



*The Edmonton Unitarian, November 2021, Vol 62.10*

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**November Theme: Holding History**

**November 7** *Trailblazer Olympia Brown* Rev Rosemary Morrison  
 Rev. Olympia Brown was the first denominationally ordained woman in North America. She was also very active in the Suffragette movement. During this month of 'Holding History' we celebrate Rev. Olympia Brown as one who faced adversity with courage.

**\*\*\*Daylight Savings Ends November 7<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**November 14** *What Mark Said* Rev Rosemary Morrison  
 Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed is the author of many historical books on the experience of people of colour trying to be leaders in the Unitarian and Universalist traditions. Rev. Morrison will explore some of the stories Rev. Mark Morrison Reed has uncovered through the lens of the proposed 8th Principle.

**November 21** *Truth, Honesty and Reconciliation* SJWG  
 The UCE Social Justice Working Group has invited Calgary First Nations storyteller and activist Chantal Stormsong Chagnon to speak about building a reconciliation community of allies who support the TRC calls to action.

**November 28** CUC National Sunday Online Service, 11:00 MT  
 Led by youth and young adults, this service recognizes and celebrates our 60-year history, and calls on us to fulfill the possibilities of our future together. **Join on [Zoom](#), Call-in toll-free: 1-855 703 8985**

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:

**In times of universal deceit, telling the truth will be a revolutionary act.**

**George Orwell**

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We're heading into our third month together, and now is as good a time as any to tell you the truth about something. The truth I'm about to tell is about the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle (We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: "Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.") Here's the short version: I'm all for it. Not only that, I believe deeply that we need it. If we didn't need it our congregations wouldn't be so homogenous, the proof is in the pudding so to speak. If our congregations were safe and inviting for people other than Caucasian and (for the most part) middle class folks, then there already would have been a shift in what our Unitarian Universalist congregations look like.

I remember when the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Canadian Unitarian Council asked congregations to go through a process of becoming 'Welcoming' congregations. That is to say, learning how to be welcoming to people who identified as gay, lesbian, trans, queer, two spirited, bi-sexual, and non-binary (and more!). I heard then what I'm hearing now. "We don't need that; our principles cover it." Or, "I don't have a problem with gay people, I don't need to take any training." Now we're hearing the same kind of push-back. "Our other principles cover all this" And, "I don't like it that we're being called racists." Or, "We heartily welcome any person of colour who comes here."

Unfortunately, our Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour folks will tell you that they don't feel safe in our midst, that they are subjected to micro-aggressions, unwanted questions, and a host of other problems. Also, there are barriers to inclusion that we belonging to the colonizing, western European culture can't see, and our style of gathering is also steeped in that culture. We lack diversity in all of its forms: from age distribution, socio-economic status, to multi-faith, and race.

We have a lot to learn, and by adopting the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, we are saying that we are willing to learn. The Unitarian Church of Edmonton is just starting on this journey, we have a lot of work to do together, and I for one am up to the challenge. I hope and pray you are too!

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

## President's Letter

Friends, Neighbours, Church goers, lend me your ears.

It has been a busy month around UCE,

The Governance Implementation team has been working hard.

The Tech volunteers have been working to figure out the new system, train others and provide a hybrid service.

Our Finance team has been streamlining processes.

Our new Minister has been learning all about us and providing services.

A whole team of people have been making sure the Services happen, from the Worship team to the volunteers on Sunday morning.

The maintenance team has been patching and fixing and replacing what is needed to keep the door open

Painters have been brightening up the building

Human resources have been figuring out benefits and contracts and job descriptions

The Committee on Ministry has been going full steam ahead

The board has been making the hard decisions and the not so hard decisions.

Audrey spent a lot of time at the church cleaning out a lot of areas.

The maintenance crew has started renovations on the warehouse space to get it ready for our next tenant.

The gardeners have been out weeding and trimming and gardening

I'm sure there is so much more, that I can't even remember right now, we are a vibrant active community, even with all the restrictions around us, we have found a way forward. I thank and applaud each and every one of you. This community wouldn't be what it is without each and every member and friend!

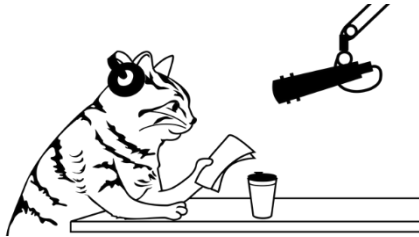
And now after all the info and buttering up, comes the ask. We can always use more help, the more people helping the more time other can enjoy UCE. If you have an hour or 2 a month that you can contribute to help out, we will take it. We don't want your firstborn; trust me babies might be cute but they are smelly and costly. Please reach out to me if you have a bit of time and I'll put you in contact with the right people

See you in church

Mike

## Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet November 17 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/>

## Your GIT Keeps Going...

The second meeting of the Governance Implementation Team (GIT) was held in October. This team was established to action the recommendations from the Good Governance reports approved in June 2021.

Two big areas flagged as priorities for UCE were a **review of bylaws** and a **review of committees**. Both are now underway and are mammoth tasks. Beth Jenkins will lead our bylaws review and we hope to have the revisions to you at our AGM in May 2022. The last bylaw review was completed in 2017. The review of committees will result in clarification on how the work of the church gets done and of mandates, timelines, membership, etc. for committees. We want to make sure our resources and energy are well deployed to support the functioning of our UCE in the most effective way possible.



