



## April Theme: Awakening



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## April 2022 Services

### April 3 *Shine Your Light,*

#### **Chorealis Service**

George Kimmich Beach writes, "In the mystery of life about us there is light. It gives us a place to be, to grow, to rejoice together. It opens the pathways to love." Join Chorealis as we kindle and celebrate the light within.

### April 10 *Palms and Songs: Waking up to Goodness*

In this service, Rev. Rosemary and our DRE Oksana Atwood will present a multi-sensory and UU take on Palm Sunday. This service will be inter-active and inter-generational.

### April 17 *Awaken to the Gift*

This Easter morning we are reminded that so much of life is a gift. New life, symbolized in the resurrection story, the Easter Bunny, and Ishtar, the Babylonian Goddess of Fertility. All life is a gift, let us awaken to it and be joyful. Guest musician Bill Damur, flute

### April 24 *Awakening to the Magic*

We celebrate 'Earth Day' with song, story, and message about the wonder that is the earth. As stewards of the earth, we are in relationship with the earth. Come and celebrate as the sun warms and the earth delights.

### **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.



### **Coffee Service Returns to Sunday Services!**

We would like to welcome all our members and friends to come early or stay late on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Have a celebratory beverage to mark the return of the fellowship over warm drinks and cake!

## Minister's Reflection Preparing to Awaken!



*Enlightenment or awakening is not the creation of a new state of affairs but the recognition of what already is. (Alan Watts)*

If we are to believe what Alan Watts is saying, we are already enlightened or awakened, we just need to recognize our own beautiful 'what already is.'

April is a time of awakening, the earth awakens, (Lo, the earth awakes again!), we feel the energy the longer days bring, and revel in the warmth of the sun. For me, April brings many memories of Easter rituals, family birthdays, and the delight of dusting off my bike and going for a ride.

For our congregation, if we are to believe Watts, we have only to recognize what already is and be amazed at our enlightenment or awakening. If we were to recognize what already is, what would we

be noticing? I could list a few:

- an amazing audio/visual system for hybrid services that are well attended online
- excellent Sunday services committee and leaders
- very talented music directors
- a dedicated and committed staff
- hard working volunteers
- a beautiful building with amazing potential
- a desire to live into our 8<sup>th</sup> Principle
- a great team, working hard to bring our governance into line with what is required
- and most importantly, a congregation full of people that genuinely care about and for one another

If we begin to look at ourselves from a strengths and abundance perspective, we will become aware and recognize that we have tremendous possibilities. I think we could begin to understand what Watts is saying.

During the month of April, we will explore this theme of 'Awakening.' What is within you that is waiting to awaken? What would you find exploring the 'what already is'? As we do the work of awakening to our possibilities, may we find the beautiful and not yet within ourselves and our congregation.\*

In peace,  
Rev. Rosemary

## **Leadership Committee seeks committed and engaged candidates!**

Our UU Principles call us to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Each year our Annual General Meeting (AGM) provides us with the opportunity to act on that principle as the congregation elects candidates for the Board, the Ministerial Relations Committee and the Leadership Committee (formerly known as the Nominating Committee). Our Bylaws require all candidates to be members of the Congregation.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for managing the property of the Church, the conduct and administration of its business and general supervisions of the programs and activities of the Church. At each AGM we elect a President and a Vice-President to serve a one year term each, and two Trustees to serve a two-year term each. We also elect a Secretary or a Treasurer in alternate years, and each of these officers serves a two-year term. A member of the Board may serve a variety of positions but only for six consecutive years.

We have a candidate for President, as Mike Keast has stated he is willing to let his name stand for election for a second term. Continuity is important in this time of transition, and the Leadership Committee welcomes this seasoned candidate.

The Leadership Committee is contacting current incumbents Brandie Moller-Reid, Vice-president, and Trustees Jennifer Askey and David Hagel, whose terms of office expire in 2022 to determine if each is willing /able to serve for a further term.

At the 2022 AGM a new Secretary will be elected for a two-year term, as Gloria Krenbrenk is currently completing her third two-year term.

