

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton is a congregation openly and honestly searching, learning, connecting, and serving.

- ✞ Searching for spiritual meaning in our lives
- ✞ Learning to understand ourselves and others
- ✞ Connecting to build fair, just, caring communities
- ✞ Serving each other and our communities near and far



January's Theme: **Imagination**

January 3, 2021

Reflections

This service will be a shared reflection on the year past. 2020 has been the most dramatic of years. To prepare for the service, we ask that you reflect on the stories that have most impacted you this year - the top news stories of the year, the top creative arts stories of the year (your favourite novels, movies, theatre, other art forms), and top personal stories of the year. Please submit your three top choices for each category through this [survey tool](#) or by emailing johncpater@gmail.com. Everyone's choices will be shared at the service.

Service Leader: John Pater

January 10, 2021

Entrances and Exits

In this service, we will welcome precious new humans whose spiritual journeys began in 2020. We will also remember members and friends whose spiritual journeys came to an end in 2020. Rev. Lee Anne requests your assistance in identifying births and deaths of UCE members and friends in 2020. Please email her at uce.interim.minister@gmail.com with information.

All Sunday Services have the same Meeting ID and link.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>

Meeting ID: 200 338 874 +1 587 328 1099

Additionally, come to the service prepared to share the names of those from your larger circle of family and friends who have died or were born in 2020.

January 17, 2021

World Religion Day

Celebrated around the world, World Religion Day is an observance initiated in 1950 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States. It is celebrated on the third Sunday in January every year. It arises from the Baha'i principle of the oneness of religion (literally "bond") and of progressive revelation, which describes religion as continuously evolving. Rev. Lee Anne will lead us in imagining a world in which all people adhere to the basic principles of the Baha'i faith.

January 24, 2021 ***Laughter is the Best Medicine -- Belly Laugh Day***

Some believe that humor depends upon the perception of an appropriate incongruity. And, that a good sense of humor depends on the ability to imagine alternative outcomes. Positive laughter fuels positive energy, connection, and creativity. Have you ever had such a good laugh that you cried? Remember how you felt immediately afterward? Laughing out loud releases a neurotransmitter in the brain called serotonin, which relieves stress, reduces tension, and eases the symptoms of depression. Bring your imagination and join us for a multi-generational humor filled service. If you have a joke to share, email it to uce.interim.minister@gmail.com and it may be used in the service!

January 31, 2021

Poetry Sunday & Recognition of Rev. Audrey's Many Years of Service

Poetry incites the imagination with imagery, similes, and other literary devices. Poetry, like music, moves us in ways that prose does not. On this fifth Sunday of the month, we will share poetry that has moved us, comforted us, inspired us, and shaped us. You are invited to share with us a favorite poem. Some will share a cherished and repeatedly read poem; while others will share an original work. We hope that you will read your choice during the service. If you would rather not, then we will find someone to read it for you. During the service, we will also recognize and thank Rev. Audrey Brooks for her many years serving as UCE's pastoral care chaplain. Please see instructions in the newsletter on how to participate in the memory book.

Sunday Services Waiting Room

Every Sunday we open the Zoom meeting by 10am --- on some Sundays we may need some tech time and won't be able to admit you from the waiting room until 10:15am. Don't worry, we have not forgotten about you! We will admit from the "waiting room" as soon as we can.

We ask that everyone that is volunteering (readings, zoom support, etc.) to sign in at 10am so we can ensure all the correct people are made "co-host" and have the ability to un-mute plus the other functions they need to access.

Thank you so much for your support and understanding as we strive to learn and grow!





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Minister's Message

Dear Ones,

Last night at midnight my daughter, Lucy, and I jumped into a frigid car and drove to the end of Windmill Point road so that we could look up into the clear night sky without light pollution. Windmill Point road terminates at the river's edge. Our failure to stop would have plunged us headlong into the cold waters of the Rappahannock River. Fortunately, I stopped just in time.

Once stopped, I left the car running for the heater's warmth, unbuckled my seatbelt, turned sideways in my seat, electronically rolled down my window, placed a throw pillow on the window ledge to protect my back, and leaned out as far as I could. Lucy did the same on her side. We looked up into the night sky eagerly awaiting sight of the Geminid meteor shower. And, we were not disappointed. We saw lights streak across the sky in long and short bursts. We contemplated the constellations we thought we saw - - neither of us being very sure. And we imagined what it must be like on other planets in other galaxies. We contemplated the likelihood that life exists in other places in the universe and whether we have been or are currently being visited by aliens from out there somewhere. And, how we sometimes feel like aliens in our own lives.

