



VOL. 65 ISSUE 01 • JANUARY 2024

# THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

## DECEMBER'S THEME: THE GIFT OF LIBERATING LOVE



### January's Package

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Congregations at their best are “schools of love,” places where we can be with others who make us more compassionate, generous, peace-filled, and kind.

Cameron Trimble

#### 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

## **December 31     *The Stories of 2023***

**with John Pater**

This service will be a looking back and remembering what transpired in our world in 2023. As we've done in years past, we will reflect on how the stories of our year - the news, cultural and personal stories we've encountered and lived - provide meaning for our lives.

## **January 7     *I Choose Love***

**Chorealis**

Love bears witness to all our inherent dignity and worth. It witnesses how we try, succeed, and fail—and it does not flinch. Join Chorealis for a quiet service of music and meditative moments to get the New Year off to a gentle start.

## **January 14     *Just Keep Loving: It Will Change Your Heart and Mind***

**with Rev. Morrison**

We have made it through the holiday season, however, or how much you celebrated. Now, it's down to the task of carrying on with our lives. As we continue how to live in covenant with one another and with the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, let's explore how love can liberate us, hold us, and help us grow into being in right relationship with one another.

## **January 21     *What Are You In Love With?***

**with Rev. Morrison**

As we continue our exploration into the topic of Liberating Love, let's turn our minds outward. What do you love about your life, your family, or your life? We all want the same things, access to resources, a safe place to be, and people that care about us. Let's have a conversation about how not everyone experiences life like the average Unitarian Universalist. What are you in love with that not everyone has access to?

## **January 28     *What's Love Got to do With It?***

**with Rev. Morrison**

Have you heard the quote? 'If I asked you to name all the things that you love, how long would it take for you to name yourself?' In this service we will explore how loving ourselves and paying attention to our own well being is not just important, it's imperative.

**If you would like to join us on Zoom from the comfort of your own home, please use this link:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?>**

**[pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09)**



I recently read a farewell letter from a colleague who has been serving in leadership with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The thing that resonated with me was her comment of how our congregations are best served by shared ministry. The leadership that the minister on their own can provide is miniscule compared to the power of shared ministry. In order to share the ministry of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, people need to know what to do. While there are many functional systems in place at UCE that keep things chugging along, there are a number of gaps in service that sharing the ministry could address.

At the beginning of this year, I identified four areas I wanted to focus my energy on.

- 1. Hospitality**
- 2. Covenant**
- 3. Membership team**
- 4. Pastoral care team**

1. I began the year putting a lot of energy into hospitality. This is in my opinion, where UCE's biggest gap in service is. Hospitality is probably the most important component in community and congregational life, and it is optimum if looked after in a consistent and systematic way. What if UCE had a hospitality team that made sure everything was in place for coffee and snacks to be served every Sunday? What if that hospitality team also organized a monthly potluck, and the food for special occasions like the Blue Christmas service? The board will be working on this as well so stay tuned!

2. Even though we now have a Covenant of Right Relations in place, the work continues. The Governance Implementation Team is working on the next steps that will be put into place. For example, what to do when things don't go well and we wish to make amends. Who do we talk to, what are the steps? Being part of a conventual community is new for UCE, we are learning how to be together in this new way.

**3.** The hard-working membership policy and procedure team have put together wonderful policies and procedures that will soon be ready to be put in motion. A newly forming membership team will be meeting early in the new year to implement these procedures, as well as set up systems that will help to sustain and support membership at UCE. They will be looking for others to join.

**4.** The newly forming pastoral care team leaders met recently and our goal is to have a functional and comprehensive pastoral care system in place by the end of this church year. They also will be looking for others to join them.

There are other areas that need your help. In the past, I've spent considerable amount of time setting up the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, procuring supplies, and attending to logistics for events. This takes away from my ability to properly prepare for Sunday service, and find the needed time for pastoral care and the other duties entrusted to me.

As you can see, there is plenty of room for you to be part of shared ministry. It is up to everyone to look after each other, to make sure we are living into our covenant, and to ensure the systems run smoothly.

I am excited about what 2024 will bring us!

In hope, peace, joy, and love,  
Rev. Rosemary

Love is the will to extend  
one's self for the purpose  
of nurturing one's own or  
another's spiritual growth.

