



February Theme: Widening Circle



Photo by Noorulabdeen Ahmad on Unsplash

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February 2022 Services

February 6

A Journey of Faith

In the Islamic tradition, the many names of God is a reminder that God is a reality woven into the very fabric of being. God cannot be named or held or possessed but must ultimately be experienced as love, justice, mercy, peace, compassion, creator, and more. Guest speaker Nadia Miller-Goymer will share her thoughts on her journey of conversion into the Muslim faith.

February 13

Enter the Circle

In the unity of the spirit, in the sanctity of this blessed community, let us quiet ourselves as we settle into a meditative moment, a time when we can each listen to that still, small voice within. Please join Choreal and Rev. Rosemary for the Annual UCE Taizé Service.

February 20

The Gifts of Interfaith Dialogue

Ever heard of the 'Three Interfaith Amigos?' A United Church of Christ minister, a Rabbi, and an Imam have devoted themselves to creating opportunities for interfaith dialogue. This service will be an introduction to the journey they hope every congregation and organization will embark on. What are the benefits of interfaith dialogue anyway, and why should we bother? Come and find out!

February 27

Widening the Circle of Concern

The UUA's Commission on Institutional Change is called: Widening the Circle of Concern and it is also our theme for this month. Let's talk about what that means for us as a Canadian Unitarian Council church. What are some of the awarenesses that we need to have to live into our widening circle?

For Attending Services Online

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.

Guidelines for In-Person Service Attendees

Get Your QR Code: the Alberta government wants us all to have proof of our Covid vaccination, including a QR code, when we enter restaurants and events. Here's the link to get your code: <https://covidrecords.alberta.ca/home>.

- Church doors will open at 10:15 am
- Proof of vaccination is required.
- Those attending must be masked and screened for Covid symptoms
- Enter through the main doors only, Keeler Hall is not available
- No outside beverages or food
- Exit through the north vestry or Sanctuary emergency door

UCE Shared Ministry Start Up Day Invitation - RESCHEDULED

Rev. Rosemary Morrison and Board president Mike Keast are excited that our start-up workshop with Joan Carolyn of the Canadian Unitarian Council, will be going ahead this month in two sessions. Please mark your calendar for February 12th and 19th from 1-4 in the afternoon. These will be stand-alone workshops so you can attend either one or both. We hope you will be there for both as we still need all our voices and ideas. You will also be able to choose between being in person or joining online.

Learn about each other's areas of interest, desires to learn and aspirations

- ★ Connect to understand Congregational Shared Ministry and
- ★ Create plans for our first year of Shared Ministry with Rev. Rosemary Morrison

In preparation for our time together, we invite you to review:

- ★ Summary of the UCE five year strategic plan doc
 - ★ Letter of Agreement with the Minister so that everyone is aware of role expectations
- ***Please click [here](#) for workshop documents***

Together we will

- ★ Share our dreams for UCE's future
- ★ Prioritize a short list of goals for short and mid- term plans
- ★ Record all participants' ideas for future reference and planning

We invite you to reflect upon your personal relationship with the UCE Community

- ★ What drew you here?
- ★ What keeps you here?
- ★ What are some of the challenges here?
- ★ What are your dreams for the future?

We, all those within UCE, are our greatest strength! Please join us to share your wisdom as we together plan future directions!

Minister's Reflection Widening the Circle



Our theme for the month of February is 'Widening the Circle.' In our Sunday morning services we will be learning about different faiths, experiencing a Taizé service, and we will begin to learn about how 'Widening the Circle' is also about action. If you think of a circle, in order for it to widen, some pressure must come to bear on it. That can be uncomfortable.

We as a congregation, along with the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Association are committed to bringing our newly adopted 8th Principle to life. The first step is awareness, and to help bring that awareness into our understanding, we will begin to think about how we create "Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions." I'm excited to be

exploring this with you.

To further our awareness and move into action, I am hoping that we can get a team together to take the 'Widening the Circle of Concern' study guide. This is a 'train the trainer' type of program. Folks will take the course (online) on four dates: March 12, March 26, April 9, and April 23, 2022, equipping them to come back to UCE and deliver adult education to the rest of the congregation. What a great opportunity for spiritual and personal development, and to enhance your leadership skills! I'll be taking the course, and am sure that if you take it, your life will be enriched. Please take some time to discern whether or not this training is for you and let me know at minister@uce.ca. I think that together we make a real difference in the life of our congregation and in the wider community. You can get more information about this in this newsletter and online at cuc.ca.

