



June Theme: Celebrating Blessing



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June 2022 Services

June 5

Blessing of the Animals

Rev. Morrison, Leader: Karen Bilida

We are so lucky to have animal companions in our lives. Bring your pet to be blessed during this much loved annual service.

June 12

We Celebrate the Flowers

Flowers bring us joy, so bring your flowers as we celebrate community with our annual ritual of the flowers. During this service our new Mission and Vision statement will be revealed. We are indeed Shaping Our CommUUnity!

Rev. Morrison, Leader: Erica DeNeve

June 19

Pride Service

Leaders: Maria Jenkins, UCE Youth

Join the UCE Youth and Maria Jenkins for our annual service celebrating the LGBTQA2S+ community.

June 26

Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community

UUA General Assembly Service

We will be joining thousands across North American and beyond for an invigorating and inspiring Sunday service experience. You can join from the comfort of your home, or join with others in the sanctuary for a 'big screen' experience. This service looks to be something you will not want to miss. For more information:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>

For Attending Services Online

Services Begin at 10:30 am,

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09>

Meeting ID: 977 7945 3314 Passcode: 243251 +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: Celebrating Blessing



“The Talmud (Menachot 43b) states that each person is obligated to recite 100 blessings each day, suggesting that the way to be connected is through living a life immersed in blessings, in gratitude. This is so important to the Jewish tradition that the sages wrote in Brachot 35a, that it is forbidden to benefit from the world without making a blessing. It could be said that the value placed on blessings is central to all of Jewish life.”

From: *The Power of Jewish Blessings* by Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein (adapted)

There is a lot to be said about the practice of counting our blessings. It is scientifically proven that if we express gratitude on a regular basis, our brains rewire, and we have a more positive outlook. Apparently, it boosts the neurotransmitter serotonin and activates the brain stem to produce dopamine – the brains pleasure chemical. So, the more we are grateful, or the more often we offer a blessing (same thing) the healthier and happier we are.

Our theme for this month is ‘Celebrating Blessings.’ Also, it is the last month of this church year and I am so grateful to have shared it with you. We have spent the year getting to know one another, creating community, sharing our thoughts and ideas, and have moved forward with many initiatives. We’ve accomplished a lot together. Let’s celebrate all these things along with being grateful for the blessing and beauty that is summer on the prairie.

I am so grateful to be in ministry with you. I look forward to growing and learning with you next year. I can hardly wait to see what wonderful things we will do together in the year to come! We are limited only by our imaginations.

In peace,

Rev. Rosemary

Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet June 15 at 7:15 pm. Please email board@uce.ca if you would like to attend.

You are always welcome to attend our board meetings. The board has recently approved a policy on guest attendance at board meetings. Check out those guidelines if you have any questions.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n2ViuWJYViPX7SVaS9Xi8AxTRQL05O2/view?usp=sharing>

Friendship Volunteer Needed

Every once in a while, we get together to say goodbye and celebrate one of our own members when they pass on. We need a person who would be the point person for looking after the refreshment part of our ritual. Can you see yourself being the person who gets notified of the date and time then springs into action, calling the team together to set up tables, provide coffee, tea, water and punch? Put the food out. Then make sure the dishes are cleaned up and table put away?

IF you answered Yes, I would love to hear from you.

IF you answered well I could help out, then please also contact me

This is a volunteer position which would continue until you wished to pass it on. Marge Roche has done it for many years and has found it is time for her to allow other people the honour.

Thank you for your Service Marg

Mike Keast, Board@uce.ca

UCE Garage Sale Afterword



After a couple of exceptional years, the garage sale finally returned, came and went. A big thank you to Jan McMillan and her squad of faithful volunteers for making this garage sale run smoothly and be successful. Over \$10,000 was raised for the UCE.

Thank you to all so much for your donations.

Every year someone says: “We won’t ever get that much stuff again – most people have downsized already.” but after a two year hiatus, a lot of people had items to declutter!





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

This is the time of year when things get busy: many of us are gardening, or getting outside, or doing renovations and cleaning inside. Some are getting their children and grandchildren ready to finish the school year, and others are graduating. Everyone is experiencing the spring and getting ready for the summer in different ways.

