



March Theme: Renewing Faith



Contents

March 2022 Services	2
For Attending Services Online	2
Guidelines for In-Person Service Attendees	2
Minister's Reflection Renewing Faith	3
President's Letter	4
Next Board Meeting	4
Land Acknowledgement	4
With Heavy Hearts	4
Good Governance – it's GIT-in' going!	6
Honour Our UCE Members	7
Office of Religious Exploration	8
Family Film Festival	8
Mammoth Garage Sale	9
Walking Group	9
Tuney Tuesdays	9
Sharing Our Abundance for March	9
Edmonton Food Bank Hamper Night Returns	10
Edm Interfaith Centre, Racism: What Do We Know & Where Do We Go?	10
Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Events	11
Who We Are	12
The Principles and Sources of our Religious Faith	13
People Finder	14

March 2022 Services

March 6

Let There Be Peace

Please join Choreal and Rev. Rosemary for this celebration of International Women's Day. We will be exploring the themes of Peace and Love, so important during these turbulent times.

March 13

Faith: Leaping Not Required

What is Faith anyway? What does 'a leap of faith' really mean? As we explore the topic this month of 'Renewing Faith,' let's figure out together what we actually mean by that.

March 20

Good Neighbouring

Our guest speaker, Howard Lawrence, is Edmonton's leading advocate of building stronger neighbourhoods, one block at a time. Howard is a coordinator of the city of Edmonton's Abundant Community program, an international program aimed at building vibrant neighbourhoods.

March 27

Create Your Own Path

March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility. We live in a world where trans people are often pushed to the margins and to their limits. This service will explore ways in which we can help centre those on the margin, bringing them to light and life.

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

Minister's Reflection Renewing Faith



Our Soul Matters theme for the month is 'Renewing Faith.' This comes at a time when we are deeply troubled by the violence in the Ukraine. So many of our members have Ukrainian heritage, and this province has been widely populated by the good people of Ukraine. We are asked to hold all this, and still go about our business and do the daily tasks that must be done, all while worried about what is going on. I hold this with you, know that you are not alone as you have each other. Now is a good time to reach out to one another for comfort and support. To help us, I will hold a 'Vigil for Ukraine' this Sunday, February 27th at 7:00 pm in our beautiful sanctuary. I invite you to come, light candles, and speak to this horror as you need. We need to be together when we are in pain, we when are worried, when we need to find hope. This invitation is for all members and friends of the Unitarian Church of

Edmonton, and you can join by zoom if you are unable to be there in person. Join as if you were zooming in to our regular Sunday Service.

Recently, we held a two-part start-up workshop with Joan Carolyn from the Canadian Unitarian Council. There were so many great ideas and thoughts about where UCE could be headed, what you'd like to see happen, and your hopes and dreams for UCE. I wish to thank everyone who participated, who had ideas, and who helped create the energetic space that supported your blue-sky thinking! Now the work begins of figuring out what the priorities are, who is going to help, and what it all means. It made me wonder where UCE will choose to put its energy and what amazing things will be put into place. We are in ministry together, and we all have a part. I encourage you think about your passion, where you would like to make a difference, and reach out to me at minister@uce.ca to discuss how you can be part of a thriving and vibrant and growing UCE.

In peace,

Rev. Rosemary

President's Letter

It was great to see so many people turn out for the startup workshop, there are a lot of really good ideas percolating out there and we will be looking how to incorporate them into our community.

As we all know the UCE AGM is coming up on May 1, this will be a hybrid meeting, Following the same idea of how the startup worked. The AGM is also when we vote in our new board, our Leadership volunteers are busily working to fill all the vacancies. If you have a couple of hours a month to attend a board meeting and be a voice in the fiduciary responsibilities of the church, feel free to message me and I'll pass your name on. I have decided to run again to serve a second term serving as your president, I'm running on the "Hey why not!" slogan.

As always, my inbox is always open, if you have ideas, thoughts, complaints, money to give away or just want to chat, feel free to message me mikekeast@shaw.ca

See you in church or online! Mike

Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet March 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).

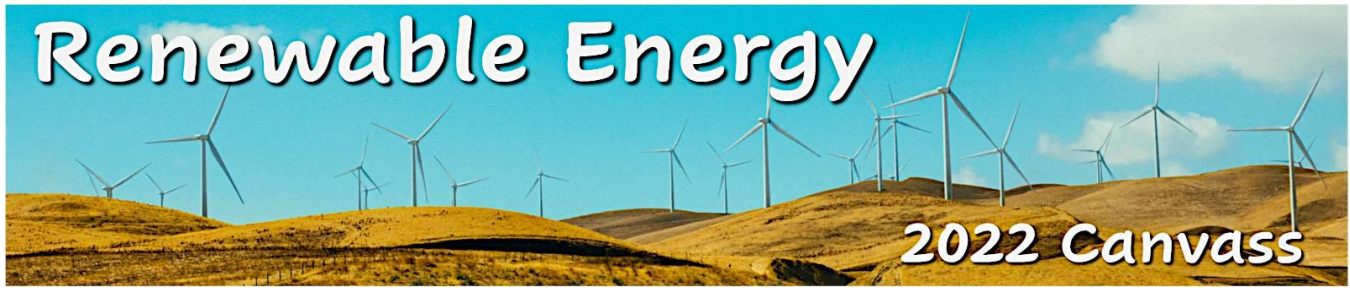
Land Acknowledgement

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.



