

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON



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JUNE'S THEME: PATH OF DELIGHT



Land Acknowledgement

In accordance with our principles, we acknowledge with gratitude that we gather on traditional Cree lands that are 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.



Sunday Services, 10:30 am

June 4

***The Earth Laughs in Flowers:
A Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Flower Communion***

Rev. Morrison

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the celebration of Flower Communion. This ritual has made a significant difference to our faith and we have enjoyed celebrating this ritual here at UCE over the years. This year is no different. If you can, please bring flowers you find, flowers from your garden, or flowers you have purchased, and come ready to fully participate in the intent behind this celebration. Your presence with or without flowers is welcome as we celebrate together the beauty and diversity that is this congregation.

June 11

***Blessing of the Animals
Fur, Feather, Fin, and Folks: We Are All Related***

Rev. Morrison

Please join in the fun and excitement as we celebrate our annual Blessing of the Animals. Bring your pet, or a picture of your pet to be blessed by Rev. Rosemary. This annual service is always fun, always an adventure, and always joyful. This service is suitable for people of all ages, so families are especially encouraged to be in attendance!

June 18

***Pride Service
We Are Who We Are: A Celebration of Pride***

Rev. Morrison

Unitarian Universalists and Edmonton Unitarians have been at the leading edge of promoting and celebrating the rights of LGBTQ+ folks for decades. In honour of Pride Month, this service will explore Pride and the joy that comes with becoming and living our true selves. You won't want to miss this one!

June 25

UUA General Assembly Watch Party

We will be gathering at church to watch the service at 10:30 am Edmonton time. Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister of the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI will lead the 2023 Sunday Service at GA. For more information, please visit :

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

July 2

Fathers Then and Now: A Conversation

Service Leader: Susan Ruttan

Susan will lead a discussion about fathers we have known, and how the role of father has changed. We will also share meditations of Richard Wagamese.

This service is not on Zoom, only in the sanctuary.

Minister's Reflection: The Path of Delight



When I was a kid, my feet were rarely confined to a pair of shoes. Living on a dairy farm with an orchard did pose a few problems (use your imagination), however, I was not deterred. I remember being able to even walk on the rocky shores of Cultus Lake to the amazement of my elders. "Don't those rocks hurt your feet?" I'd get asked. No, my feet were tough and calloused and stained from the dirt, and I loved the feel of the earth or grass or hay beneath my feet. Earlier this year, I decided to stop wearing shoes so much, I felt like my feet were missing out. Sometimes I remember my decision, sometimes I don't, but the experience has been lovely. My feet will never be as calloused (or dirty) as they were when I was that kid that roamed barefoot in the fields, but I am finding the experience delightful.

This month we are focusing on delight. Kahlil Gibran alludes to what brings us delight. Engagement with nature, others, our pets, and our being. We, as a species have developed to need community, to need beauty, and to be curious. Our first service this month is Flower Communion, bringing our need for beauty right into the sanctuary. June 11th will have us regaling in laughter as our pets join us! Our animal companions mean so much to us, and we do them and each other honour as we meet to bless them together. The third service will celebrate us in our being. No one person is the same as the next. We are a mix, a constellation if you will. Who are we attracted to affectionally and informally, how do we feel about who we are inside, what makes us feel something? These things and more get thrown into the giant mixer and we come out so delightful! Let's delightfully celebrate that beauty together on June 18th for our annual Pride service.

The natural world is there for us to delight in. May you find moments this month to remember to bask in that delight.

In peace,
Rev. Rosemary

A Message from the Board

The board has received a letter of resignation from Oksana Atwood, who has been our Director of Religious Exploration for the past year and a half. Oksana's last day as DRE will be June 20.

Oksana has handled a challenging job with hard work and creativity in her time as DRE. The job itself, which once focused on offering Sunday morning programs for children and youth, needs to be rethought now that we get many fewer children than we once did.

The board has asked the Human Resources Committee to lead the exploration of what this DRE job should be. Part of that will be talking to Oksana about her experience in the job.

Oksana, know that we value you and all you have done for UCE!

Summer UCE Directory Update



There are a lot of new faces in the church and it's been a good while since the last Directory. It's time to update the current directory with our members' and friends' latest information. This new directory will be available to the Church membership and will be sent out by email attachment at a later date.

Those that receive their newsletter by mail will have a copy mailed to them. A limited amount of paper copies will be made available from the office.

To update your contact information, you have three choices:

- You can fill out the web form on our website <https://www.uce.ca/membership-information-update/> the information will be sent to the Administrators' email; it will not be stored on the website.
- You will find a form attached to this month's newsletter. You may fill it out and return it to the Administrators' Office by email or paper copy.
- You can also request a form at the Welcome/Membership Desk on Sundays.

