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The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) 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 a full range of theological perspectives -- from theism to atheism – as well as a full range of spiritual traditions and practices. As a Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregation, we strive to be a community where everyone is able to fully participate, regardless of gender, gender expression, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual/affectional orientation, age, class, physical character or disability.

UCE is a congregation openly and honestly:

- ⊕ 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



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.

Minister's Message

Dear Ones,

The theme for the month of June is "Play." Play is most often associated with children, and seen as an important way in which children learn about their environment and learn the skills they need to be an adult.

So, what does it mean for adults to play?

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, play is "exercise or activity engaged in for enjoyment or recreation rather than for a serious or practical purpose." Brene Brown, in an article

titled *The Very Best Resolution You Can Make This Year*, which was published in the January 2014 issue of *The Oprah Magazine*, described play as "anything that makes us lose track of time and self-consciousness."

Being a purpose-driven person, she realized from her study of people who live their lives *all in* that it had been a mistake to restrict her play time to vacations. She realized that one thing these people she had studied all had in common was that "they goofed off." She wrote down the activities that she enjoyed enough to do for hours, then scheduled them into her hectic schedule. She also invited her family to write down their own play lists and discovered that their usual vacation activity -- sightseeing -- wasn't on anyone's play list. So in her words, "now we go places where we can hike, swim and play cards -- things that make us all our most silly, creative and free-spirited selves."

At his trial for impiety and corrupting youth (by teaching his students to question the established order), Socrates reportedly said that "the unexamined life is not worth living." Perhaps the same can be said of playing and vacationing? What underlying assumptions or unexamined expectations have you had around the notion of *play* or *vacation*? How can you make time for play? With whom might you play? Must you go somewhere else to play?

My desire for you this month and this summer is that after so many months of social restrictions and relative isolation that you will find a way to enjoy some play time -- on your own and with others.

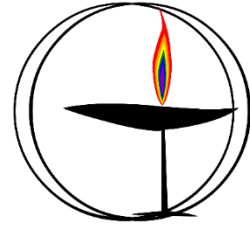
Blessings,

Rev. Lee Anne



The Principles and Sources of our Religious Faith

UU congregations affirm and promote seven principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in UU religious communities.”



Our Seven Principles

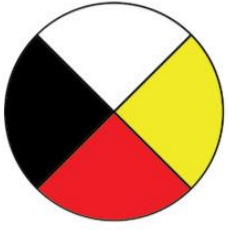
- ⊖ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ⊖ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ⊖ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ⊖ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ⊖ The right of conscience and the use of the 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.

We live out these principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from such diverse sources as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

Our Six 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.

Land Acknowledgement



In accordance with our principles, we acknowledge with gratitude that we gather 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.

June's Theme is "Play"

June 6 Flower Communion: God Loves A Garden

Imagine human beings as flowers and the beloved community as a garden. Such a flight of fancy offers us an opportunity to make observations and learn lessons applicable to living in a diverse, and far too often conflicted, world. This unique Unitarian Universalist ritual embodies our first and sixth principles: Unitarian Universalist congregations together affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Please bring a long-stemmed flower with you to the Zoom Service.

June 13 Gay Heroes of Edmonton

We celebrate Pride Month by paying tribute to three Edmontonians who have made life better not just for the GBLTQ community but for all of us in this city. Susan Ruttan, sermon; Gordon Ritchie, service leader.

June 20 Recollections of Our Fathers & Installation of the Board

There are as many variations of the father and child relationship as there are fathers and children. Not all of those relationships reflect the Norman Rockwell vision of fatherhood. Regardless, most of us have benefited at some point in our lives from an adult's paternal interest in our well-being. Join in this traditional Father's Day service honoring those who have stood in the place of "father" in our lives. We will also install UCE's 2021-2022 Board of Trustees.

June 27 World's Biggest UU Service, 10:00 AM MT

Today we will join the Sunday morning worship that is part of the Annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Last year, more than 10,000 screens tuned in for this online event. **Note: It starts at 10 am, not our usual 10:30 am.** It will be streamed on the UUA YouTube channel. <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2021/sunday-worship>

Link for all Sunday Services, except the UUA Service:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>
Meeting ID: 200 338 874 +1 587 328 1099



Sunday Services Waiting Room.

Our services start at 10:30 am. We begin admitting people at 10:15am. Until then, you will be in our waiting room.