Once again, I told her about the moment I just knew I was a princess from another planet who had been left here on earth with this family of mine in order to appreciate how the other half lives. You know, all the hard labor and perspiration was designed to grow in me compassion for others so that I would be a fair and kind ruler. It was a hot summer afternoon on Koontz Lake, Indiana when I came to this realization. I was being forced, forced I say, at 10 years old to rake grass clippings for my dad's compost pile in the Summer heat. Surely, my true parents would come and rescue me soon. But, alas, they never did!

This month's theme is imagination. Last night Lucy and I indulged in flights of fancy about our place in the universe, and for those precious moments everything was right with the world – no COVID-19, no Trump, no businesses closing, no fellow citizens on the verge of losing their homes and starving. And, at a young age with delusions of grandeur, I indulged in daydreaming away my temporary physical discomfort. For all that ails us, American author, Richelle E. Goodrich, suggests that "a daily dose of daydreaming heals the heart, soothes the soul, and strengthens the imagination." This month, maybe you can find time to let your imagination soar and to feel at peace.

Blessings,
Rev. Lee Anne
Email: uce.interim.minister@gmail.com
Phone: (780) 454-9797

Tea Time Signups

Rev. Lee Anne really, really, really, wants to get to know you better!

Rev. Audrey, the Interim Transition Team, and Rev Lee Anne are hosting Tea Time Meetings during January and February so that we can connect more deeply with her and with each other.

These small group discussions will last 90 minutes and are limited to 8 people.

If you are a couple or a family, please sign each adult up individually. Children and Youth are welcome for the first 45 minutes and do not need to be signed up.

We will spend the first 45 minutes or so getting to know each other in casual conversation. During the last 45 minutes or so you will be invited (though not required) to share your feelings about Rev. Brian's retirement, about the interim period, and about your hopes and desires for UCE going forward. I look forward to getting to know you!



Each week, you have three meeting times from which to choose: (1) immediately following worship service, (2) from 2:00 to 3:30 on Wednesdays, and (3) 7:00 to 8:30 on Thursday evenings. You will find the Tea Time with Rev. Lee Anne & the ITT signup here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAFAA22A0F9CE9-teatime>.

If you are unable to access signup genius, you may email your choice to uce.interim.minister@gmail.com.

1/10 -- immediately after worship service

1/13 -- 2:00-3:30 pm

1/14 -- 7:00-8:30 pm

1/17 -- immediately after worship service

1/20 -- 2:00-3:30 pm

1/21 -- 7:00-8:30 pm

1/24 -- immediately after worship service

1/27 -- 2:00-3:30 pm

1/28 -- 7:00-8:30 pm

1/31 -- immediately after worship service

2/03 -- 2:00-3:30 pm

2/04 -- 7:00-8:30 pm

2/07 -- immediately after worship service

2/10 -- 2:00-3:30 pm

2/11 -- 7:00-8:30 pm



Audrey's Memory Book



Our own Rev. Audrey Brooks is retiring on January 1, 2021, after many years of service as UCE Chaplain.

Would you like to contribute to a Memory Book? Write Audrey a letter. Tell that story you've been keeping quiet for 15 years.

Written submissions are welcome, handwritten or typed. We'd love photos with year and description. Send by **email** to gkrenbrenk@gmail.com or by **Canada Post** to Gloria Krenbrenk, #515, 10160 – 114 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5K 2L2. Include your name so Audrey knows who to blame.

Gloria needs to receive submissions before **January 20, 2021** in order to put together something great for Audrey.

RE Update

Hope you are all doing well and making it through this holiday season. I know it has been a very unusual year for our house. If there is any ideas of activities for the children and youth that follows the social distancing guide lines let me know.



Events still to come in December:

- Youth Sunday zoom – every Sunday @ noon. Link posted to UCE Family group on Facebook and Youth Discord.
- Storytime videos – throughout the month.
- Family Movie Matinee <https://zoom.us/j/7808076380>
 - Dec. 20 @ 1 pm, Miracle on 34th Street (1947 Version)
 - Dec. 27 @ 1 pm, Frozen II
- Youth Movie Nights <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77931004461>
 - Dec. 22 @ 7 pm, Jingle Jangle
 - Dec. 29 @ 7 pm, Captain Marvel

Event to come in January:

- Youth Sunday zoom – every Sunday @ noon. Link posted to UCE Family group on Facebook and Youth Discord.
- Storytime videos – throughout
- Youth Game Night
 - Jan 12 @ 7 pm
 - Jan 26 @ 7 pm
- Zoom Family Gathering <https://zoom.us/j/7808076380>
 - Jan 10 @ 2 pm
 - Jan 24 @ 2 pm

To close out, I would like to leave you with these words,

Meditation for a New Year, By Amanda Poppei

My friends, we have arrived: we are here, in this new year.

