



Contents

The Principles and Sources	2
Land Acknowledgement	2
2021 Re-Opening Plan	3
Minister's Reflection	4
September Services	5
Church Updates	6
President's Letter	6
Chorealis Start-up Pending	6
Religious Exploration	6
Walking Group	6
Tuney Tuesdays	7
Sound/Video Techs Needed	7
Sharing Our Abundance	7
Caring Connections and You	8
Keeler Hall Rented	8
CUC Events	9
People Finder	10

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

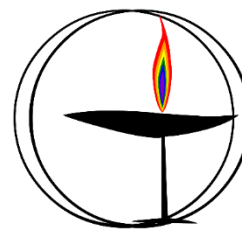
Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

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.

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

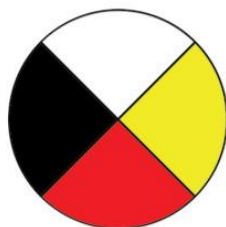
- ⊖ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ⊖ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ⊖ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ⊖ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ⊖ The right of conscience and the use of the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

2021 Re-Opening Plan for the Unitarian Church of Edmonton

22 August 2021

COVID 19 is a real and dangerous health threat. The UCE Board has an obligation to protect our members to the best of their ability and the use of vaccinations, masks, screenings, and social distancing have been shown to be effective protections.

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE) is planning to re-open for in-person meetings and services as of 1 September 2021. Here are the details of that plan. Note that the Board will update this plan as needed or as directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) of Alberta. The Board of UCE may choose to retain stricter guidelines than are directed by the CMOH.

UCE will require that all meetings and services follow guidelines to help protect those gathered from COVID 19. Anyone choosing to enter the building is subject to these guidelines which will be posted prominently at the entrance. There are three main guidelines:

- 1. Wear a mask.** Everyone in the public areas of the building, or in areas where people are gathered, must always wear a mask. There is to be no eating or drinking in the building as this would require a person to remove their mask.
- 2. COVID Screening.** All people attending a gathering must be screened for COVID symptoms. Volunteers will ask if they have had recent symptoms, what their vaccination status is, and if they are volunteering that day. Temperatures may be taken with a non-contact thermometer. Name and contact numbers will also be noted in case there is a COVID exposure at the gathering. Screening forms will be disposed after 30 days. Please arrive early for your event so that you can complete the screening.
- 3. Social Distancing.** People at all gatherings must maintain social distancing. Seating should be spaced apart and separate entrances and exits set up to prevent people from bunching together. Coffee service is suspended, and people are asked to maintain their distance when meeting other people.

Should a person choose not to follow these guidelines then they will be asked to attend the service (or gathering) online. Those not fully vaccinated are asked to not attend in-person events. All Sunday services will continue to be broadcast online while these guidelines are in place.

Some additional notes

1. Vaccinations are not required for children under 12 or for those with a medical exemption.
2. Regular cleaning of the church will resume in September; however, there is no guarantee that all surfaces will be clean. Additional cleaning supplies will be available in the lobby so that groups using the church can do whatever extra cleaning they desire before their event.
3. Children will also be required to wear a mask. Guidelines for children will follow the current guidelines for Edmonton Public Schools.
4. The leaders of any group that is using the space will be responsible for complying with these guidelines.
5. Congregational singing will require that masks are in place and that people are socially distanced.

Questions?

If you have questions about this plan, then please email the president of the board mikekeast@shaw.ca.

Minister's Reflection: A New [Ad]Venture Full of Possibility



Adrienne Maree Brown states, “Meaningful collaboration both relies on and deepens relationship—the stronger the bond between the people or groups in collaboration, the more possibility you can hold.”

I was chatting with a colleague the other day and she was telling me about her excitement about ‘doing church’ with her new congregation. Since she said that I’ve read or heard the phrase several times. I’ve thought about that, and while I don’t particularly like the phrase, I am very excited about ‘doing church’ with The Unitarian Church of Edmonton.

You know how children love to pretend to be teachers or bus drivers? When I was a child, I used to pretend I was a minister and my favourite game was ‘baptism.’ Being raised in the United Church of Canada, baptism was and still is a very important sacrament. I could feel how special it was for everyone in the room, especially the minister. Now, as your new minister, I no longer have to pretend or make up games where I get to be the minister. For me, being your minister is the manifestation of a lifelong yearning to be here, now, serving this congregation. We get to ‘do church’ together.