Michael Keast Takes on UCE Board Presidency Early

On May 10, UCE president Karen Bilida informed the board that she would be taking a stress leave from the Unitarian Church of Edmonton effective immediately and will review her decision in one month's time.

To ensure stable leadership was in place for the congregation, the board asked Mike Keast, who was elected as incoming president at the annual general meeting on May 2, if he would be willing to fulfill the remaining six weeks of Karen's term. He agreed and the board passed a motion to make it official at their May 12 meeting.

Karen played an active role in many facets of our church life. We are grateful for the volunteers who have already stepped forward and offered their help. If you have been contemplating lending a hand in a certain area, now would be a great time to try it out and maybe even learn some new skills! Mentors are available for all facets of service tasks.

We hope this is a time of rest, healing and renewal for Karen and look forward to welcoming her back at services and church activities soon.

From the UCE board of directors

Summer Services

Yes, there will be summer church services on Zoom this year. We're simplifying things a bit, so we won't need as many volunteers. But we do need help: we need people who will open the service and let people in – the job called the "greeter". And we need service leaders – people who will guide the audience through the service, using a script that will be provided to them.

Gordon Ritchie and Susan Ruttan are leading the Summer Service effort this year. Can you help? Email us at ruttans@shaw.ca and we'll provide details.

AGM Board and Committee Results



Please join the Sunday Service on June 20th for the installation of the 2021-2022 Board of Trustees. We will be welcoming: Mike Keast (President), Andrew Mills (Treasurer), Marilyn Gaa (Trustee), Susan Ruttan (Trustee) and David Hagel (Trustees). The new Board members will be joining Brandie Moller (Vice President) and Jennifer Askey (Trustee).

The Leadership Committee would also like to welcome Erin Thackery and Wendy Smith who will be serving two-year terms. They will be joining Beth Jenkins and Donna Hamar who both half way through their two-year terms.

World's Biggest UU Sunday Service, June 27th, 10:00 AM MT



To join the service please use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcfE-wN-Fk6xsLDrOZicPcg>

The largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists will be taking place June 23 to 27 <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, [First Universalist Church of Minneapolis](#) was selected to serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service.

Next Board Meeting is Wednesday June 9th at 7:15pm

Please email Board@uce.ca by June 4th if you would like to add anything to the agenda or attend the meeting. For the latest Board minutes please visit:

<https://www.uce.ca/agm-minutes-reports-board-meeting-minutes/>

In Memoriam



The UCE lost a valued member of its congregation on May 12th. Clem Cloutier died at the age of 86. Clem always had a twinkle in his eye that hinted at his sense of fun and good humour. He loved music, animals, a good

story, crib and, most especially, his family. Our condolences to Lizzie, Adrienne, Marie and their family.

Please use this link to read more and get updates,

<https://edmontonjournal.remembering.ca/obituary/joseph-clement-cloutier-1082366819>

We are also saddened to share the news of the passing of **Rev Charles Eddis** on May 23. Charles was called to serve his first congregation in Canada in 1953, the Unitarian Fellowship of Edmonton. To read more, visit <https://cuc.ca/enews-may-25-2021/#memoriam>.



You can also visit UCE's history page

<https://www.uce.ca/uploads/UCehistory/MINISTERS.html>.

Lunch and Learn



You are invited to join Rev. Lee Anne in an open Zoom meeting on Wednesdays from noon to 2pm.

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

Meeting ID: 984 8583 4810

Passcode: 109413.

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

UCE Lunch Bunch

You are invited to join the UCE Lunch Bunch *via* Zoom on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 2:00**. Sign in and see who shows up or make a lunch date with a friend.

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

Meeting ID: 957 7757 4700

Passcode: 958419



Please enjoy watching recordings of our Sunday Services again on YouTube or listen as a Podcast on SoundCloud. Just click on the link and don't forget to subscribe while you are there.



Please join us in conversation on Social Media

- Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>
- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmpm5DXHKM7pRnnzcC75txQ>
- SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/>

Please make sure that you continue to update your Zoom account. Zoom regularly updates to release new features and fix bugs. We recommend upgrading to the latest version once it is available.

How to update Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us>



We are all well aware of how Covid-19 is impacting us here in Canada. As bad as it is for us, think about how much worse it is for people in countries such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Tibet! Fortunately, there is an organization that can provide relief!