We have crossed the boundary of time, into the next year, with all its resolutions and plans and schedules ahead of us.

Let us pause, for just this moment, before we move boldly onward.

Let us pause to hear the breathing of those around us,

to feel their presence in this room; to know their presence in our lives.

Let us pause to consider the trees, their branches stripped bare, their elegant architecture on display.

Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts.

Before we move forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day. And let us answer... Amen.

I hope you all are well. Stay safe,

William

ucekids@uce.ca, 780-454-5816



It's been a difficult year. It's been a disruptive year. It's been a year where we have all had to adapt and change. But as we move into 2021 there is hope that the COVID 19 virus will recede, and that we can get back to our normal lives. We are going to start to re-emerge from our social isolation and move back into the in-person activities that we have been missing.

Our theme for this year's canvass is Re-emergence. Your pledges and financial support this year will help the church re-emerge in 2021 as the social gathering space that we have been missing. The church will re-emerge as an important place to interact with our friends, family, and the activities that enhance our social lives.

The timing of the church's re-emergence will not be clear until the spring. While this pandemic appears to be following the three waves of previous pandemics, the emergence of effective vaccines may speed the end of this virus. It is hoped that the anticipated third wave (spring of 2021) will be countered by vaccinations so that our re-emergence can be sooner.

I am certainly looking forward to re-emerging from my social hibernation. I look forward to seeing you all in church, to singing in choirs, travel, and to attending concerts, theatre, and sporting events. I have missed the enthusiastic applause of an appreciative audience, the hugs from friends, and the camaraderie of social events.



So, join me in pledging your support for our church. Between now and the end of March we need all our members to indicate their financial support for our coming church year. Please complete a pledge form and help our church re-emerge from this difficult year. The online pledge form can be found here: [Re-emergence \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com)

Thank you for your ongoing support for the work of our church.



Sharing Our Abundance for January

January -- CHANGE FOR CHILDREN, Edmonton 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.

<https://change4children.org/>



Tuesday Night, Music Night!



With Pauline Atwood hosting at 7pm on Tuesday nights, 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... <http://bit.ly/TuesMus3mB8yeR>
Meeting ID 956 5643 4070

Coffee with Rev. Lee Anne on Tuesday mornings is cancelled.

You are invited to join Rev. Lee Anne in an open **Lunch and Learn**

Zoom meeting on Wednesdays from noon to 2pm each week beginning January 13th.

You will need the link and passcode found on the UCE calendar at uce.ca.

Link: <http://bit.ly/Lunch2WvWG3a>

Meeting ID: 984 8583 4810 Passcode: 109413

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/abQkoG8UD7>



UCE Lunch Bunch

Unitarian Church of Edmonton invites you to join the UCE Lunch Bunch *via* Zoom on Tuesdays and

Thursdays from 12:00 to 2:00 each week beginning December 29th. You will need the link

and passcode found on the UCE calendar at uce.ca. Link: <http://bit.ly/Lunch2WvWG3a>

Meeting ID: 957 7757 4700

Passcode: 958419

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/j/acWb1wHVXw>



Saturday Night Socials

7:00pm to 10:00pm

Saturday Night Socials

Use the Zoom link and password on the UCE Calendar at <https://uce.ca/calendar>

During this time of COVID-19 restrictions, many of us are living alone without the physical comfort and intellectual stimulation of our friends and family. Even those of us who share our living quarters have relationship challenges that are exacerbated by unrelenting togetherness in limited spaces.

So, what can we offer each other to cure social isolation or social oversaturation? An opportunity to connect and spend time with someone else is just the antidote to both situations.

To test this cure, you are invited to join us *via* Zoom on Saturday nights in January from 7 to 10 pm beginning January 9th. Maximizing the flexibility of Zoom, we will offer a casual and free-flowing experience. You may choose to join a planned activity or just hang out.

We will create as many breakout rooms as often as we need -- so you may move in and out of as many conversations as you want. Even the planned activities will be unstructured and casual so that you can drop in at any time. Here's the schedule:

January 9, 2021: (Sharing stories about death and dying led by Rev. Lee Anne) Many of us have comforting, moving, or inspiring stories about events around the death of friends and family which we do not often share. Rev. Lee Anne has two. What about you? Come share your story and be inspired by the stories of others. We will also facilitate small group discussions and free-ranging conversations.

