

VOL. 64 ISSUE 02 • FEBRUARY 2023

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON



FEBRUARY'S THEME: THE PATH OF LOVE

Even after all this time,
the sun never says
to the earth,
'You owe me.'
Look what happens
with a love like that.
It lights the whole sky.

Hafiz

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.



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Sunday Services, 10:30 am (unless otherwise stated)

February 5 CUC National Service, 11:00 am Online and Watch Party in the Sanctuary

Congregations are experiencing a lot of change these days: from ministerial transitions to implementing the 8th Principle, all during a pandemic. Upheaval, loss, uncertainty, pain, aspirations, conflict: cultural shifts within and without are calling us to hold one another gently, despite our differences and difficulties.

Use the bitly link to join the service on Zoom, or watch live on the CUC's YouTube channel. If you're phoning in, call 1-855-703-8985 and enter the Meeting ID and password when prompted: Meeting ID: 891 5257 2984, Password: 136347

February 12 *Choosing Love*

Chorealis

It is said that we "fall in love" or that "someday our prince (or princess) will come" or that "love will find us when we least expect it". But what if we choose love? Not just a romantic love, but love as a way of life. What if we see love as a core value and our life's work?

February 19 *And the Greatest of These is Love*

Rev. Morrison

James Baldwin states, "Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within." In this service we will explore how love is a powerful and transformational force. What images are conjured up when you think of love as powerful and transformational? What are the limits of this love? We'll explore this together with music, story, and an opportunity to share. This service will include spoken candles of Joy and Concern.

February 26 *The Barriers to Love*

Rev. Morrison

Being in a Unitarian Universalist congregation is sometimes difficult. The joke is that if you have three UUs you have five opinions on every one thing. Our first task is to love, and there are so many times when we struggle with that concept. This service will offer tools, suggestions, stories (some funny) to help us remove the barriers to loving each other, and more importantly, to loving ourselves.



Minister's Reflection: Finding Our Centre

BY REV. ROSEMARY MORRISON



The theme for our February services, RE, and small groups this month is of course, Love. This month contains Valentine's Day and we will be constantly reminded of all the different kinds of love and the expectations that we are supposed to live up to. Valentine's Day to me has always meant heart shaped sugar cookies with pink icing on them. My Mom made the very best sugar cookies. Even when I was an adult, I would get a package of Valentine's Day cookies in the mail. I have taken up the torch and make Valentine's cookies for my family and ship them off in the mail. Sugar cookies and love are very much intertwined in my mind and heart.

For us here at UCE, a month celebrating Love makes me immediately think of our covenant. Our covenant begins with, "With love as our guide, we pledge to create a beloved community of peace and compassion. We trust our ability to work through conflict..." I love this statement because we state the need to let love lead, and at the same time are reminded that even with love out front, we will still end up coming up against difficulties we have to work through. The most loving thing we can do for the health of UCE is to show up for Sunday services, greet one another, help create beloved community by being responsible for our actions and words, and enthusiastically support the events and functions of the congregation.

May you find love this month; love of neighbour, love of our family and friends, and most importantly, may you put loving and caring of yourself first and foremost.

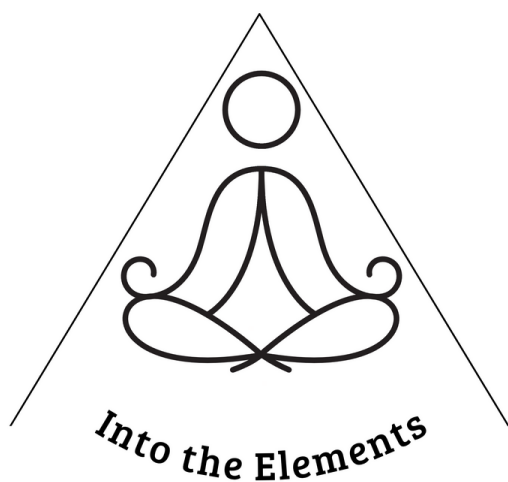
In peace, Rev. Rosemary



save the date!

SEPTEMBER 2 - 4, 2023

Summer Retreat for all ages at Camp Mackinicholea, Long Island Lake, Alberta



Come and enjoy sessions to explore and refresh your spirit and meet Unitarians from across western Canada on a peninsula surrounded by clean, clear water. In addition to the workshops you will be able to enjoy the water front and water craft. Opportunities for campfires, singalongs, skits, adventure games and nature skills will abound! So please bring along your sunhats and sense of childlike wonder and join us for camp!

The weekend has been booked and the deposit paid. Your UU Camp planning team needs to know... **Do you want to come?** Registration for Into the Elements Camp will be open to all Unitarian Universalists: families, singletons, seniors, students, grandparents with their grandchildren, all are welcome. In order to make this first, hopefully annual event, a success we need to hear from you.

