

VOL. 64 ISSUE 04 • APRIL 2023

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

APRIL'S THEME: PATH OF RESISTANCE



Don't tell me to be calm when there are so many reasons to be angry, so much cause for despair!

I didn't say to be calm, said the wind, I said to breathe.

We're going to need a lot of air to make this hurricane together

Lynn Unger

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.

THIS ISSUE:

SUNDAY SERVICES PAGE 02 MINISTER'S REFLECTION PAGE 03 INTO THE ELEMENTS PAGE 04 **RESILIENCE: CANVASS 2023 PAGE 05** LEADERHIP COMMITTEE PAGE 06 AGM. VOLUNTEER AWARDS PAGE 07 **RUTH PATRICK PARTY PAGE 08** APRIL EVENTS PAGE 09 **SOUL MATTERS** SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE **WALKING GROUP** MOZART TO METAL **UUS ON TAP GARAGE SALE PAGE 10** CASINO VOLUNTEERING PAGE 10 **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PAGE 11 CARING CONNECTIONS PAGE 12 CUC EVENTS PAGE 13** VISON, MISSION, COVENANT PAGE 14 PRINCIPLE AND SOURCES PAGE 15 **SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE 16** LISTEN EVERYWHERE PAGE 16 PFOPI F FINDER PAGE 17 **CALENDAR PAGE 18**

Sunday Services, 10:30 am

April 2 The Two Faces of Resistance

Chorealis

Resistance can be seen as a weakness - like when it's the refusal to accept change - or a strength - like when it's the attempt to prevent something or the ability not to be affected by something. We'll look at how both sides of this concept can show up in our communities and ourselves.

April 9 Let Peace Fill Our Hearts

Rev. Morrison

Easter is an opportunity to reflect on the emergence of Spring, to resist negative thinking and behaving, and to also rest in some familiar and new traditions in our lives. This Easter, join others for an inspiring service guaranteed to make you want to resist the pressures placed upon us.

Following the service, please stay for Soup Sunday. If you can help, please contact Jan McMillan at <u>janjimmc@gmail.com</u> or look for a sign up sheet in the foyer credenza

April 16 Strong Too Long: Resistance Is (Not) Futile

Rev.

Morrison

Sometimes it feels like we're holding up too much of the sky, and sometimes it feels like we're doing the work on our own. Even though we know we're on the right track, sometimes we need to stop and allow some time for rest and reflection. Let's explore together how resistance can make us strong at times, and at other times, we need to give into the urge to look after ourselves.

April 23 Being in Community: A Form of Resistance

Rev. Morrison

What does community mean to you? Why is it so important to have community around us? In this age of ultra independence, relying and leaning on one another is a form of resistance. How do we become comfortable asking for help when we need it? If being independent can bring isolation and loneliness, how can we ensure that growing our beloved community can help alleviate these familiar ailments of modern society?

April 30 5,000 Years of African Civilisations Malcolm Azania and Susan Ruttan Under his pen-name Minister Faust, Malcolm Azania is an award-winning novelist and journalist. He's been a radio host, podcaster, and national television host. In addition to having been a community organizer since the 1980s, he taught high school English for ten years, and has taught workshops across North America. He will speak about his Africentric work, including the study of ancient African civilisations, especially Egypt, Kush, and Yorubaland.

Minister's Reflection: The Path of Resistance

BY REV. ROSEMARY MORRISON



Quote - Octavia Butler
All that you touch you
change.
All that you change
changes you.
The only lasting truth is
change...

According to quantum physics, not only do we change that which we touch, we also change all that we observe. There are no passive observers in this world. We change everything around us, just by our mere presence. But we don't notice the things that we change, only the things that are changed by others, and we especially notice the things we wish would have stayed the same. If quantum physics and Octavia Butler share some truth in the theory of change, just the presence of a new minister sitting in the minister's office would create change, even before she did or said anything.