Andrew Mills, Marilyn Gaa and Susan Ruttan continues in the second year of their two-year terms.

The Leadership Committee is responsible for presenting to each AGM a list of eligible candidates willing to stand for election to vacancies on the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Shared Ministry and the Leadership Committee. In 2017, bylaw changes added facilitating the training, election and succession of Church leaders to the duties of the committee. This committee consists of four members. Two members are elected at each AGM to serve a two-year term.

Beth Jenkins and Donna Hamar are each completing their current two-year terms. Rosemary Falconer had served six consecutive years on the Leadership Committee at the time of 2021 AGM, and reached the maximum service at that time. Her position was not filled at the 2021 AGM. In 2021, Erin Thackeray was elected for a second two-year term, but is not able to complete the remainder of her term. The Leadership Committee will be seeking two candidates to serve for a two-year term each, and two candidates to serve for a one-year term each.

Updates will be provided each week, if possible, and the slate of nominated individuals will be presented at the AGM.

If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact one of the Leadership Committee members:

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**Donna Hamar**  
**[gypsiedonna17@gmail.com](mailto:gypsiedonna17@gmail.com)**  
**780-425-0728**

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**Beth Jenkins**  
**[jenkibeth@shaw.ca](mailto:jenkibeth@shaw.ca)**  
**780-267-2384 (mobile)**

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## **Canvass 2022**

What value do you put on your church membership?

What do you think is your fair share of the financial support of your church?

To sustain our church this year we need to raise \$150,000 from our 150 members. The math is pretty simple; we will need an average of \$1,000 per church member.

Are you contributing \$84/month for each church member in your household?

While we appreciate donations of any size, I do want to acknowledge the generosity of the donors that pay considerably more than the average. We appreciate their dedication to the funding of our church. If you can afford it, we would love for you to join these sustaining members and contribute an average of \$1,000/year.

I understand that not everyone can afford to donate that much. In the past I have asked that each member donate 1% of their income; \$60,000 in income would be \$600/year. Do you think you could afford to donate 1% of your income? Would that be a fair contribution for you?

It's not always easy to talk about church donations. But the reality is that we must raise enough support from our members to sustain our church. Somehow, we need to average more than \$1,000 per member in donations.

It is my role as canvass chair to ask our members for financial contributions. Each year I need to raise an average of \$1,000 per member. What do you think is your fair contribution?

Thank you to all of our donors for their support of our church.



## Calling All Committees and Working Groups



The Deadline for submitting the Annual General Meeting Reports will be Monday April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please send your reports electronically in either a Word or PDF format (email to: [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca)). Reports will be posted to the UCE website as they are received and paper copies will be made available at the Church Office.

## Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet April 20 at 7:15 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).

## 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



With Heavy Hearts: Bryce Missall (1936-2022)

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Bryce Missall, longtime member of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, who passed away on March 20, 2022.

Bryce was the beloved husband, father, and grandfather to Stella Clarke, Tibetha Kemble and Braden Missall, and Nitanis Kemble. Bryce's memorial will be held at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton on April 23, 2022 at 2 PM. Please text 780.405.2727 or 780.887.4782 to RSVP.

## Office of Religious Exploration

This month's theme is *Awakening*, and as we transition into spring we can think about our own experiences that have helped us transition and transform. This month you will see Oksana asking thematic questions on Sundays in person, and on Zoom. She will also sometimes have tables setup in the Sanctuary with quiet activities for those who are young, and young at heart. Older youth are welcome to join those in the Sanctuary or be in their own space. Join us as we awaken our senses, find our way through mazes, and look for magic in this new season.

Trying to blend in with society after having an awakening experience



## Religious Exploration Mailing List

If you would like to keep up-to-date on the developing Religious Exploration Programs for youth, children and adults, please email our new Director of Religious Exploration, Oksana Atwood at [dre@uce.ca](mailto:dre@uce.ca)



Ruth Patrick

### Happy Birthday!

The UCE would like to recognize the birthdays of two of our founding members, Ruth Patrick who turned 99 and Dorothy Keeler who turned 88. Like many of our long-time members, both have served the UCE tirelessly in many capacities and even continue to do so.