CUC Symposium Follow-Up, June 15

The Canadian Unitarian Council held it's annual general meeting and conference during the May long weekend. I was in attendance and was amazed and deeply moved at the quality and depth of the programming. As I was watching the Confluence Lecture, the Key Note Speaker, and attended the Sunday morning service, I kept thinking, "I wish everyone from UCE could see this."

My hope is that you will watch these three events.
The links to view them are below.

The Confluence Lecture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnZGsqWNdME&t=7s>

Keynote Presentation by Albert Dumont:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4LCxv_OYvc

Sunday Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVFZPNSykTo&t=5628s>

There will be a discussion (come even if you didn't watch them all) on Thursday, June 15th at 7:00 pm at the church. I look forward to discussing the topics and ideas brought forward in these presentations.

In gratitude,
Rev. Rosemary



SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

The George Spady Centre Society is recognized as a leader in the development and delivery of effective services for the care, treatment and support of individuals with substance-related disorders and dual diagnoses. People who come to us find dignity, hope and healing as they set a new path towards health and well-being.



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

Click [here](#) for June's packet. Please contact Reverend Rosemary at minister@uce.ca 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.
June 27th will be the last session for the season

Garage Sale Volunteer Appreciation Party

Date: Thursday, June 8

Time: 5:00 - whatever

Place: Social Room, Victoria Plaza,
11710 – 100 Avenue

As much of the event will be out on the deck, if the weather is inclement (rain, too cool) the alternative venue will be the church.