January 16, 2021: (Sharing our religious/spiritual experiences led by Rev. Lee Anne) Few of us live a full life without experiencing moments of profound awe, or moments of self-realization, or moments of unbridled joy that have a sacred aura about them. Come share your story and be inspired by the stories of others. We will also facilitate small group discussions and free-ranging conversations.

January 23, 2021: (Fun and Games -- a multigenerational opportunity to play games) Come out all you mature, middle-aged, young, and young at heart to play with us. Some games will be online, others will simply be adapted to the Zoom environment. Do some research, bring your ideas, and help us make this evening a joyful and playful event. We will also facilitate small group discussions and free-ranging conversations.

January 30, 2021: (Composing, Speaking, Singing Practice Poetry, led by Rev. Audrey Brooks). There's inspiration for poetry everywhere if you know how to look for it. And, this is practice poetry -- no judgment. You don't have to be good at it. Just give it a try. You might surprise yourself. We will also facilitate small group discussions and free-ranging conversations.



Do you miss volunteering at UCE?

**Does the thought of being a zoom tech sound intimidating?
Don't worry, there is something for everyone!**

Are you an extravert and would like to be a Greeter or Reader?

Are you an introvert with a computer that wants to help in the background?

Please contact Karen Bilida (unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca or 780-807-6380) to learn more

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We Want To Hear You On Sundays



Rev. Lee Anne and the Church Services Committee invite you to add your voice to our Sunday worship services. We are seeking readers who are willing to read a chalice lighting, a chalice extinguishing, or a short written work. For more information and sign ups, go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAFAA22A0F9CE9-uceworship>.

Let's Keep Connecting

- 🔗 [Facebook Group - uce.ca/FBgroup](https://www.facebook.com/uce.ca/FBgroup)
- 🔗 [Facebook Page - uce.ca/FBpage](https://www.facebook.com/uce.ca/FBpage)
- 🔗 [Twitter - https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE](https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE)
- 🔗 [Instagram uce.ca/instagram](https://www.instagram.com/uce.ca/instagram)
- 🔗 [YouTube - uce.ca/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/uce.ca/youtube)
- 🔗 [Podcast - uce.ca/podcast](https://www.uce.ca/podcast)



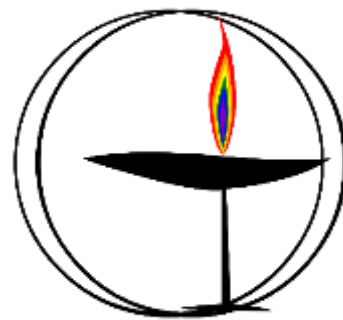
**Please click here to watch the stories
read online,**

If you would like to volunteer to read a story
please contact DRE Will Adair.

The Principles and Sources of our Religious Faith

Principles

- ☞ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ☞ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ☞ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ☞ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ☞ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ☞ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ☞ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Sources

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- ☞ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ☞ Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- ☞ Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ☞ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbours as ourselves;
- ☞ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- ☞ Spiritual teachings of Earth-centred traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
- ☞ Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.



As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:

Deeply Connected: We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within UU communities, with the broader world and with all life

Radically Inclusive: We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities

Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

Theologically Alive: We seek to be ever-evolving in our understanding, open to new knowledge.

Spiritually Grounded: We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.



The 35th-anniversary edition of the Multifaith Calendar is available for sale.

Rev. Audrey has 10 of them at 16\$ each. Those of you who buy them every year, know how beautiful the original artwork is that illustrates each month. Proceeds from the calendars go to fund projects of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre, one of the sponsors of the annual Genocide Memorial Service.



Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)

For a complete list of events please go to <https://cuc.ca/events/>

UU Shining Lights



We want to celebrate the stories of how you are changing your communities and congregations by living out your UU values in creative and innovative ways. Whether you are working on a project that engages your community or developing strategies to make Unitarian Universalism more relevant in Canada and beyond, we want to know!

<https://cuc.ca/about-cuc/cuc-awards/shining-lights-award/>

Please share your stories before Jan. 31, 2021! There is so much UU strength and wisdom out there. Thank you.

Elder's Circle with Sharon Jinkerson-Brass

Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 5 pm MT (90 minutes)

Online via Zoom

Building on the Anishnawbe teachings of Oneness and changing with the seasons that she offered at the National Fall Gathering, Sharon will share more of her experiences and perspectives with an invitation for us to listen deeply, allowing them to transform, heal and expand our hearts. <https://cuc.ca/events/elders-circle-january/1611169200/1611174600/>

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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