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Unitarian Church of Edmonton

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The Edmonton Unitarian, Summer 2022, Vol 63.6



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Summer Services at the UCE

July and August's Sunday services will be brought to you by the congregations and ministers of the UCE, Westwood, Calgary, Saskatoon and Kelowna Unitarians. It will be an informal gathering on summer Sunday mornings where people have an opportunity for sharing, connection and conversation. Services will be broadcasted at the church for those who wish to attend and members and friends will also be able to watch from the comfort of their own homes or where they may be vacationing. All are welcome!

For those attending online, zoom links will be provided in the weekly emails or can be found on the UCE calendar at <https://www.uce.ca/calendar/> . If you need assistance with the service links, please contact Janet at chadmin@uce.ca or call 780-454-8073 during office hours.

July 3	<i>A Balance of Nature</i>	UCE: Rev. Rosemary Morrison
July 10	<i>Genocide Memorial</i>	UCE: Rev. Audrey Brooks
July 17	<i>Making Sense of Suffering: A Personal View</i>	Kelowna/SU: Linda Guebert
July 24	<i>The Danger of A Single Story: Widening the Circle of Concern</i>	Calgary: Chimamanda Adichie
July 31	<i>Emotional First Aid</i>	Westwood/UCE: Heather MacLean-Smith
August 7	<i>Reflections of a Guest and Treaty Relative</i>	Saskatoon: Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz
August 14	<i>Wakefield Brewster-Calgary Poet Laureate</i>	Calgary: Wakefield Brewster
August 21	<i>To Be Determined</i>	Saskatoon
August 28	<i>Sacred Depths of Nature</i>	Calgary: Rev. Shelly Thompson
September 4	<i>Celebrating Richard Wagamese</i>	UCE: Susan Ruttan

Minister's Reflection:



I have been told that summer in Edmonton is glorious. I am excited to be spending my first full summer here in Edmonton. I plan on taking in a few festivals, exploring the river trails, and heading out to Elk Island and Jasper for a couple of camping excursions.

My summer plans include all of the above, along with getting some of those books off the 'to read' list and onto the 'finished' list.

The church will be open over the summer, and you can choose to enjoy Sunday services in the comfort of your own home, or you could join others for a big screen experience in UCE's beautiful sanctuary.

I will be on holidays and study leave until September 5, 2022 and my first service back will be September 11, 2022. This service will be a homecoming and water communion. You are invited to bring back water to share from your travels for a meaningful celebration of our connection with each other and with our planet. I hope you will be able to join us either in person or online for this homecoming celebration.

As far as my holidays are concerned, I will not be checking or responding to my emails and I will not be available for conversations. Except of course in the event of an emergency: this would be a death, serious illness or accident, or a fire. In those scenarios, please text me right away at 825-439-9190!

This past year with you has been wonderful, and we have done a lot of great ministry together. I can hardly wait to see what is in store for UCE in the year to come, and I know that we will build on the strong foundation we have created together. I wish to thank all of you for your support, for your hard work in putting on services every week, for keeping things running smoothly, and for generally being a wonderful partner in ministry. We all need one another!

I wish you all a pleasant and sun filled summer. We here in Edmonton need to really take advantage of this glorious time. I keep you all with me in my heart!
In peace,

Rev. Rosemary

Next Board Meeting

The UCE Board will meet July 20 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>

Introducing the 2022-23 UCE Board

Our new board for 2022-23 is:

President: Mike Keast

Vice-President: Brandie Moller-Reid

Treasurer: Andrew Mills

Secretary: Susan Ruttan

Trustees: Marilyn Gaa, Lynn Wolff, Gerard Hayduk, Zoe Larsen.

Spotlight On: Zoe Larsen



The latest member of the UCE board is someone who started walking through our doors in 2019. On January 16, 2020, Zoe Larsen was on her way to a church service, with her stew for a potluck lunch, when she was in a car accident. She was shaken after the car accident and stopped attending until she discovered we offered services on Zoom.