Finally, please mark your calendar for our start up workshop on February 12th and 19th. It is important that your voice and ideas are reflected in the future holds for the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. We are preparing for a vibrant and exciting future; we can do great things together.

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

The UCE Welcomes Our New DRE



As the new Director of Religious Exploration, Oksana Atwood looks forward to working in the UCE community. She anticipates the next few months will be spent cleaning the classrooms and developing youth and inter-generational programs for when our community can gather safely again. Oksana understands that many factors affect our faith development and finds she is most spiritually grounded in silence, when in nature, and when she explores new places. She has an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Fine Arts degree along with several years' experience in mental health, youth development and event coordination. She is finishing up her Masters in Psychotherapy and Spirituality and balances her time between

counselling, church, work and her family. She credits her husband Mike Mudry and her children Astral Atwood and Freddy Mudry for supporting her in this new endeavor. Oksana extends a big thank you to previous DRE's including Lauren Kay, Will Adair and Maria Jenkins for their work.

Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet February 16 at 7:15 pm. Please email 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 under the tab "Church Business" or click the link <https://www.uce.ca/agm-minutes-reports-board-meeting-minutes/>

Land Acknowledgement

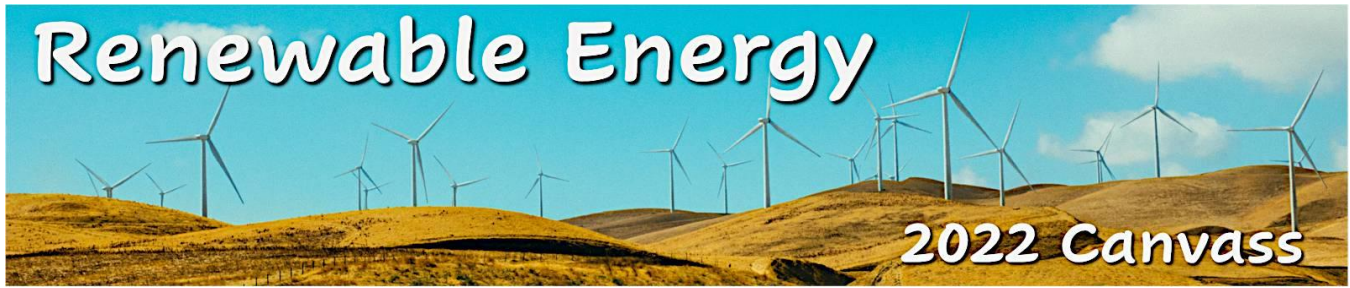
In accordance with our principles, we acknowledge with gratitude that we gather on traditional Cree lands that are now a part of Treaty Six and shared by many nations. A treaty is an inheritance, a responsibility and a relationship. May we be good neighbours to one another, good stewards to our planet and good ancestors to our children.



Dear Friends and Members:

Your kind cards and messages during my recent hospitalization were lovely. The care and concern expressed, I found remarkably strengthening and encouraging. Certainly, I find regaining my energy slow but hopefully steady. My heart is full of gratitude. Thank you all for your gifts of friendship. Zoom allows me the joy of seeing your faces and hearing your voices on Sundays.

Wonderful!!! Ruth Patrick



Our canvass theme this year is Renewable Energy. It's been a long run with COVID but it's time to put away those pajama bottoms and figure out how to get yourself re-energized!

We've got some great renewable energy in place. Our new minister, Rev Rosemary Morrison, has been renewing our in-person services since September. This month Oksana Atwood will start working on her take at renewing the religious exploration programs.

How are you renewing your energy in the church this year? The best way to reconnect with the energy of the church is to volunteer. Rev Rosemary can use your help with Sunday services from service leaders and readers to helping the tech team. Oksana is going to need lots of support as she develops her new education programs and will need volunteers.

In fact, most of the committees and activities of the church could use new volunteers. What aspect of church life would you like to help with? Many of our church activities are back in-person but it is still possible to participate online on most committees. All it takes is for you to step up and volunteer to renew your energy in the church. To find out where your energy could best be directed contact me or Rev Rosemary to discuss.