Help the planning team make this a long weekend to remember and visit our camp page to fill out our questionnaire: <https://www.uce.ca/summer-camp-2023/>



How do we become more resilient?

One way to become more resilient is to maintain financial resilience. We build our financial resilience by working hard to maintain a steady income, we are careful with our spending, and we set aside savings to help protect our future. Resilience protects from the unknown storms.

Keeping our church financially resilient works much the same way. We are careful with our spending by preparing and following an annual budget. We set aside savings for the future, such as the recently successful endowment fundraiser. And we work hard to maintain a steady income, through rentals, fundraisers, casinos, and canvass. Your support of our annual canvass provides the income that is vital to the resilience of our church.

Our church supports our resilience in other ways. I think that our emotional resilience needs the support of family, friends, and our church. We need a supportive community that shares our achievements and setbacks and supports us when needed. Our church is part of our emotional resilience.



So let's continue to provide the support that our church needs to be resilient. Please give generously to the work of our church.

Canvass runs from January until the end of March each year. During this time, we ask all of our members (and generous friends) to pledge their financial support for the coming church year. Your pledge directly affects our budget as we plan for next year's church programs and activities. Please return your pledge form before March 31st.

Thank you for supporting the work of your church!



February

Youth, Young Adult And Family Events



The Office of
Religious
Exploration
provides
programs for
all ages.
Contact Oksana
at dre@uce.ca
for more info

Art & Soul- new program!

Thursday February 9th & 23rd 7-9pm

Sunday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
5th	9th and 23rd	25th	26th
12-2 Open Office 2pm Interfaith Concert at UCE	Art and Soul No skill needed, all ages 7-9pm large classroom	Saturday Morning Cartoons and Cereal 9am-12pm All ages welcome	Service 10:30am Young Adult Check-in After church

@UCEExploration

www.UCE.ca

UCE Exploration



Update from Ministerial Transition Team

Our congregation participated wholeheartedly in the small group consultations in January. We had 68 participants, almost 50% representation of UCE as well as several individual submissions. The MTT want to keep you in the loop and provides an update below:

So far...

- Congregational Meeting November 6, 2022
- Set up Ministerial Transition Team (MTT)-purpose is to represent and support congregation
- Meetings of MTT to agree to next steps
- Meeting with Rev. Rosemary to outline process and secure her intentions
- Reviewed relevant documentation and compliance with bylaw requirements
- Communication to emphasize critical role of members in decision
- Completion of small group consultations in person and on Zoom

What's next ...?

- Summarize themes which emerged from small groups into report
- Review report with MTT
- Share results with congregation, Minister and board
- Review budget parameters for upcoming for salary, benefits
- Preliminary meetings between MTT and minister
- Establish date for congregational vote
- Communication of results and next steps

If you have any questions, comments, feedback please contact Lynne Turvey at turveylynne@gmail.com or Louise Charach at Louisecharach@gmail.com

Success with the November Endowment Campaign

The Endowment campaign last November had two goals: to raise awareness of UCE's Endowment Fund, and to allow members & friends to honour the memories of people and events that held meaning for them.

Each Sunday during November's "Month of Remembrance", some people spoke about marking memories, and the Endowment Fund. Rev Rosemary & Oksana created a tree of remembrances, in the sanctuary, for hanging notes of remembrance.

In November, 12 donations totaling \$4,644 were given to the UCE Endowment Fund. Adding those to others received since July 1st, the Endowment Fund now stands at a little over \$44,900.

Have you considered including UCE in your will or final wishes? Any questions about Endowment or Planned Giving, please contact one of us, in person or via contact info in the UCE member directory.

---Jan McMillan, Ruth Merriott, Marge Roche, Endowment Trustees

FEBRUARY

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE



iHUMAN Youth Society, Edmonton supports youth to obtain housing, get mental health and addictions support and build on their creative strengths.

Their mission is to work with traumatized and marginalized youth who live high risk lifestyles.



Click [here](#) for February's packet

Please contact Reverend Rosemary at minister@uce.ca if you would like to join a small group



MOZART TO METAL

Mozart to Metal will return to zoom after taking a holiday break on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm. please contact Alex at tunes@uce.ca to join.



BOOKCLUB

Due to lack of attendance, the book club will no longer be meeting for the remainder of winter and spring of 2023.

WALKING GROUP



Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10:15 am, or meet at the walk site at 10:30 am. There are often changes to the schedule so if you are not on the email list please call Sheila, 780-243-7581 the day before to confirm the walk.

February 3 – Mill Creek

February 10 – Ezio Faraone Park

February 17 – Argyle Velodrome

February 24 – Manchester Square

UUS ON TAP



**6:15 pm, February 20th at
Brewster's in Unity Square:
11620 104 Ave NW**

Building Bridges Among Faith Traditions



**Sunday, February 5th, 2 pm
at the UCE**

**Free Multifaith Concert in Celebration
of United Nations
World Interfaith Harmony Week
brought to you by the Edmonton
Interfaith Council**

The program will include the presentation of our 2023 Interfaith Advocate Award to Rev. Audrey Brooks.