Zoe has been attending our Zoom services ever since. She became a U.C.E. member in 2020. At its June meeting, the board appointed her to fill a vacant trustee position.

Zoe is dealing with long-term disability, which limits her activities. She has spent most of her career as a teacher specializing in early childhood education and special needs education. This will be a real help on the board.

She says: "I, along with my identical twin Tanya, attended a Pentecostal Church from the age of 6 years, in Prince George, B.C. At age 17, I was immediately stripped of all my roles in the church (which were many in the children's ministry) because I had chosen to live with someone before marriage. I was no longer fitting into the required mold. I was spiritually abandoned.

"When I walked through the doors of U.C.E., I realized that my dream of one day finding a group of like-minded souls, who welcomed ALL of me, had come true. A group who did not judge my gender, sexuality, or which spiritual questions I asked. At U.C.E. I was encouraged to be myself."

She joins Lynn Wolff, who was earlier appointed by the board to fill a second vacant position. Lynn is a board veteran, who served as treasurer back in 2009.



What do you think? Draft Vision and Mission for UCE

Over the past months, you have shared ideas and comments in response to questions posed to develop a vision, mission and covenant to lead us to a revitalized future.

Your comments have been carefully considered and are reflected in the draft vision and mission below.

What do you think? Please review and share any comments to CommUUnity@uce.ca or Louisecharach@gmail.com

Vision

We open doors to all seekers and nurture spiritual growth and positive change for a just and healthy world.

Mission

UCE Mission is to inspire social change by challenging the ordinary, engaging community and inviting all to the table.

We do this by providing an intentionally inclusive home:

- to nurture spiritual growth and transformation
- to foster learning opportunities and outreach experiences
- to welcome all age groups
- to support action for social causes

Next steps will be to refine this vision and mission and continue with work around our covenant. In September, we will be poised to leap into the exciting future we have built together .Thank you for your input!

World Building

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US IN

World Building



Are you between the ages of 14 and 21?

Then you're invited to World Build with us! Join us for board games that inspire climate action and role-playing for reconciliation. These 4-part get-togethers will explore fun ways to make a positive impact in the world and explore solutions to climate change. Enter into a spiritual teaching circle with Indigenous guest presenter Madeleine McCullum, and make new friends along the way!

**All Gatherings at
The Unitarian Church of Edmonton
from Noon-5pm**

**July 10 August 7
July 24 August 21**

Lunch and Snacks will be Provided!

Religious Exploration Update

This summer is a busy one for the office of Religious Exploration! The classroom, nursery, quiet room, and office are all getting cleaned out, and spiffed up. A big thank you to Gordon and Robert for re-painting the office and putting in a fabulous mural! Anyone is welcome to stop by the office on Sundays after church throughout the summer. The office is also online! See the website to setup a virtual meeting on Wednesday evenings or request a phone call.

We have a drop-in event for teens happening throughout the summer on Sunday afternoons called World Building. We are also planning children's programs and drop in events for families in the fall. Get ready to reconnect with Unitarianism in new and exciting ways in 2022-2023!

Oksana Atwood, Director Religious Education

For information about an opportunity for adult religious exploration, click [here](#)

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

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.



Water Communion Service

On September 11, 2022 UCE will be celebrating 'Homecoming' complete with a water communion.



Here's your part: while you're out and about this summer, collect a sample of water from your favourite lake, stream, cove, hotel, or river and bring it with you to the service on September 11th. Don't worry if you forget, there will be symbolic water for you, and also opportunity for online participants to feel included in this celebration of summer respite and of our coming back together in community. Have a great summer everyone!

Sharing Our Abundance: July and August



July: Centre To End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE), works with community partners to heal the harm of sexual exploitation which includes public education, support, bursaries, trauma recovery and emergency poverty relief.

August: Boyle Street Co-Op is a non-profit, inner city agency which assists individuals and families challenged by homelessness and poverty. They provide health care, mental health and addictions support, housing, employment counseling and drop in services.