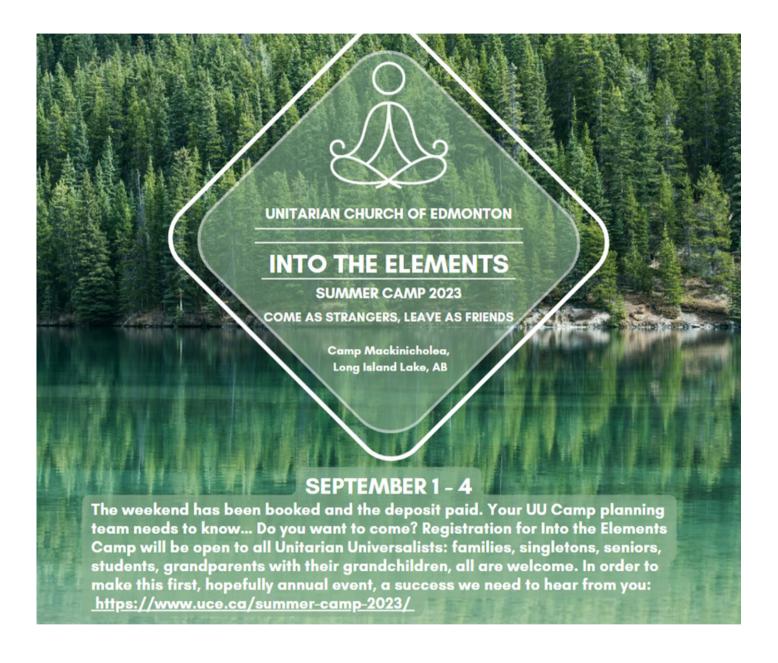
Change is hard, we resist change. However, change we must, for if we don't decide how we want to change, change will be thrust upon us and we might not like the outcome uninvited change brings. Change is a constant in congregational life. The experts say there is no status quo in organizations such as the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Congregations are either growing or contracting. To my way of thinking, it doesn't matter how fast we are growing, or how steep the trajectory is, it only matters that we are headed in the right direction. What is that direction and what does resistance have to do with it?

Moving in the direction of strength, health, and vitality, is the right direction. To help move us along, I say that we resist the urge to say things like: 'this is the way we have always done it,' and 'we're an aging congregation and we don't have the energy,' or 'someone else will step up.' If we wish to grow, not only in numbers but in strength, health, and vitality, we must listen to Rev. Andrew L. Weber when he says: "Here's my charge, to all of us. At any moment when you think, "someone should..." you be that person! "Someone should really speak up for the oppressed." "Someone should really pick up that piece of trash." "Someone should help that person with their groceries." Let us be that person!"

In peace,

Rev. Rosemary

save the date!





Just did the canvass total today and we are about \$7,000 short of last year's pledges. There is still time for a few more pledges to arrive this week but it is unlikely that there will be any increase over last year.

Not as resilient as I'd hoped.

So that means we will have to scale back our budget. Some of the great ideas that were put forward in this year's budget are not going to be possible.

We are actually pretty resilient. This year's pledges are within 1.5% of our 10-year pledge average. That's good, but our donations are just not growing. Our expenses are not getting any cheaper so when our donations don't grow is means that we have to cut back on a few things.

There is some good news. We have signed a lease with Open Doors Learning Service for 5 years to lease the front spaces in our building. This is reliable, steady income that will help us maintain our budget. Between Open Doors and our casual renters that will account for about 43% of our \$320,000 annual operating budget.



I want to thank everyone for their pledges and their ongoing contributions to our church. We may not be on the fast track to growth, but we are holding our own. We are resilient!



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 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 Board), the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC) and the Leadership Committee. The Board 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. The MRC has been paused since 2020, the Interim Ministry of Rev. Washington, and the initial year-and-a-half of Rev. Rosemary Morrison's contract with the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCE). A review of the Board and MRC structures is underway, with possible bylaw changes, but the basic purposes of the Board and the congregational committees remain.