Dorothy Keeler

## Sharing Our Abundance for April

[UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST UNITED NATIONS OFFICE \(UU-UNO\)](#), New York City is the Unitarian Universalist Association's representative at the UN. It is committed to peace, freedom, environmental responsibility as well as social, civil and economic justice.



**Friday, May 13 from 8am-6pm and Saturday, May 14 from 8am-4pm**

Yes, it is happening after a hiatus of 2 years! And I know that you have been saving your treasures for this very purpose! We welcome good usable items such as dishes, jewelry, collectibles, small appliances, tools, bikes, book shelves, books, pictures, linens and toys. (No clothes, mattresses, old computers)

**Please do not bring anything to the church before May 1st!**

**We also will need everyone to sign up to help in the setup during the first 2 weeks as well as helping with the garage sale itself and clearing up May 15-17th.**

Besides being our major fundraiser, it is a great opportunity to work together once again!

### **Goods and Services Auction**



We have missed the Annual Garage Sale so much that we are making the event bigger and better this year!

We will be having the "in building" Garage Sale May 13-14 PLUS we are also going to have an online auction!

Services and homemade items plus some

special select items will be available for online bidding. **You can email your pictures and suggestions of items to [AUCTION@uce.ca](mailto:AUCTION@uce.ca) until April 30**

– the auction will go live on May 5 and conclude during the Garage Sale.

Suggestions of items to donate (these are just examples, let your creativity fly):

- Pie a Month
- Homemade cookies
- Homemade quilts
- Cabin stays
- Knitted goods
- Lasagnas
- Photography session
- Computer tech work
- Handyman services
- Cleaning services
- Gift cards
- Business donations (e.g. coupons)

**Watch your email for further updates!**

## New UCE Program! Book Club



A new book club led by Rev Rosemary (Name of the club to be determined at first meeting). Open to all UCE members and friends The first novel to be discussed will be ***Five Little Indians*** by Michelle Good.

First meeting on Tuesday, April 19th at 7:30 pm on

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3jBOnwi>

## Family Film Night

Our first film night was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came out! A fun time was had by all A big thank you to our DRE for spearheading this and to Mike and Alicia Keast for their tech help!



## Edmonton Food Bank Hamper Night



The UCE is hosting a food hamper distribution night for upto 25 Food Bank Clients on Wednesdays and volunteers are needed to assist in distributing the boxes.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev Rosemary at [minister@uce.ca](mailto:minister@uce.ca)

## 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](https://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.

## Dragging Youth Series Returns!

The UCE is proud and excited to share the wonderful news that Dragging Youth will return to the Sanctuary beginning April 16. This event, coordinated by Kim Pizzey is a once a month drag show, a place for all youth to perform relax enjoy find mentorship and friends in a LGBTQ2S+ safe environment that fundraises for LGBTQ2S+ youth initiatives and other great causes. For more information, please like their FaceBook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/448090438898145/>



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

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

**Connect and Deepen** Sundays, April 10 and 24, and May 8, 2022, 2:00 pm MT. More information and registration is available [here](#).

**Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour** Saturdays, April 2 and May 7, 2022, 2:30 pm MT (90 minutes) More information and registration is available [here](#).

**Gathered Here** Thursday, April 14, 2022, 12:00 pm MT (1.25 hours, ages 18 - 35) More information and registration is available [here](#).

**UU IBPOC Space** Saturday, April 16 2022 ,10 am MT (1.5 hours) Join on [Zoom](#).

**Célébrons ensemble** Le mercredi 20 avril 2022, 18h00 HR /MT, le mercredi 18 mai 12h00 HR/MT (*English note follows*)

Célébrons ensemble est une célébration UU mensuelle en français pour les jeunes adultes (18 à 35 ans) canadiennes UU. Célébrons ensemble est semblable à Gathered Here. Il est important de noter que c'est un espace français inclusif. Ça veut dire que la célébration se déroule en français (et c'est important de respecter cela), mais que nous accueillons tout le monde, à tous les niveaux de français!