In June we celebrate the summer solstice. June 21st is important because it is the longest day of the year, and many Indigenous people and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage around this time, for many generations. Many with pagan beliefs take the opportunity to be outside for rituals, and both use the four directions for spiritual orientation.

Summer is a time for orientating, growing and building to get ready for the fall. Over the course of a series of Sunday afternoons, Directors or Religious Exploration Oksana Atwood and Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet will facilitate **World Building**. This 4 part workshop will explore the connections between reconciliation, changing narratives, and the wider web of existence. Our goal is to help youth live out the 8 principles in the world. These workshops will help to create community and direction for our fall programming.

World Building

Sunday July 10th, July 24th, August 7th and August 21st

Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Open to youth ages 14-21

Programs and events for more ages will be available in the fall. Learn more about the Religious Exploration (RE) programs at UCE:

- Email dre@uce.ca for information
- Visit www.uce.ca/religious-exploration to book a meeting or phone call

W.H. Alexander Award: Ruth Merriott



We would like to congratulate this year's recipient: Ruth Merriott. Ruth has been a tireless, talented, and often behind the scenes volunteer at the UCE. Over the years, she has worn many hats, serving on the Audit committee, assisting Andrew Mills with Canvass and data entry into PowerChurch. Also throughout the pandemic and into this new normal, Ruth has been an active volunteer making sure the online and hybrid services are able to reach many by recording and posting them online.

Bring us Your Cans, Bottles and Cartons



Empties are full of opportunity! We raise money from returnable bottles, tetra packs etc. donated by members. Drop your contribution in the second storage room (the single door) in Keeler Hall.

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.



June Sharing Our Abundance



<https://www.gspady.org/>, is an inner city agency which provides overnight shelter to 72 adults. They also have a 20 bed detox for adults under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Admission is immediate and offered on a 24 hour- 7 day a week basis.

The UU Open Hearts Book Club



The UU Open Hearts Book Club wishes to continue learning about the impact of colonization and residential schools on the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Therefore, the next three books we have chosen will be: *An Indian in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power* by Jody Wilson-Raybould, *Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese, and *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King.

Please join this book club, it is open to all members and friends of UCE and participation will be on zoom for the rest of this church year. **The next book club will be held on June 29 at 7:30. We will break for the summer and continue on in September of 2022 until June of 2023. Join Zoom Meeting <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96190804829>**

Tuney Tuesdays



The last session before the summer break will be on June 14th.

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.



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 June 12 and 26, 2:00 pm MT. More information and registration is available [here](#).

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

Gathered Here Monday, June 13, 6:00 MT (1.25 hours, ages 18 - 35) More information and registration is available [here](#).

UU IBPOC Space Saturday, June 18, 10:00 am MT (1.5 hours) Join on [Zoom](#).

Elder's Circle No 4: Stephen Paquette June 5, 2022, 5 pm MT (90 mins)
More information and registration is available [here](#).

Imagine



Imagine liberating Ukraine; imagine holding in your arms children sleeping under blankets in subways under Kyiv; imagine having enough hope to reclaim a battered Ukraine imagine the courage of a people whose bitter tears cannot wash away destruction of this great land

Imagine a liberation where Russians and Ukrainians gather as families to share borscht, perogies, holubchi, kolache and hot tea. Imagine hearing the sound of prayers sung in Old Slavic; imagine a free Ukrainian celebrated in the streets to the sounds of banduras and balalaikas

Imagine skies filled with dark smoke, bombs. Imagine bodies of dead Ukrainian children who don't know war. Imagine a mindless Russian who has no love of humanity. Imagine greed for world domination, dripping with genocide. Imagine this hell will end! Imagine Mother Ukraine will rise again!

-by 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/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

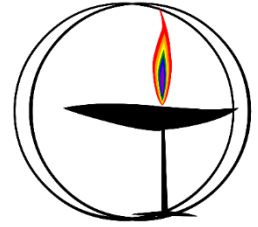
Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

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.

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