- At each AGM we elect the Board executive (President, Vice-President who serve a one year term each, and a Secretary or a Treasurer in alternate years.) Two Trustees are elected each year, to serve a two-year term each. A member of the Board may serve a variety of positions but only for six consecutive years.
- **Brandie Moller-Reid** has agreed to let her name stand for President, after serving as a Trustee and as Vice-President. Mike Keast will move into the Past President position. Andrew Mills has ì agreed to let his name stand as Treasurer. Susan Ruttan continues in the second year of her two-year term as Secretary. The Leadership Committee will be contacting current Trustees, whose terms of office expire in June 2023, to determine if each is willing /able to serve for a further term. Marilyn Gaa has completed a two- year term as Trustee and Gerard Hayduk has served the remaining one-year term that became vacant when Susan was elected as Secretary. Zoe Larson and Lynn Wolff were appointed as Trustees to serve a one-year term each.
- Leadership Committee members Wendy Smith and Jennifer Hinchcliffe are completing their current terms in June 2023. They are eligible for re-election. Beth Jenkins and Donna Hamar continue in their positions until June 2024.
- If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact one of the Leadership Committee members:

Donna Hamar gypsiedonna17@gmail.com jhinchedm@gmail.com wesmith3348@gmail.com jenkibeth@gmail.com 780-425-0728

Jennifer Hinchcliffe 780-488-8350

Wendy Smith 780-455-3348 780-915-9867 (mobile)

Beth Jenkins 780-267-2384

h u r

Annual General Meeting

The church Annual General Meeting will be held after the Sunday service on May 7. Members may attend in person or on Zoom.

We will be approving a budget, choosing new board members, and looking ahead to the next year. A resolution that our delegates to the Canadian Unitarian Council annual meeting will be voting on will also be presented. This motion is to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, the idea that Europeans who landed in the Americas 500 years ago "discovered" it, despite the 10,000 years of indigenous life on the continent.

Volunteer Awards

Now is your chance to nominate someone for our two volunteer awards.

Send your nomination, with an explanation of why you chose them, to board secretary Susan Ruttan – email her at ruttans@shaw.ca. Your nominee should not be someone who has already received the award (Susan has a list of previous winners). An Alexander nominee should not be someone currently on the UCE board.





-- The W. H. Alexander Award:

This award is for dedicated volunteer service to UCE. To date, 41 people have received the Alexander Award for their volunteer efforts. W.H. Alexander was the tireless university professor who was lay minister of Edmonton Unitarians from 1916 to 1934.

-- The Charles Potter Award:

This award goes to a UCE member who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to communities outside our church, in ways that show our UU principles and values. So far, six people have received the award. Charles Potter was the first Unitarian minister in Edmonton, from 1914 to 1916

a Warm Thank you...

Dear UCE Members and Friends:

I have found it difficult to settle down and find the words to express my deep gratitude to this "my beloved community" for the gift you have given me.

The celebration on Sunday, March 19th was certainly the most marvelous party. Imagine having your favorite hymns (and singing all the verses), Gordon playing his harp, Karen presenting 'Reflections' and Rev. Rosemary returned from her break and pulling it all together. Such a lovely service and then that great luncheon. We must commend Elin Logan and Jan McMillan for the great work of organization they accomplished.

Turning 100 is still a bit unreal to me. Looking back and recognizing it has been 70 years since I joined the small Fellowship which became UCE in 1954 is a bit startling. Many changes have occurred in our Church through those years. Some wonderful friends and great occasions have marked those times. It has been such a journey.

The remarkable honor you gave me through that service and pot luck has filled me with joy and pure delight. I am humbled and deeply grateful to be given such an honor.

Sincerely, Ruth



What a party!

At least 80 enjoyed the celebration for our founding member Ruth Patrick last Sunday. Special thanks to all those who helped make this event happen.
Committee members were Elin Logan, Rosemary Falconer, Louise Charach, Rev. Rosemary Morrison and Jan McMillan. John Pater was our awesome MC and other helpers were Donna Hamar and Kathy Stanley with special kudos to the kitchen cleanup crew Susan Ruttan and Clair Horne.







SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE



Inspired by the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Child Haven International is a registered not for profit charity founded in 1985. We assist children and women in developing countries, who are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, emotional and moral support. https://www.childhaven.ca/



Soul Matters exists to support this journey of reconnection to life, others and our deepest self.

Click <u>here</u> for April's packet. Please contact Reverend Rosemary at <u>minister@uce.ca</u> if you would like to join a small group



MOZART TO METAL

Tuesdays, at 7:00 pm. please contact Alex at tunes@uce.ca to join.



WALKING GROUP



The Walkers celebrating with Dorothy Keeler on her recent birthday. Dorothy is one of the founding members of the 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.

April 7 Mill Creek
April 14 Dawson Park

April 21 Mackenzie Ravine

April 28 Laurier Park

UUS ON TAP



6:15 pm, April 30 at Brewster's in Unity Square: 11620 104 Ave NW

The Monster Garage Sale Is Back!

May 5 (8 am - 6 pm) & 6 (8 am - 4 pm)



We need you to bring good, useable items such as dishes, jewelry, collectibles, small appliances, tools, bikes, books, pictures, linens, camping gear, and toys. (Please, no broken items, mattresses, or old computers.) If you have moveable shelves, we would like to borrow them for books and knick-knacks.

Donations can be brought to Keeler Hall as of Sunday, April 23 and during the week from 10 am to 3 pm.

Opportunities to Volunteer!

There will be opportunities to help set up starting the afternoon of Friday (April 28) and all day Saturday (April 29) and from May 1 - 4; to help during the sale, and with cleanup afterwards. Karen Bilida needs help with online ads and sales. To sign up to be an online helper, please email Karen at Unitarian. Edmonton@yahoo.ca. Plus, we need people to help distribute posters and flyers to the community, and don't forget all the signs for the day of the sale!

If you are at home and can't make it into the building, we can use your help too! A lunch would be most appreciated; e.g. lasagna, chili, sandwiches, soup, etc. Thank you!

The signup sheet for in-building help will be on the credenza in the church foyer.

Casino Volunteers Needed!

After 3 long years, we finally have our next Casino scheduled. Our casino will be June 30th and July 1st at the Starlight Casino in West Edmonton Mall. The Casino is our biggest fundraiser and contributes approximately \$70,000.00 to our operating budget over 2 years.

We will have a paid advisor on site the entire time, who will train volunteers for their position and stay with us. All volunteers will be provided meals. If transportation is required, that can be provided at no expense to the volunteer. To sign up please go to the link and complete the form for the position you wish to fill. https://volunteersignup.org/B73EX

If you have further questions about what is entailed or if you require transport, please reach out to Brandie Moller-Reid.

Brandie can be contacted at brmoller@hotmail.com or find her in church! Thank you to all in advance.

Spiritual Exploration provides opportunities for growth for all ages. Contact Oksana at dre@uce.ca for more info

April Soul Matters Theme

Resistance



Thursday 6th

Art and Soul
No skill needed,
all ages
7-9pm
large classrom

We will be making Wax-resist pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs)

Thursday

20th

Art and Soul No skill needed, all ages 7-9pm large classrom

We will be doing wax resist paintings

Sunday

23rd

Spiritual Excursion
12:30-3:30pm
Muttart Conservatory
Adults \$10
Children \$5
Carpooling and subsidies
available



@UCExploration



www.UCE.ca



UCE Exploration



Time to Spiritually Explore!

Sunday April 23 12:30 to 3:30



CARING CONNECTIONS IS FOR YOU



UCE's Caring Connections Project is way for us to help each other out. All members and friends of UCE may access Caring Connections when you need it.

- Are you laid up in a recliner with your leg in a cast?
 We can deliver meals.
- Do you need a ride to church occasionally?
 Someone can drive you.
- Are you bored to tears in a seniors residence with no car and mobility issues? We can send visitors.

