

VOL. 64 ISSUE 07 • SUMMER 2023

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

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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

July 2

UCE: *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.

July 9

Kelowna Unitarians: *Pride and Parenting*

Service Leader: Rev. Brian Kiely

I have always been a proud ally of the Pride movement, but it was a bit arm's length until my then 16 year old child came out as transgender. I'll speak about my side of his journey, including a clip of him describing his.

July 16

UCE: *Music and the Spoken Word*

Rev. Audrey Brooks

We have a diverse community of gifted musicians, poets, artists, writers, choristers and actors in our community. We are inviting you to enjoy a bit of music and spoken word this Sunday as a way to showcase inhouse and outreach participants. Hosts- Corinne Jackson and Audrey Brooks

July 23

Calgary Unitarians: *The Importance of Covenant*

Service Leader: Rev. Shelly Thompson

July 30

Westwood Unitarian: *Pete Seeger Service*

Service Leader: Robert Woznura

Pete Seeger embodied the integration of questioning, reflection, and action that many UUs aspire to. Aside from being required to sing often and loudly, we will reflect on Seeger's interests in labour, civil rights, peace, and the environment, as well as some of Seeger's own reflections on spirituality.

******August Services are going to be in person and at the church, please keep an eye on your weekly emails for more information******

Minister's Reflection: Summer Is Here!

We made it, summer is finally here, and we are blessed with our wonderful green river valley filled with songbirds, cooling creeks and the North Saskatchewan River. My hope and prayer for each of you is that you have a chance to get out in nature, maybe dip a toe (or more) into a lake, or read a great book on a deck.

I will be spending time with family, doing a bit of traveling, reading some books that I've saved for long summer days at the beach, hiking, and hopefully lots of swimming in lakes and rivers (maybe even the Pacific Ocean). I will be on vacation and study leave until the end of August.

This summer, our summer services are a combination of in-house and collaborative services with several other congregations. We are indeed lucky to have these relationships built with other Western Canadian congregations. Please watch the weekly email to ensure you are tuning in or showing up at the correct time as we are collaborating across time zones.

This past church year has been busy, we have emerged from the difficulties of COVID-19 with some of our ministries intact, and others that need to be rebuilt. We now have Vision, Mission, and Covenant statements, and these foundational documents will continue to inform our direction. I am so looking forward to the 2023/2024 church year as we will begin our work together with the renewed commitment that settled ministry brings. What are your hopes and dreams for UCE? Where do you see there are gaps? Where does the transformational healing power of love need to permeate to help us deepen our journeys and relationships? What does being in covenant together even look like? How can we improve our time of fellowship together?

We still have much to learn about each other, and there are so many wonderful things we can do together in ministry, both within our walls and out into the wider community.

May this summer bring us the renewal that will allow us to re-energize for the exciting church year ahead.

In peace,
Rev. Rosemary

Save the Date!



PACK YOUR BASKET

UCE PICNIC SERVICE

Sunday, August 27 | Queen Mary Park
10:30 Arrival | 11:00 Service | 11:30 Fellowship

BRING SOME FOOD TO SHARE AND
A LAWNCHAIR OR BLANKET



SUMMER

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

JULY: CEASE builds bridges over income instability and creates pathways out of exploitation. We provide tools for persons who have experienced sexual exploitation or sex-trafficking to heal and renew their lives.

AUGUST: BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES

Boyle Street Community Services has been working in the inner city of Edmonton since 1971 to serve, support, and empower people to take control of their lives and escape the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

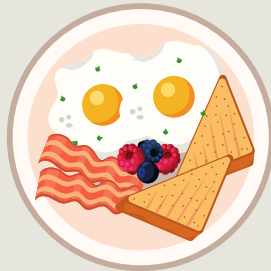
WALKING GROUP



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.

For the month of July, available Walkers will meet at Government House Park at 10.30am each Friday

*You're
Invited!*



For several years many of us have met on Sunday's after church at Albert's Restaurant, 10604-124 Street. Anywhere from 6-18 enjoy having brunch together and we would like to continue this tradition during the summer months. Feel free to join us any Sunday around 11.30am!



summer
OFFICE HOURS

WED, THURS, FRI
9 am - 2 pm

Wandering: Songs and Stories of Travel

Erin Vandermolen-Pater returns to the UCE stage for one night only!

Saturday, July 8 at 8pm

The show will likely run around 80 minutes, with no intermission. Featuring songs on the theme of travel from musical theatre-and-then-some.

Tickets are \$20 or \$30 (your choice), and can be bought from Erin, Michelle, or John. Please email Erin at erinvandermolenpater@gmail.com for more info or to book your tickets!



💧 Homecoming, Sunday, September 3 💧



On September 3 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 3rd. 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.

UCE Photo Album



Flower Communion: R. Russell, R. Patrick
& Y. Mireau



Pet Blessing: Rev. Morrison



Pet Blessing: M. Roche



Pet Blessing: S. Harrison



Pet Blessing: W. Tessier-Harder

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.

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. 7
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 Summer Hours: Wednesday to Friday, 9 am to 2 pm

People Finder

UCE Board: board@uce.ca

President: Brandie Moller

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca

Secretary: Susan Ruttan

Trustees: Marilyn Gaa, Lynn Wolff, Gerard Hayduk, and Zoe Larson

Minister: Reverend Rosemary Morrison minister@uce.ca

Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@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