And the actions that make congregational life possible are born out of relationships. Relationships and service are the backbone of any congregation and nothing can happen outside of these two things. We are in this together; we are collaborators. We are about to get to know one another, work together, get along and not get along sometimes. We’re going to be successful and make mistakes, pleased and disappointed, and we’re going to move ahead and sometimes fall back.

During the month of September, we are exploring the theme, ‘Embracing Possibility.’ This is what I am hoping we do during this month; embrace the possibility of us beginning our ministry together. Our first step is to get to know one another, to begin building relationships, serving together, and I can hardly wait.

In peace,

Rev. Rosemary



Embracing Possibility

September Services 2021 (All services are at 10:30 am MT)

During the month of September Rev. Rosemary and the Church Services Committee will be bringing the theme, 'Embracing Possibility' to life. On the first Sunday in September, the CSC and Gordon Ritchie will be embracing the possibility of moving safely back into the sanctuary with ritual and music and so much more. For the rest of the month Rev. Rosemary will be exploring with you what it means to embrace possibility. Right now everything is possible, but only some things are realistic, and we get to choose which parts of possibility we embrace. Please join Rev. Rosemary and the Church Services Committee to fully explore what's possible in our personal lives and our congregational life together.

- September 5** *A House For Our Dreams*, Service Leaders: Church Services Committee
- September 12** *Water is Life*, Rev. Rosemary Morrison
- September 19** *Ask What's Possible, Not What's Wrong*, Rev. Rosemary Morrison
- September 26** *Rewrite the Ending: Then Anything is Possible*, Rev. Rosemary Morrison



Link for all Sunday Services:
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 placed in our waiting room.

Church Updates

President's Letter

Welcome to the start of another church year. There is so much going on this year and as always help is needed everywhere, from services to governance. Feel free to just dip your toes into any area you feel might be of interest, or feel free to contact myself or the office if you have any time or questions. LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

Mike Keast, UCE Board

Chorealis Start-up Pending



Given the rising COVID case numbers and the higher transmission risks associated with singing, we have decided to delay restarting Chorealis rehearsals. We'll review in September and if case numbers are down (fingers crossed), will begin in-person rehearsals in October.

Religious Exploration

Dear UCE Families,

With the decision made to move back to in-person church activities for September, once again things are changing very quickly. I am excited to properly begin my duties as Interim Director of Religious Exploration!

We are moving into a period of rebuilding for our church and all of our programs, so keep an eye on your emails for a Religious Exploration survey set to go out next week! I'm looking forward to a new Church year of learning and connecting after so long of having to keep our distance!

Hope to see you soon! All my love, Maria Jenkins

Walking Group

Everyone is welcome to join the UCE Walkers on Fridays at 10.30am at the designated location. While the weather is nice, we bring a chair and a snack and have a visit after the walk.



The walks for September are:

- 3rd – Laurier Park (south end of Buena Vista Rd)
- 10th – Hawrelak Park (main parking lot)
- 17th – Mill Creek (Argyle Velodrome, 6850-88 St)
- 24th – Snow Valley (13204- Rainbow Valley Rd)

Tuney Tuesdays

We're coming back! At **Tuney Tuesday** we take in your music suggestions, by way of YouTube videos, and I, your humble curator, will share my screen on Zoom and play those videos. In between, we'll share thoughts about music and related reactions. You can find a link that connects to our Zoom session in the UCE calendar, the church bulletin, and on our website, uce.ca.



If you wish to find out more, need to be shown how to share a YouTube link, or have any other questions, email tunes@uce.ca and I will answer. My name is Alex Polkovsky. I hope to see you on my screen soon. Please keep an eye on the weekly emails to find the start date.

Participants: please send two video links under 5 minutes in length each. That's our content. If you would prefer to just join in and interact without suggesting any video to play, that's alright, too. Come and hang out. Come every week or just now and again, it's all good. I'll open the Zoom room at 6:45 just so we can banter a bit, and then on to the music.

Sound/Video Techs Needed



We are upgrading our sound system and adding a video component so we can stream services. To spread out the work we are looking at training more people how to run everything. There are no strings attached and no sales person will call. Although if you are trained to operate the system your name could go on the list of people who can be paid by renters to operate the system for them. To top it off you get an amazing view of the service!

Contact me, mikekeast@shaw.ca if you would like to find out more about this amazing opportunity.