Silent Auction & Refreshments

For more information call: 780 - 413 - 6159

or email: intfaith@shaw.ca / www.edminterfaithcentre.ca

With Heavy Hearts



How very saddened UCE members are in learning of the death of Brian Staples, a member of close to 60 years, on December 14th, 2022 at age 86. Brian's commitment to community education played a large part in his role as Religious Education Director over those early years. Living in Devon, AB. did not limit his involvement nor that of Marjorie and their 3 children for they took part fully in much of what church life had to offer. Too they were a lasting and valuable member of one of UCE's 'church families'.... the only group to continue on until the present. As his Obituary stated: "Brian died after years of illness that took away his eloquence but not his good humour or friendly spirit. He will be remembered for taking on many roles in his life, all with abundant relish.

CUC March Events



(Please click heading above to go to CUC's Calendar for more information on the below events)

Inclusivity Action Groups: Where to Begin?

Wednesday, February 1, 5 pm MT (2 hours)

<https://cuc.ca/events/inclusivity-action-groups-where-to-begin/1675278000/1675285200/>

Uncolonizing Democratic Processes Saturday,

February 4, 2023 10:30 am MT (5.5 hours with 3 x 15 min breaks)

<https://cuc.ca/events/alternative-governance-models-workshop/1675513800/1675531800/>

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour

Saturday, February 4, 2023 – 2:00 pm MT (90 minutes) For Youth (14-19) and emerging adults of colour

<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-uu-youth-and-emerging-adults-of-colour-february-2023/1675526400/1675531800/>

National Worship Sunday Service: Covenanting through Transitions

Sunday, February 5 11 am MT

Congregations are experiencing a lot of changes these days...

<https://cuc.ca/events/national-worship-sunday-service-covenanting-through-transitions/1675602000/1675609200/>

Gathered Here Monthly Check In for Young Adults ages 18-35

Thursday, February 9 12:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-023/1675951200/1675956600/>

UUConnecting 5:00 p.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/uuconnecting-4/1676833200/1676838600/>

Uncolonizing Democratic Processes: A Leaders' Roundtable Saturday,

February 25, 10:00 a.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/alternative-governance-models-leaders-roundtable/1677326400/1677331800/>

Shaping Our CommUUnity



Vision:

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

Mission:

UCE Mission is to inspire social justice by questioning the status quo, engaging community and inviting all to the table.

We do this by providing an intentionally inclusive home to:

- nurture spiritual growth and transformation
- foster learning opportunities and outreach experiences
- welcome all age groups
- support action for social justice
- be guided by the principles and sources of Unitarian Universalism

UCE Covenant of Right Relations:

With love as our guide, we pledge to create a beloved community of peace and compassion. We trust our ability to work through conflict. As members and friends of UCE, we agree to:

- Honour and respect diversity in values and beliefs as a source of communal strength
- Be truthful, kind and open minded
- Assume good intent and goodwill
- Listen with open hearts and speak with care even when it is uncomfortable
- Talk to, not about, others
- Accept responsibility for our individual acts
- Address conflict promptly and ask for help when conflict is too difficult
- Be steadfast in support of our community in times of disagreement
- Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time, talent and money
- Express encouragement and appreciation for the gifts of others

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.

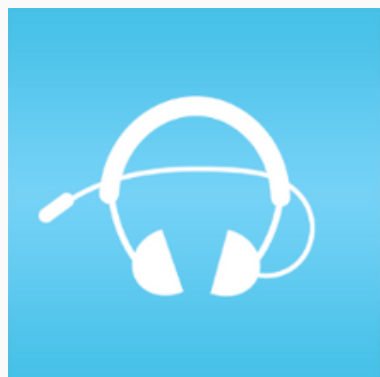
Please enjoy watching recordings of our Sunday Services again on YouTube or listen as a Podcast on SoundCloud. Just click on the link and don't forget to subscribe while you are there.

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>

Listen Everywhere



We have installed the Listen Everywhere service to replace our aging FM radios. This system will be in use for every service and available everywhere in the Church building and some of the parking lot.

To use the system, you will need to download and install the Listen Everywhere app from the google store, or apple store and you will need to connect to the UCE WIFI (password posted in church). Once you have done both steps, just open the app and start the session. It allows you to listen using your own headset, wireless earbuds, or if your phone is connected to your hearing aids, you will hear it there. Just as if you are listening to a phone call.

We will have people around to help if you need it, please ask.

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FEBRUARY

2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
Sunday Service 11:00 am Interfaith Concert 2 pm	6	7	8	9 Walking Group 1030 am	10	11
Sunday Service 10:30 am	13	14	15	16 Walking Group 1030 am	17	18
Sunday Service 10:30 am	20	21	22	23 Walking Group 1030 am	24	25
Sunday Service 10:30 am	27	28				