Pour plus d'information: <https://cuc.ca/events/celebrons-ensemble-fevrier-2022/1645041600/1645046100/>

*ENGLISH NOTE: for those in charge of announcements for their UU community. The announcement above is an invitation to a new French monthly worship celebration for young adults in Canada (18-35) called Célébrons ensemble. We are here for any young adults who are francophone or who speak or understand French, and we are learning that many of them live in anglophone communities. We would love if this could be shared as widely as possible, and to spread the word that francophone Unitarian Universalist (UU) community exists. If possible, please share the above announcement in French, it has all the details there for those who understand the language. Thank you for sharing.*

**Shining Lights Award Webinar: Canadian UU Groups Keeping Our Lights Alive!**

Saturday, April 30, 12 pm MT (2 hours) More information and registration is available [here](#).

### **Elder's Circle No 3: Sharon Jinkerson-Brass May 4, 2022, 5 pm MT (90 mins)**

More information and registration is available [here](#).

### **CUC Annual General Meeting 2022** Saturday, May 14: Online via Zoom. 11:00 am MT

The CUC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place on May 14th. It's a time to attend to the business of the Council and a chance for congregations and their delegates and members to be involved in making decisions that affect our national faith community. The AGM is open to all and free of charge. Delegates and Observers must register by May 1. More information and registration is available [here](#).

## **We Are Enough**

We need each other when disaster comes,  
running quickly with our families for shelter  
ahead of pandemics, flames and mobs

We need one another when we are troubled,  
with lives changed forever from yesterday  
by events we never thought would come

No gathering together for food or prayer,  
no singing or touching the faces of others  
no safe place for body, heart or mind

Yet know that today and tomorrow exist,  
with the land, hills of grass, mountains,  
sky, sun, wind and the Spirit of Life

We will hold each other close on Zoom,  
see faces, hear voices, share stories  
modifying, adapting, accepting change

Like water moving toward the sea,  
we are the ones who trust the flow,  
we are the ones we are waiting for  
we are enough

by Rev. Audrey Brooks



## 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

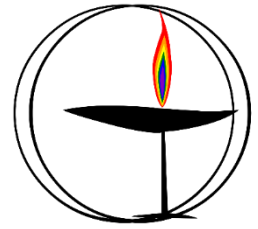
**Actively Engaged:** We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

**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 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.



(Left to Right) Oksana Atwood, Janet Polkovsky, Rev Rosemary Morrison

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

E-MAIL [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca) WEBSITE [www.uce.ca](http://www.uce.ca)

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

## People Finder

UCE Board: [board@uce.ca](mailto:board@uce.ca)

President: Mike Keast 780-497-1303

Vice President: Brandie Moller

Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair: Andrew Mills [andrew@misc.ca](mailto:andrew@misc.ca) 780-918-3288

Trustees: Jennifer Askey, Marilyn Gaa, Susan Ruttan and David Hagel

Past President: Karen Bilida

Minister: Reverend Rosemary Morrison [minister@uce.ca](mailto:minister@uce.ca) 780-455-9797

Church Office: Janet Polkovsky [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca) 780-454-8073

Religious Exploration Director: Oksana Atwood [dre@uce.ca](mailto:dre@uce.ca) 780-454-5816

Head Teller: Edwina Madill 780-462-2089

Chorealis Choir: Gordon Ritchie [ghritchie@telus.net](mailto:ghritchie@telus.net) 780-420-9018

Karen Mills [karenmills@me.com](mailto:karenmills@me.com) 780 240 4884

Canvass: Andrew Mills [andrew@misc.ca](mailto:andrew@misc.ca) 780-432-0826

Endowment: Ruth Merriott [ruth.merriott@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.merriott@gmail.com) 780-438-0421

Church Services: Gordon Ritchie [ghritchie@telus.net](mailto:ghritchie@telus.net) 780-420-9018

Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Gaa Marilyn [marilyngaa@telusplanet.net](mailto:marilyngaa@telusplanet.net) 780-432-7660

Building and Grounds: Alan Boyle [bigyin@shaw.ca](mailto:bigyin@shaw.ca) 780-454-6216