If you have any questions, please contact the Chair, [LouiseCharach@Gmail.com](mailto:LouiseCharach@Gmail.com).

## 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.



## Let's Get Behind Giving Tuesday!

Ever get tired of all the "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" retail hullabaloo each November, just as we head into the Christmas season? Well, that's what "Giving Tuesday" is about: an opportunity for community-minded people to turn away from the retail frenzy, and think about giving back.



This year, Giving Tuesday will be **November 30th**. If you are on mailing lists for your favourite charities, or follow them on social media, you may receive special *Giving Tuesday* promotions and appeals in late November. Likewise, if you have a [CanadaHelps](#) online account, you'll likely be notified of any special sponsorships for donations on *Giving Tuesday*.

And if that's not your style, UCE continues its tradition of "*Sharing Our Abundance*" with a selected charity each month. The charity of the month for November is: CBC Turkey Drive (via Edmonton Food Bank).



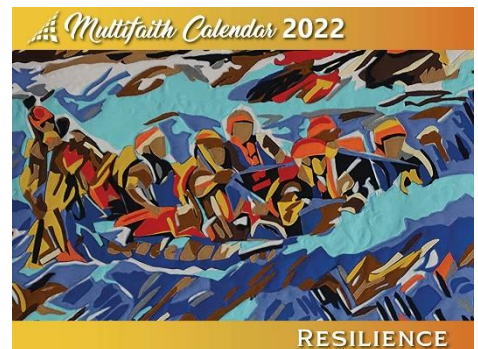
Mark November 30 as "Giving Tuesday" in your calendar. Consider celebrating it by an extra donation to UCE (perhaps to the Endowment Fund?), to other charities--- or why not both!

## 2022 Multifaith Calendars on Sale

If you would like to purchase the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Multifaith calendar, please Rev. Audrey Brooks at Sunday Services for your copy. The 2022 calendar cost is \$16.00. You can also order online at

<http://www.edminterfaithcentre.ca/2021-multifaith-calendar/>

Published annually by the Multifaith Action Society (MAS), the Multifaith Calendar is a unique educational resource that facilitates understanding of religious observances, occasions and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities. Featuring 24 pieces of original art from visual artists across North America and Internationally, the 2022 MFC marks the 36th year of publication and features the theme: *Resilience*.





## Tuney Tuesdays



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.



**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>

## Join UCE TV!



This season, the UCE tech team has been working on the details of broadcasting our Sunday services. What we have been doing is a hybrid service where the in-person service is streamed live to zoom and recorded. For the last few weeks we have been getting 30 people in-person and 30 people on Zoom. Once we post the recorded services another 30 to 50 people view each service on YouTube.

To help us broadcast the services we have installed a very impressive new audiovisual system. The new equipment includes microphones and a digital sound board, video cameras and a video mixer, a computer and software. We are rapidly learning how to use this new equipment and are making progress each service. It's like a TV control room now on the mezzanine!

Now we'd like to get more people to help! We need 3 people in the church on Sundays to help us operate the sound system, the cameras, and the computer. We also need 2 online helpers each Sunday to host and record the Zoom session. Training is provided. Send an email to Andrew Mills [andrew@misc.ca](mailto:andrew@misc.ca) to join our team!

Come out and help us with Edmonton's newest broadcaster UCE TV!





## 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/affective 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

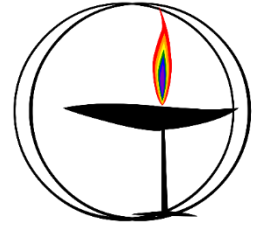
**Actively Engaged:** We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

**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.



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

**8th Principle Process: Forum 4 [Zoom](#)**

Sunday, November 7, 5 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/8th-principle-process>

This is the final forum in a series of 4 forums to bring congregations together in respectful conversation about the 8th Principle process. All forum material can be found in the [Dismantling Racism and 8th Principle folder](#)

**Gathered Here**

Monday, November 8, 8 pm ET

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here>

**Connect and Deepen, Virtual Gathering**

Sunday November 14, 2 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen>

**UU BIPOC Space**

Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/uu-bipoc>

**Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour**

Saturday, November 20 2:30 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together>

**CUC's 60th Anniversary Weekend and Western Regional Gathering**

Friday, November 26 – Sunday, November 28, 2021

The CUC was launched on May 14, 1961, when about 50 Unitarian Universalists from Halifax to Vancouver voted the Canadian Unitarian Council into being.

**Overview of the weekend:**

**Friday, November 26**

**Elder's Circle** with Stephen Paquette: 2:00pm MT [Zoom link](#)

**Western Region Gathering** 6:00 – 7:70 pm MT | 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Hosted by Casey Stainsby. [Western Zoom link](#)

**Saturday, November 27:**

[CUC Special Meeting](#) – 12:00 – 2:30 pm ET. This meeting takes place to discuss and vote on the proposed 8th Principle . Information for the Special Meeting is found in [this Google folder](#)

**CUC 60th Anniversary Recognition** – 4:00 – 6:00 pm ET. Join us for a retrospective on the past 60 years

**Sunday, November 28:**

[National Sunday Service](#) 11 am MT. **Join us on [Zoom](#)! Call-in toll-free: 1-855 703 8985**

Led by youth and young adults, this service's theme is "Change is Nature." Come for a delightful and spiritual experience!

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