Sharing Our Abundance September 2021

Canada's only national leadership retreat for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning and allied youth. The camp is designed to help youth develop leadership skills and personal resiliency. Along with summer camps, the Institute for Sexual Minorities Studies and Services (iSMSS) at the U of A has extended fYrefly to schools to help reduce discrimination against 2SLGBTQ+ youth.



To donate online: <https://www.ualberta.ca/camp-fyrefly/supportfyrefly.html>

Caring Connections and You



CARING CONNECTIONS is a pastoral care project to deliver the practical side of pastoral care for members, friends and staff of UCE. We are modelling after the Compassion Bank which has been operating successfully at Westwood Unitarian Church for a number of years.

You can sign up to be a Caring Connector – one who helps others. You can be a Receiver when you need a little something. You can be both.

Here is our list of offerings:

- Card Crew – mail cards for birthdays, special anniversaries, condolence, etc.
- Transporters – use your vehicle to take someone to church, to an appointment, shopping, or deliver a meal prepared by a nourisher
- Nourishers – prepare soup or meal for delivery
- Visitors – visit as a friend in hospital, long term care, confined at home, etc.
- Handihelps – simple repairs or advice on home, garden, auto or technology
- Special Offers – something unique to you that can benefit others

Gloria Krenbrenk is your Dispatcher at 780-668-9166 or ucecares@uce.ca. Feel free to contact her for yourself or for someone you know of who may be in need. The Dispatcher will then send out a message to those willing to provide that offering, and link the two. Confidentiality is maintained at all times, except with mutual agreement of the Receiver and the Caring Connector. We ask that all participants be fully vaccinated.

As a Caring Connector, you will never be “assigned” a task, rather you have the opportunity to confirm your availability to assist in accordance with your own schedule and needs. If you feel you can assist on occasion with any of the above offerings, please contact Gloria at 780-668-9166 or ucecares@uce.ca to be included on the Caring Connector contact list.

Keeler Hall Rented

When Open Doors Learning Services first started renting from our church five years ago, it was a brand-new enterprise that Melissa Manning and her mother Rita had created. Today, their tutoring company has blossomed with a growing number of teachers and pupils. That means they need more space than the area they currently rent.

Our plan is to renovate our warehouse, once its current tenant leaves, and turn it into teaching space for Open Doors. That will take time. In the interim, we have rented our Keeler Hall to Open Doors, starting July 1. When you get back in our church building, you’ll find Open Doors staff and students in the hall Monday through Friday. During those times, please enter the church through the main door, not through Keeler Hall.

Susan Ruttan, Rental Committee Chair



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.



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>



CUC Events

For the full CUC calendar, click here: <https://cuc.ca/events/>

UU BIPOC Space

Saturday, September 18, 10am MT
Details [here](#). Join on Zoom
at http://bit.ly/UU_BIPOC

Leaders Roundtable

Saturday, September 25, 10:00 am MT
Connect on [Zoom](#).

Connect and Deepen

Sundays, September 12, 26, 2 pm MT
Details [here](#)

Gathered Here

Join other UU 18-35 year-olds on Zoom
Monday, September 13 6:00 pm MT
Details [here](#)

8th Principle Process: Forums

Sundays, Sept 19, Oct 3 & 17, 5 pm MT
The forums will focus on reflection and embracing action to prepare us for making a significant decision at the Special Meeting on November 27th.
Details [here](#)

Lay Chaplain Q&A Ask Us Anything – Lay Chaplaincy Edition!

Tuesday, September 28, 5:00 pm MT
Details [here](#)

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY
by the UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON Vol. 62 No. 08

10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
Phone 780-454-8073 Fax 780-452-1641

E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEBSITE www.uce.ca

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

People Finder

UCE Board: board@uce.ca
President: Mike Keast 780-497-1303
Vice President: Brandie Moller
Treasurer: Andrew Mills
Trustees: Jennifer Askey, Marilyn Gaa, Susan Ruttan and David Hagel
Past President: Karen Bilida
Minister: Reverend Rosemary Morrison 780-455-9797
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca 780-454-8073
Interim Religious Exploration Leader: Maria Jenkins 780-454-5816
Head Teller: Edwina Madill 780-462-2089
Canvass: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca 780-432-0826
Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Gaa Marilyn marilyngaa@telusplanet.net 780-432-7660
Property Management: Alan Boyle 780-454-6216