If you need help or you know someone who does, contact your Caring Connections Dispatcher Gloria Krenbrenk at 780-668-9166 or ucecares@uce.com. Let us know if someone should receive a caring card in the mail from their UCF friends.

We need volunteer helpers:

- Nourisher prepare a soup or meal for delivery
- Transporter give rides or deliver a meal prepared by a Nourisher
- Visitor Visit as a friend with someone who can't get out much
- Handihelps simple repairs or advice on home, garden, auto or technology
- Special Offers something unique to you than can benefit others
 To sign up, contact your Caring Connections Dispatcher Gloria Krenbrenk at 780-668-9166 or ucecares@uce.com. Many thanks to those who have already stepped up.

You are never required to respond to a request. All Transporters, for example, will receive an email request and those who can help will respond, then the Dispatcher matches the request with a Caring Connector.

Confidentiality is maintained at all times, except with mutual agreement of the Receiver and Caring Connector. The Minister is informed of all Caring Connections activities.

Any questions contact Gloria 780-668-9166 or ucecares@uce.com.



CUC April Events and more

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

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

Thursday, April 13, 12:00 pm MT

https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-april-2023/1681394400/1681399800/

Decision Making Exploration Team: How we Make Decisions Together

Saturday, April 15 - 11:00 am MT (2 hours)

https://cuc.ca/events/making-decisions/1681563600/1681570800/

UUConnecting

Sunday, April 16 - 5:00 p.m. MT

https://cuc.ca/events/uuconnecting-6/1681671600/1681677000/

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 - 5:30pm MT

https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-uu-youth-and-emerging-adults-of-colour-april-2023-2/1682537400/1682542800/

CUC Annual General Meeting 2023

Friday, May 19: In Person and on Zoom

11:00 am MT

https://cuc.ca/events/cuc-annual-generalmeeting-2023/

CUC National Symposium 2023:

Friday, May 19 - Sunday, 21, 2023

https://cuc.ca/events/cuc-national-

symposium-2023/1684454400/1684684800/



Chorus: Young Adults at the National Symposium Friday, May 19 at 1:00 pm ET – Monday, May 22 at 12:30 pm ET https://cuc.ca/events/chorus-2023/1684501200/1684758600/

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.

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY

by the UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON Vol. 64 No. 3 10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2 Phone 780-454-8073 Fax 780-452-1641

E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEBSITE www.uce.ca

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

People Finder

UCE Board: board@uce.ca

President: Mike Keast

Vice President: Brandie Moller

Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca Trustees: Marilyn Gaa, Susan Ruttan, Lynn Wolff and Gerard Hayduk

Minister: Reverend Rosemary Morrison minister@uce.ca

Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca

Religious Exploration Director: Oksana Atwood dre@uce.ca

Head Teller: David Rae

Chorealis Choir: Gordon Ritchie, Karen Mills

Church Services: Gordon Ritchie

Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Gaa

Building and Grounds: Alan Boyle

APRIL 2023

10:30 am Explore The Muttart 12:30	Service	22 Drop 2/off	10:30 am	Sunday Service	Soup Sunday!	9 Sunday Service 10:30 am	10.00 all	2 Sunday 2 Service	30	SUN
UUs on Tap 6:15, Brewsters	4	9/ off		17		10		w		M O N
Mozart to Metal 7 pm	Zoom:	9ξ items	Zoom: Mozart to Metal 7 pm	18	Mozart to Metal 7 pm	11 Zoom:	Zoom: Mozart to Metal 7 pm	4		TUE
	70	9g for	Zoom: UCE Board Mtg 7:15 pm	19		12		57		WED
Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm		97 Garage	Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20	Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	ည် :	Art & Chorealis Soul Rehearsal 7 pm 7:30 pm	6		UHT
	Walking Group CO	98 Sale		21 Walking Group 22		14 Walking Group 15		Walking Group 1030 am		FRI
	7.7	20		22		15		8		SAT