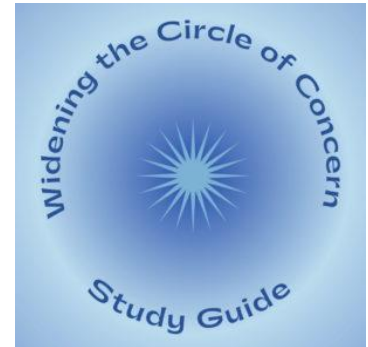
Renewable energy is also embodied in our financial support of the church. March will be canvass month, and before the end of March we will be asking everyone to pledge their financial support for the coming year. When was the last time you raised your pledge? It's great to want to have a vibrant and exciting church, but it is up to us, the members, to provide the "vibrant" funding to match. Please plan to return your pledge before the end of March.

This canvass we are asking you to renew your energy in support of the church. Start by volunteering to add your energy to our church community. Then renew that energy by providing your financial support to your church. Together we can be the renewable energy of our church!



Widening the Circle – Canadian Edition: Save the Dates!

The 2022 Widening the Circle of Concern: Canadian Edition reimagines the original sessions which were scheduled in the fall of 2021. Leaders and changemakers are invited in the spring of 2022 to participate in a Canadian UU learning and exploration experience on deepening and living out our values of social justice and equity. The sessions are based on the Unitarian Universalist Association's "[Widening the Circle of Concern](#)" Study Guide, which we have adapted to our Canadian context.



We invite your congregation/community to send a team of lay and professional leaders and aspiring change-makers – those who have a demonstrated commitment to dismantling racism, systemic barriers to full inclusion, justice, and equity, and who are interested in changing systems. We aim to equip these participants with the tools to be facilitators of change in their congregations and communities.

There will be four dates, with two 90-minute sessions on each date:

March 12, March 26, April 9, and April 23, 2022

Session I: 10:30am MT, Session II: 12:45pm MT

Walking Group

If you are double-vaxxed, you are welcome to join the UCE walkers at 10.30am each Friday at the designated location. Be well and bundle up! Sheila Parr

February Walks:

4 Hawrelak Park
11 Riverdale
18 Mill Creek Ravine
25 Victoria Promenade to Ezio Faraone Park

March Walks:

4 TBA – Lunch with Dorothy
11 Whitemud Ski Hill
18 Queen Elizabeth Park
25 Laurier

Tuney Tuesdays

At Tuney Tuesday we take in your music suggestions, by way of YouTube videos, 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.



Edmonton Food Bank Hamper Night Returns

The UCE will once again be hosting a food hamper distribution night on Wednesdays and volunteers are needed beginning the first week in February. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev Rosemary at RevRosemary@uce.ca



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>



Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Events

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

Seeking Participation for Upcoming Inclusivity Forums

We (CUC) are making documentary style videos for upcoming Inclusivity Forums and are looking for participants with diverse experiences to share their story with us:

For the March 2 Forum on Welcoming folks of all dis/abilities, specifically folks living with:

- Mental Health
- Injury related disability
- Physical Disability
- Sight impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Intellectual disability
- visible/invisible

If you are or know of UU's with lived experience with any of these forms of exclusion (or something we haven't listed), and who would like to share their perspective in **video, audio, or in [writing](#)**, please let us know *so we can interview you before Wednesday, February 9.*

For the April 6 Forum on Welcoming folks of all classes, specifically folks experiencing:

- poverty
- homelessness
- living in a vehicle
- under employed or unemployed
- not having a vehicle (and being from a place without public transit)
- employment choices that are stigmatized within *any* class (i.e. sex work, donating, blood/plasma/eggs/sperm for cash, "unskilled" labour, etc.)
- physical disability of any kind
- mental disability and/or illness within *any* class
- addiction within *any* class
- growing up without parents
- having children within the child welfare system or in the care of others

If you are or know of UU's with lived experience with any of these forms of exclusion (or something we haven't listed), and who would like to share their perspective in **video, audio, or in [writing](#)**, please let Erin and/or I know *so we can interview you before Wednesday, March 9.*

Many thanks, Amber

Amber Dawn Bellemare, amber@cuc.ca

Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Initiative

and Special Events Programming Coordinator

Canadian Unitarian Council | Conseil Unitarien du Canada

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/affectual 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

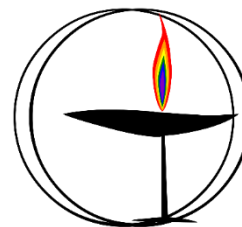
Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

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 eight 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 Eight 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.
- ⊖ Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions

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.