With Heavy Hearts

We regret to announce the passing of Glenn Jenkins, son of Beth Jenkins, and former spouse of Maria Jenkins. Glenn, who was a longtime friend of our congregation passed away on Wednesday, February 16. Memorial details will be forthcoming when they are arranged.



It's March, and it's time for canvass. This is the month when every member of our church is asked to return a pledge to show their financial commitment for the coming year. Your membership in the church carries the responsibility to provide financial support; please return your pledge before the end of this month.

In February we held two workshops to explore the present and future of our church. These startup workshops were set up by the CUC and Rev. Rosemary to set the direction and dreams of our church. At these workshops, 30 people worked with Rev. Rosemary to come up with some goals. There are lots of great ideas!

These ideas need your renewable energy - your time and financial support - to make them work. The participants were hopeful that we could start having in person events again like concerts, cabarets, dinners, movie nights, and other gatherings. Could you help decorate, sell tickets, make food, clean up, or promote events? When everyone helps, energy is renewed!



This year, when you complete your pledge, take a minute to note how you would like to volunteer (write on your paper form or use the "notes" on the electronic form). Let us know how you would like to renew your energy this year.

Please return your pledge by the end of March. Pledge forms were mailed to our donors with their tax receipts. There are paper forms at the church. You will also find an online pledge form in the March orders of service and here is one you could fill out now: [online pledge form](#)

Thank you for the renewable energy you provide in support of your church!



Good Governance – it's GIT-in' going!

Governance is the way we, as a congregation, organize ourselves to make decisions for our church. Good governance clarifies who makes decisions, how the decisions are made, communicated and implemented, how participants can make their voices heard, and how we are accountable to one another.

In June 2021, the Good Governance Task Team (aka Louise Charach, Sue Lynch and Karen Mills) presented its [final report](#) to the congregation. The report gave recommendations in nine areas. It said the next step would be to form a team to prioritize the recommendations, put communication and roll out plans in place, and develop an evaluation plan.

That's a big next step. Who would take that on? Why, the Governance Implementation Team, of course!

The team, fondly known as "GIT", is Louise Charach, Karen Mills and Lynne Turvey. Rev Rosemary and Audrey Brooks join us regularly. We meet monthly and never have a shortage of things to discuss. Right now, the team is reviewing a policy on observers at Board meetings, a policy around central records management and Terms of Reference for a Health and Safety Team.

What else is happening on the governance front?

- We added "clearing house for policies" and "vetting policies prior to board review" roles to our work. This is to help UCE have consistency and avoid duplication or contradictions across existing policies.
- We're searching out resources and reviewing other jurisdictions for good examples and best practices.
- We're created and are encouraging consistent templates for all Terms of Reference and policies.
- We developed an inventory of all policies and board motions and identified gaps.
 - Decided to start with a health and safety policy.
 - Consulted to find out what health and safety priorities are. Mike Keast, Andrew Mills and Janet Polkovsky are identifying what is already being done and what requires attention. A priority is to implement fire drills.
- We began reviewing UCE's committee structure but put it on hold until we as a congregation decide what work needs to be done and how.
 - We will resume this work after UCE's strategic planning is complete.
- Louise and Karen Bilida are developing a board policy manual.
- We're working with the Finance Committee to develop a Finance manual.
- We're shepherding a policy on records management.
- We have taken Sue Lynch up on her offer to help set up a membership system.
- Beth Jenkins has agreed to lead a Bylaw task group and Gloria Krenbrenk has agreed to help. They will review all bylaws and bring revised bylaws to the 2023 AGM.
- We recommended a planning session and action on a Covenant of Right Relations to Rev. Rosemary.

- We asked that Oksana, UCE's new DRE, review policies needed to ensure safety of children and youth and to identify policy gaps so they can be filled before launch of programming in September.
- The board is currently reviewing a board Terms of Reference.
- The board has approved Terms of Reference for the Rental Committee and an Employment and Compensation policy.

Thank you to everyone who has identified governance gaps and helped draft policies and terms of reference.

GIT will present a more thorough report at the AGM, but wanted to share a snapshot of work to date now.

We welcome any questions or suggestions you have.

Louise, Karen and Lynne

Honour Our UCE Members

Two annual awards will be presented at the UCE annual general meeting on May 1:

- The W.H. Alexander Award honours a person or persons for extraordinary services provided to benefit the church community.
- The Charles Potter Award for Community Engagement honours a member of our congregation who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to communities outside our church, and whose work there shows exceptional commitment to UU principles and values.

Submit your nominations for these awards by March 31 to board member Susan Ruttan by email – ruttans@shaw.ca – or in writing through the church office. If you want a list of past winners, email Susan.