Please RSVP by June 5 to
gypsiedonna17@gmail.com or
chadmin@uce.ca

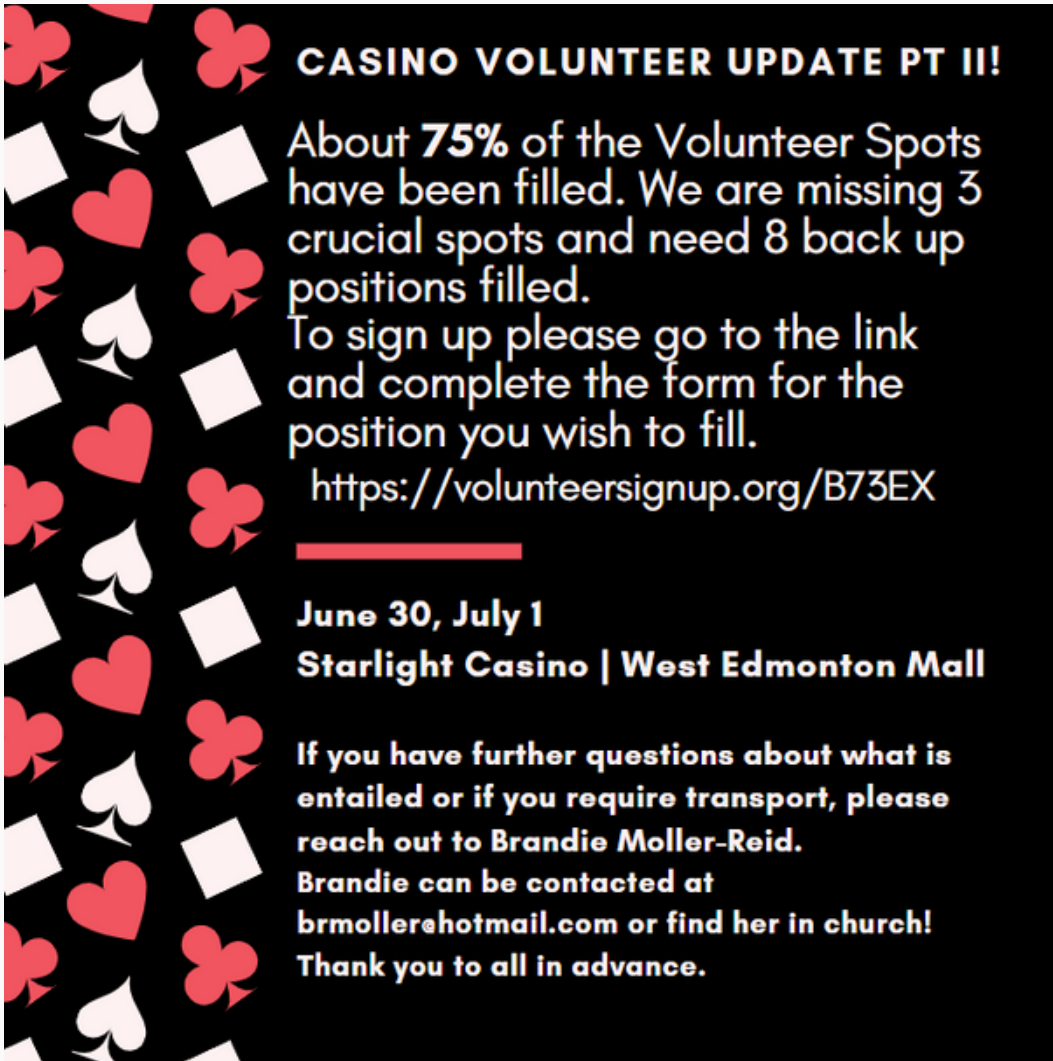
WALKING GROUP



Walkers meet at the walk site at 10.30am.
If the weather is nice, bring a snack and a chair and enjoy some fellowship afterwards.

2 - Government House
9 - Laurier Park
16 - Nelly McClung Park
23 - Louise McKinney Park
30 - Kinsman Park

We're Almost There!

A black rectangular graphic with a vertical border on the left side featuring a repeating pattern of red hearts, red clubs, and white spades. The text is in white and yellow. The title 'CASINO VOLUNTEER UPDATE PT II!' is in yellow. The main text is in white, stating that 75% of volunteer spots are filled and 8 backup positions are needed. It provides a link to sign up and mentions the dates June 30 and July 1 at Starlight Casino. It also includes contact information for Brandie Moller-Reid.

CASINO VOLUNTEER UPDATE PT II!

About **75%** of the Volunteer Spots have been filled. We are missing 3 crucial spots and need 8 back up positions filled.

To sign up please go to the link and complete the form for the position you wish to fill.

<https://volunteersignup.org/B73EX>

June 30, July 1
Starlight Casino | West Edmonton Mall

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 brmollere@hotmail.com or find her in church!
Thank you to all in advance.



The Eco-Solar Home Tour is a free tour of net-zero and energy efficient homes. The Edmonton tour is Sat/Sun June 3 and 4 from noon to 5 (some homes open earlier). Go to <https://ecosolar.ca/> to see descriptions, addresses, and a map to the homes. The Unitarian Church of Edmonton is an in-kind sponsor of this tour. Come on the tour and meet with homeowners who are demonstrating the latest in net-zero building, solar, home energy retrofits, and electric vehicles.

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 UCE 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.

UCE Photo Album

Our absolutely fascinating Ferguson



It's Official! Rev. Morrison is our Settled Minister

CUC June Events

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

Inclusivity Action Groups: Managing Resistance

Wednesday, June 7 | 5 pm MT

Decision Making Exploration Team: Practicing Together: Sociocracy Decision Making

Saturday, June 10 | 11:00 am MT

Gathered Here

Monday, June 12 | 6:00 p.m. MT

UUConnecting

June 18 | 5:00 p.m. MT

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour

Wednesday, June 28 | 5:30 MT

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.

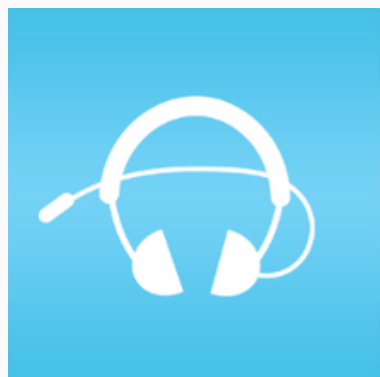
Please enjoy watching recordings of our Sunday Services again on YouTube or listen as a Podcast on SoundCloud. Just click on the link and don't forget to subscribe while you are there.

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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Chorealis Choir: Gordon Ritchie, Karen Mills
Church Services: Gordon Ritchie
Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Gaa
Building and Grounds: Alan Boyle

JUNE 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 Sunday Service 10:30 am	5	6 Zoom Mozart to Metal 7 pm	7	8 Garage Sale Volunteer Appreciation 5 pm	2 UCE Walking Group 10:30 am	3
11 Sunday Service 10:30 am	12	13 Zoom Mozart to Metal 7 pm	14	15 CUC Symposium Discussion 7 pm	9 UCE Walking Group 10:30 am	10
18 Sunday Service 10:30 am	19	20 Zoom Mozart to Metal 7 pm	21	22	23 UCE Walking Group 10:30 am	24
25 Sunday Service 10:30 am	26	27 Zoom Mozart to Metal 7 pm	28	29	30 UCE Walking Group 10:30 am	