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**October Theme: Cultivating Relationships**

Our theme for the month of October is: *Cultivating Relationships*. Nurturing relationships is one of the key aspects of being part of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton.

Mark Morrison-Reed states: The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice. It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

I look forward to exploring this important topic, and more importantly, cultivating and nurturing the relationships between and among us.

**October 3** *Indigenous Alberta: Life Before the Residential Schools*  
Service Leader: Susan Ruttan

**October 10** *A Harvest of Hope,* Rev Rosemary Morrison

**October 17** *Strength in Community,* Rev Rosemary Morrison

**October 24** *Longing and Belonging,* Rev Rosemary Morrison

**October 31** *Samhain; Hallows Blessing for the Ancestors*  
Service Leader: Gordon Ritchie

Services Begin at 10:30 am,  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>  
Meeting ID: 200 338 874 +1 587 328 1099



Sunday Services Waiting Room. We begin admitting people at 10:15am. Until then, you will be placed in our waiting room.

## Minister's Reflection:



This is the first fall I've spent in Edmonton in many years. I am truly enjoying the beauty of the fall colours and hearing the rustle of fallen leaves as I walk along the ravines and riverbanks. Fall is my favourite season of the year, I love the crisp air in the morning and the surprise of warmth in the late afternoon. As with all glorious and fleeting treasures, fall never lasts long enough, especially in Canada where the shoulder seasons fly by.

As we enjoy this beautiful fall season let's remember we are intertwined and dependent upon the natural world, just as our seventh principle invites. We can also learn from nature's ways. As the leaves turn golden, and then fall to the ground, I wonder what the lesson is for us. What might we individually and collectively need to let go of in order to make room for new growth, new life? Just like the trees, if we don't make room, we can't experience renewal. What do you think might be in store for

us come the spring? Just like the trees, we have to be brave as we let go and allow for new beginnings.

### ***Letting Go – New Beginnings***

Watch and learn from the trees,  
their leaves are dying. But they  
do not suffer in silence.

They are shouting death from  
the treetops...

"Look, look!" each leaf  
proclaims in vibrant colour.

This is the season of new beginnings,  
of fresh starts, a chance to try again.

Do the trees know they will leaf out again?  
Is this why they bravely allow each  
precious little one to fall from their grasp?

Learn from the trees:

as they let go, beauty emerges.

Each falling leaf, each bare branch,  
brings the promise of new life in the spring.



In peace, Rev. Rosemary

## Church Updates

### President's Letter

As we move into October and Thanksgiving, I really am thankful everyone who has pitched in to help us get in person services happening this month, and to get the Audio/Video system working. Of course, also thank you to everyone watching the services remotely and enduring our learning curve, it can only get better!

Of course, as always happens with the new system comes new wants/needs, we could really use an android or apple tablet 10 inch or bigger, for remotely managing the sound board during a service.

We are "Doing this hard thing" and moving forward, we are still in a time of transition, but no reason we can't enjoy the ride. Stay safe and take care of you and yours.

My inbox is always open.

Mike Keast, UCE Board

### Your GIT Got Going!

The first meeting of the Governance Implementation Team (GIT), Louise Charach, Lynne Turvey, Karen Mills and Rev Rosemary was held on September 16, 2021. We reviewed the many recommendations from the Financial Task Team and the Good Governance Task Team and talked about next steps.



Two key priorities championed by Rev Rosemary include working with UCE to develop a **Covenant of Right Relations** and to embark on a **Strategic Planning** process. Expect to hear more about these important actions over the next months.

Under development are Terms of Reference for a committee and bylaw review. Draft Terms for the UCE board have been passed to the UCE board for review and finalization. The Finance committee and treasurer are tackling the Financial best practice report as we speak. We are reviewing policy manuals and member handbooks from other jurisdictions to assist with customizing these for UCE.

Each of us plays a role in good governance and soon we will be approaching volunteers to help revitalize our UCE vision.

It is a real honour to be on this GIT. We will keep you in the loop as we continue to work through the next steps to make our beloved church strong, accountable and inclusive.

Louise, Lynne, Karen, Rev. Rosemary.

## Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Please email [board@uce.ca](mailto:board@uce.ca) if you would like to attend and find out what the meeting format will be (online or in person).

### Did you Know that UCE Board Minutes Are Online?



Minutes of UCE Board meetings are available for anyone to review on the UCE website [www.uce.ca](http://www.uce.ca) under the tab “Church Business” or click the link <https://www.uce.ca/agm-minutes-reports-board-meeting-minutes/>

## Social Justice Working Group

The Social Justice Working Group is resuming in person monthly meetings. Members from the 2019 list have received a survey, which will be an important guide to action. Everyone is welcome to attend our next meeting on Oct.3, at 11:45, after the church service. In these challenging times, our voice and action is called for. Direct questions to Sylvia Krogh or Audrey Brooks.

## 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.



## Sharing Our Abundance October 2021



**Child Haven International, Maxville, Ontario** was started by Unitarian Minister Fred & Bonnie Cappuccino. Child Haven supports children and women in developing countries who are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing. Child Haven has five homes in India, Nepal, Tibet, China and Bangladesh. Click [here to donate](#).

## Walking Group

Everyone who has been vaccinated is welcome to join the UCE walkers at 10.30am each Friday at the designated location. Bring a chair and snack.

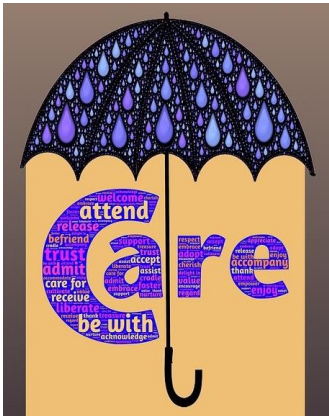


For October, the walks are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Blackmud Creek Ravine (meet at William Lutsky YMCA, 1975 111 St)
- 8<sup>th</sup> MacKinnon Ravine (meet at 9916-154 Street)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Chickakoo Lake (<https://www.travelalberta.com/ca/listings/chickakoo>)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Highlands Golf Course (lunch at Highlands depending on COVID regulations)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Riverdale (meet at Little Brick Café, 10004 90 St)

Be well. Sheila Parr

## 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. Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic situation has once again put this project on hold. However, feel free to sign up for the future. See details below.

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](mailto: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](mailto:ucecares@uce.ca) to be included on the Caring Connector contact list.

## Tuney Tuesdays Are 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](http://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](mailto:tunes@uce.ca) and I will answer. My name is Alex Polkovsky. I hope to see you on my screen soon.

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](mailto:mikekeast@shaw.ca) if you would like to find out more about this amazing opportunity.



**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>



## Who We Are



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

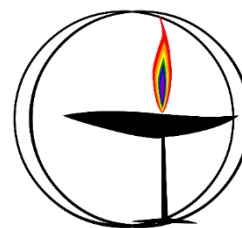
**Actively Engaged:** We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

**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.



## Serving With Spirit Leadership Workshop Day

Saturday, October 2, 9:30 am – 5:30pm MT

We welcome you to join fellow Canadian UUs as we together explore:

- identifying leadership gifts and welcoming ways to express them
- finding creative expression for UU values
- building skills so that our structures reflect our UU principles

**NOTE:** This will be an introductory day and in the two years to follow, CUC and hosting partners will offer advanced training regarding topics in which participants have indicated interest. This event is organized by UUs in British Columbia and CUC staff. The organizing team strongly encourages all UUs to participate in this leadership day to strengthen regional networking and connections.”



**Registration – Deadline: September 26, midnight PT**

For more information and to Register, [click here](#)



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

## Widening the Circle

### FACILITATOR TRAINING

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Oct. 16, Saturday, Oct. 30, Saturday, Nov. 13, Saturday, Dec. 4

8:30 am - 4 pm PT | 9:30 am - 5 pm PT | 10:30 am - 6 pm CT | 11:30 am - 7 pm ET | 12:30 pm - 8 pm AT



Lay leaders and religious professionals committed to changing racist systems in their congregations are invited to become a facilitator of the UUA's study guide, adapted for our Canadian context.

For more information please contact: [congregationallife@cuc.ca](mailto:congregationallife@cuc.ca)

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Treasurer: Andrew Mills  
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