Child Haven International was formed 35 years ago by Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino of Maxville, Ontario who began by adopting 19 children from around the world. They realized a greater need, and with the help of their family doctor, Dr. Nat Shah, took action. They began by building Children's Homes and hiring local staff to care for, feed, clothe and educate children in their local communities. Today, the organization is providing loving care for over 1,300 formerly destitute children!

Last year, all face-to-face fundraising efforts for Child Haven were halted due to Covid. This resulted in a desperate need for financial support! To help address that need, there will be an **Edmonton Child Haven virtual event on Saturday, June 19 from 7 to 9 pm MT**. This Zoom event will provide an opportunity to welcome participants and thank previous donors for their generous support, along with celebrating Child Haven on their 35th anniversary!

The free event will include a live performance by the children in the Child Haven's homes and an update by Robin Cappuccino, son of Bonnie and Fred.

- **Edmonton CHI:** https://childhaven.ca/fundraiser_edmonton.html
- **Zoom invitation:** <https://zoom.us/j/96550332325>
- **Auction starting on June 5th** – you can link the auction site at https://childhaven.ca/fundraiser_edmonton.html to bid on items of beauty, ornaments, handicrafts, artwork, glassware, gift items and art supplies.

If you would like to enjoy an **East Indian meal** on the day, you can phone Meridian Banquet Centre by **June 17 at 780-468-7008**. You can pay by credit card or e-transfer. You will have a choice of a vegetarian or non-vegetarian take out meal for **\$13**. The meal will consist of *butter chicken or vegetarian option, rice, dhal, aloo gobi (cauliflower), a sweet, salad and naan bread*. Meals can be **picked up from 2 to 5 pm** on the day of the event (around the back) at 4820–76 Avenue. If you cannot pick up your meal, Child Haven volunteers will deliver it to you. Please call **Donna at 780-425-0728** to arrange this.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Child Haven International Zoom event!



Youth Connections

<p>1st Sunday, Popcorn Theology 2:00-5:00 p.m. Calgary/Winnipeg Zoom link: https://tinyurl.com/y4dpseh3</p>	<p>3rd Sunday, Super-Group 4:00-5:00 MT Saskatoon Zoom link: https://tinyurl.com/ybeehin6</p>
<p>2nd Sunday, A Chorus of Faiths 2:00-3:00 MT Calgary Zoom link: https://tinyurl.com/y4dpseh3</p>	<p>4th Sunday Religions 2:00-3:00 MT Calgary Zoom link: https://tinyurl.com/y4dpseh3</p>
<p>Thursdays Cosmic Connections 7:00 - ? MT Westwood Discord: https://discord.gg/jNNCnCy</p>	



Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)

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

Connect and Deepen

Sundays, June 13 and 27, 2 pm MT
More information is available
at <https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen>

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 2:30 pm MT
More information is available
at <https://cuc.ca/events/rising>

Gathered Here

Monday, June 14, 6:00 pm MT
More information is available
at <https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-june-2021>

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The Edmonton Unitarian Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Submitting Articles

Please submit articles to the Church Administrator, Janet Polkovsky, by email chadmin@uce.ca. You can either attach your text as a Microsoft Word document (the preferred method) or include it in the body of the email. Please do not send an article as an image file.

Deadline: 10 am on the 2nd to the last Friday of the month.

Article Length

Articles should be as short as possible, conveying only the necessary information. A general guideline is 75 to 200 words (you can use the word count feature in Microsoft Word to determine how long your article is). Submitted articles may be edited for clarity and conformity with these guidelines, or may be shortened to fit the space available. UCE staff and UCE Board of Trustees' columns are exceptions to this guideline.

Content

Articles should include who, what, when, where, why and how (as applicable). Articles must be directly related to UCE or UU. No advertisements for outside organizations, with the exception of not-for-profits approved by the Social Justice Committee or the UCE Board of Trustees. No advertisements for any products.

People Finder

UCE Board: board@uce.ca

President: Mike Keast

Vice President: Brandie Moller

Treasurer: Andrew Mills

Trustees: Jennifer Askey, Marilyn Gaa, Susan Ruttan and David Hagel

Past President: Karen Bilida

Minister: Rev Lee Ann Washington

780-455-9797

Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca

780-454-8073

Religious Exploration Leader: Vacant

780-454-5816

Head Teller: Edwina Madill

780-462-2089

Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca

780-432-0826

Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Gaa Marilyn marilyngaa@telusplanet.net

780-432-7660

Property Management: Mike Keast

780-497-1303