and marginalized communities including those with disabilities. In 2018, 8 percent of all children, and 1 in 4 children living in families with single mothers, were living in poverty.

The statistics are far worse for Indigenous communities. The Assembly of First Nations reported in 2019 the following statistics for children living in poverty: 47% of Status First Nation (53% for those living on reserve and 41% for those living off-reserve); 25% of Inuit children; 22% of Métis children; and 32% of non-status First Nations children.

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that all Canadian residents, regardless of age, gender, ability or race, deserve to live with dignity. In our affluent country, no one should be forced to make choices between adequate housing, nutritious food, or medical needs.

[Click here to continue reading and download the full statement, a sample letter to send to your MP, and resources for education and other resources](#)

~ From the CUC's National Voice Team: UU Ministers of Canada President, Rev. Anne Barker; CUC Board President, Margaret Wanlin, and Executive Director, Vyda Ng.

## **CUC Releases Statement On Police Violence Against Indigenous People – June 20, 2020**

In 2020, more Indigenous people have died as a direct result of their interactions with Canadian police forces. Most recently the deaths of Chantal Moore and Rodney Levi in New Brunswick, and Eisha Hudson, Jason Collins, and Stewart Kevin Andrews in Winnipeg have illustrated the tragic results of the systemic oppressions and discrimination within our social and justice systems. Representing a community of faith which believes in the inherent worth and dignity of all, the Canadian Unitarian Council calls on the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to implement changes to policing to better protect racialized populations. Priority should be given to implementing existing recommendations, such as those of The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and to developing police approaches which are responsive, accountable, culturally appropriate, and anti-racist. We again urge the federal government to issue their plan to implement the recommendations within the MMIWG report.

We call on all police forces across the country to acknowledge systemic racism and its impact on the health and safety of Indigenous people who have interactions with police. We further call on all police forces to review and revise how they interact with Indigenous, Black and other racialized people, and with those with mental health and addiction issues, making de-escalation tactics the standard. Police forces, their leaders and individual officers must be held publicly accountable for their actions. Police forces, and their oversight bodies must actively work to diversify their members by increasing the representation of racialized communities in their ranks.

Further, we encourage Unitarian Universalists to contact their police forces and all levels of government to urge the enactment of these changes that are needed, and such as those [recommended by the Ontario Human Rights Commission](#). None of us can afford to be silent any longer. The time for change is now.

~ From the CUC's National Voice Team: UU Ministers of Canada President, Rev. Anne Barker; CUC Board President, Margaret Wanlin, and Executive Director, Vyda Ng.

[Click Here to download the full statement and a sample letter to send to political and police officials](#)

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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**10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2  
Phone 780-454-8073 Fax 780-452-1641  
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30 to 1:30  
E-MAIL [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca) WEB PAGE [www.uce.ca](http://www.uce.ca)**

Newsletter Submission Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.  
Please send your article to [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca)

**People Finder**

President: Karen Bilida <a href="mailto:Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca">Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca</a>	780-807-6380
UCE Board: <a href="mailto:board@uce.ca">board@uce.ca</a>	
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky <a href="mailto:chadmin@uce.ca">chadmin@uce.ca</a>	780-454-8073
Religious Exploration Leader: Will Adair <a href="mailto:ucekids@uce.ca">ucekids@uce.ca</a>	780-454-5816
Head Teller: Edwina Madill	780-462-2089
Canvas: Andrew Mills <a href="mailto:andrew@misc.ca">andrew@misc.ca</a>	780-432-0826
Communications: Karen Bilida <a href="mailto:Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca">Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca</a>	780-807-6380
Chaplain Services: Reverend Audrey Brooks <a href="mailto:audbrook@telusplanet.net">audbrook@telusplanet.net</a>	780-489-8842
Lay Chaplain, Marilyn Gaa <a href="mailto:marilyngaa@telusplanet.net">marilyngaa@telusplanet.net</a>	780-432-7660
Property Management: Mike Keast <a href="mailto:mikekeast@shaw.ca">mikekeast@shaw.ca</a>	780-497-1303