Rules:

- Nominations must be made by UCE members and must include reasons for the nomination.
- Members of the board may not submit nominations. People who have been staff members or members of the board within the preceding year are not eligible to receive the award.
- Past staff members and members of the board are eligible if the services for which they are recommended were not performed during the period when they held these special positions.
- There is no limit on the number of times a person may be nominated for, or win, the award.

Office of Religious Exploration- Oksana Atwood- Dre@uce.ca



At a time when we are all tentatively poking our heads like groundhogs out of the ground to see if we are safe from Covid-19, the world has been struck with shocking news. It can be hard to feel safe in times like these, but like the stalwart Ukrainians, we need to stay connected. As a Ukrainian-Canadian I know there are many beautiful, strong qualities to Ukrainians, not the least of which is their faith.

Despite significant threats to their freedoms, including religious and political expression they have had to constantly renew their faith. Ukrainians keep faith in their community, their language, culture, and history, all while staying connected to the world. Media has played a significant role in the last few days, and so this month we will be using media as a tool to explore our own faith and the faith of those around us. We encourage you to be brave, to rejoin the Unitarian community at your comfort level, and most importantly to stay connected during what can feel like dark times.

As a literal light in the darkness, we welcome you to join us for a

Family Film Festival

Saturday, March 19th, 2022

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Doors open at 6pm with movies for all ages

*Stay tuned to social media, the website,
and in-church announcements for more
information!*



Mammoth Garage Sale



Yes, Folks! We are anticipating having our long awaited **Mammoth Garage Sale** in May barring any further restrictions. We are going to need many volunteers for 2 weeks prior to the event, so please be prepared to help us out. Further details to follow. Jan McMillan

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

March Walks:

- 4 [Victoria Promenade](#) to Ezio Faraone Park
- 11 Tawatina Foot Bridge
- 18 Queen Elizabeth Park
- 25 Laurier Park

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.

Sharing Our Abundance for March

March -- International Council Of Unitarian-Universalists (ICUU) whose mission is to empower existing and emerging member groups to sustain and grow our global faith community. Past president is Rev. Brian Kiely.



March 10 -- Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) – Sharing Our Faith provides funds for congregational initiatives which enhance ministry, aid projects and outreach for congregations, and enhances the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. These funds are allocated yearly in the form of grants to congregations for projects they may otherwise not afford to undertake.

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 minister@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>

“Racism: What Do We Know & Where Do We Go?”

Commemorating the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Sunday March 20, 2022, 1:00 pm, A Zoom Panel Discussion

On MARCH 21ST, 1960 in Sharpeville, South Africa, police opened fire into a crowd of peaceful demonstrators, killing sixty-nine and injuring 180. To commemorate the massacre the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 proclaimed the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

In the early 1990's an interfaith group gathered to observe this day, at that time a mixed prayer service was a novelty; it was received so positively that the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education & Action was created, and we incorporated as a society in March 1996.

Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education & Action
(780) 413-6159 intfaith@shaw.ca



Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Events

Information about all the upcoming CUC events can be found on our [Events page](#) on the [CUC website](#).

UU IBPOC Space Saturdays March 19, 2022 10 am MT (1.5 hours) Join on [Zoom](#).

Connect and Deepen Sundays, February 27, March 13 and 27, and April 10, 2022 2:00 pm MT More information and registration is available [here](#).

Inclusivity Forum Session III – Welcoming People of All Classes

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 5 pm MT

Please register [here](#) by MARCH 23 to receive your pre-package materials.

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour Saturdays, March 5 and April 2, 2022 2:30 pm MT (90 minutes) More information and registration is available [here](#).

Gathered Here Monday, March 14, 2022 6:00 pm MT (1.25 hours) Thursday, April 14, 2022 12:00 pm MT More information and registration is available [here](#).

The MyceliUUm Youth Network of Canada, Saturday, March 26, 2022 12 pm MT (2 hours) For Junior Youth and Youth (ages 12-19) and their Adult Advisors (25+)

The MyceliUUm is a large virtual gathering of any UU youth (14-19) and junior youth (12-13) in Canada who would like to attend, as well as their adult supporters (youth advisors, religious educators). The MyceliUUm Youth Network includes an ongoing virtual community space using [Discord](#). Our Discord server is a private, moderated space that has been designed according to the CUC's [Online Youth Safety Policy](#). If you have any questions or concerns about the MyceliUUm Discord, please contact youth@cuc.ca. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Unitarian Universalist Theology: A Renaissance Module Thursdays: March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9 11am - 1pm MT

Explore several key theologians and theologians from Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist heritages, as well as influences from global traditions. Participants engage with the views presented and offer their own considered viewpoints. This program invites religious educators, lay and professional leaders into a deeper knowledge of our liberal religious heritage and a more profound understanding of their own beliefs, thereby equipping them to help others on theological journeys. Priority registration until February 18, 2022 is for **Canadian UU Religious Educators, as well as volunteers and paid staff of Canadian congregations who are providing religious education**. After February 18, registration will be open to all, including US participants. All registration closes on March 18. More information and registration is available [here](#).

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

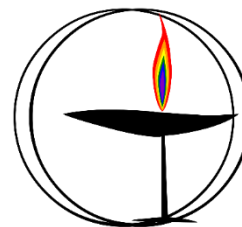
Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

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.