UCE Walking Group

Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10:00 am, or meet at the walk site at 10:20 am. There are often changes to the schedule so if you are not on the email list please call Sheila, 780-454-7581 the day before to confirm the walk. Most of our after-walks will be picnics (we hope) so bring a snack and chair. In August, we will likely take one out of town trip to the Clifford E. Lee Bird Sanctuary.

Walks for July:

July 1 –CANCELLED

July 8 – Laurier

July 15 –Hawrelak

July 22 – Mackenzie Ravine

July 29 - Botanic Garden, St. Albert

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.

Adult Religious Exploration Opportunity: CUC Facebook's Summertime Self-guided Reflection



This summer, the Canadian Unitarian Council invites you to join us in a weekly, self-guided reflection series. We want to keep the national conversation going about how we live out the 8th Principle, personally and collectively. Every Monday in July and August, we will share a reflection, thought or question. Think about it while you go out with the dog, share your thoughts with a friend over coffee, journal about it, or write about it here on social media. We invite you to reflect on the question or prompt in whatever way you choose.

Watch for the first reflection--Anti-racism Work is Spiritual Work--on July 4. Or, subscribe to the CUC eNews:

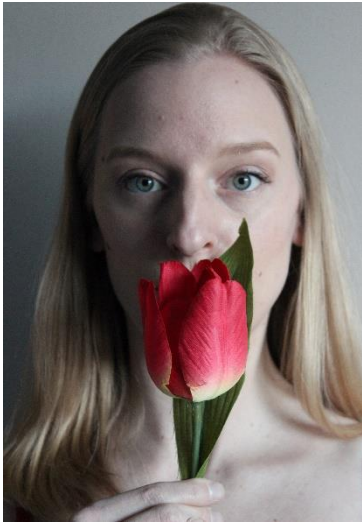
<https://cuc.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=14cdbcb20d193a5636bf18bdd&id=9434666947>

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Events

Information about all the upcoming CUC events can be found on our [Events page](#) on the [CUC website](#). **Please note:** Most of the CUC's programs and events are on hiatus in July and August. Staff and volunteers are taking time to rest, rejuvenate, and plan for the 2022-2023 congregational year. The Canadian Unitarian Council's office will be closed between Friday, August 5th and Friday, August 19th for summer break. We will reopen the office on Monday, August 22nd.

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour Saturday July 2, 2022, 2:00 pm MT (90 minutes) More information and registration is available [here](#).

UCE in the Community



Erin V-P Sings the Kate Bush Songbook

Erin and her band invite you to a concert at the church, where they will be performing music by British art-pop queen, Kate Bush. The concert is on Saturday, July 9, at 8pm, in the sanctuary; tickets are either \$20 or \$30 (your choice--we want the show to be accessible).

Tickets can be purchased by getting in touch with Erin via Facebook or e-mail: erinvandermolenspater@gmail.com OR by contacting John Pater or Michelle Vandermolten.

Draggng Youth Presents:

CROWNS for KIDS Fundraiser for Kids Kottage and Ronald McDonald House

Saturday, July 16th
Doors: open 5:30, show 6:00
Cover: \$5, Cash bar and snack table
For more information:
Draggngyouthshows@gmail.com

Thank you to our sponsors: Dragging Our Heels, The Gannons Remax, Unitarian Church of Edmonton and Colour Addiction by Chastanity



Of Note

On Saturday, June 25th, the UCE hosted the Edmonton Interfaith's Canadian Multicultural Day Event. It was well attended with approximately 40 participants, including Edmonton's Mayor, Amarjeet Sohi and Randy Boissonnault, the MP for Edmonton Centre.

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

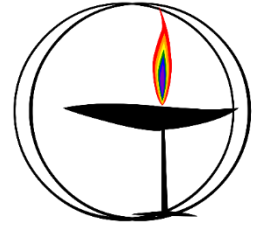
Actively Engaged: We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.

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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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>