M. Scott Peck



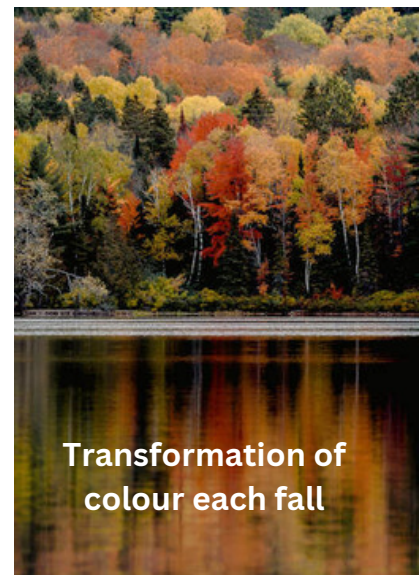




This year's Canvass theme is transformation. What transformations have you experienced in your life? The transformation from child to adult, from student to graduate, from single to partnered (or vice versa), the transformation to parent, from working to retired? We have all experienced transformations; some more dramatic than others; some have experienced war and displacement, and some have experienced the supportive transformation of love.

We are fortunate that we have our UCE community to support us in our transformations. But UCE is transforming too. We are transforming into a community that is in covenant, "With love as our guide, we pledge to create a beloved community of peace and compassion." Have you made the transition to the UCE covenant yet? Our covenant contains guidelines for us to follow so that we can support each other in our transitions. As a church we have agreed to make the transformation to our covenant.

<https://www.uce.ca/uce-covenant-of-right-relations/>



So how does our covenant affect Canvass? One of covenant guidelines is that we will "Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time, talent and money." I always look forward to seeing your talents as you volunteer for the work of our church. But I also have the distinct pleasure of seeing how you share your money with the church. Watching members transform into generous donors is a great joy. Have you transformed into a generous donor yet?

Canvass runs from January until the end of March each year. During this time, we ask all of our members 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 before March 31st.

Help us transform into a church of generosity!



# JANUARY

## SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE



For over 45 years, Change for Children has promoted health and human rights by championing creative solutions to poverty through sustainable development. This has been, and continues to be, the Change for Children way.



Welcome to the Gift of  
Liberating Love

To download January's  
theme package for sharing  
circles, please click [here](#)

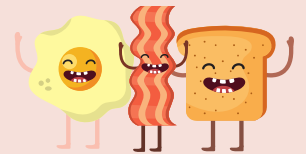


**UU's on Tap  
is  
Back!**

**Monday, January 29  
5:30 pm  
Brewster's, Unity Square  
11620 104 Ave**

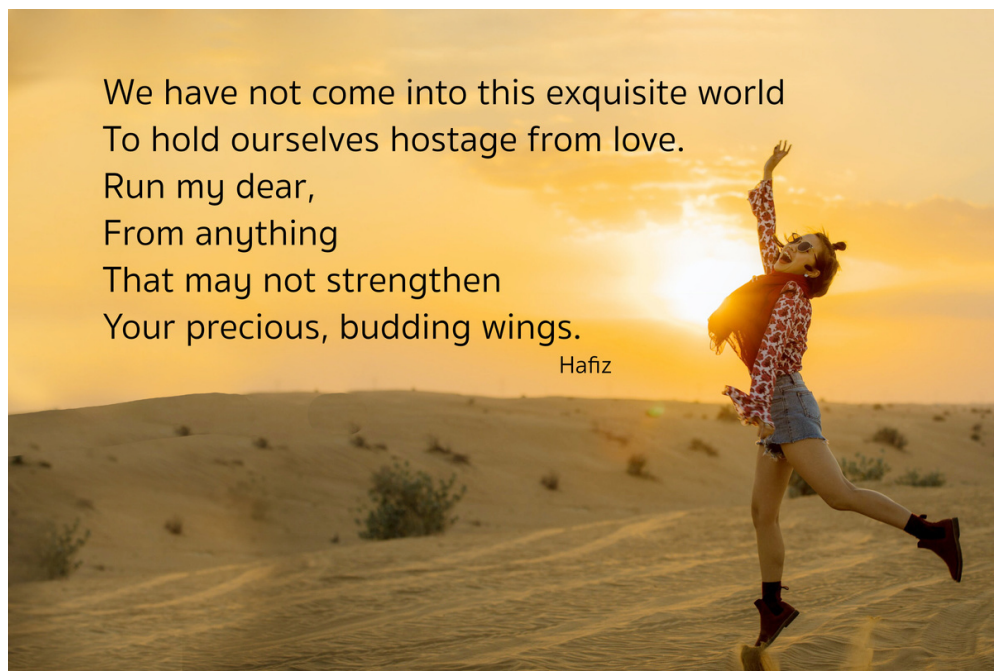
**Let's reconnect in the new  
year and hopefully see  
some new faces!**

*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. Feel free to join us any  
Sunday after the service coffee  
and fellowship!**





We have not come into this exquisite world  
To hold ourselves hostage from love.  
Run my dear,  
From anything  
That may not strengthen  
Your precious, budding wings.

Hafiz

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ucecares@uce.com).



## THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENOCIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE DECEMBER 8TH, 2023



UCE centenarian Ruth Patrick, (R) founding member of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's Association, dedicates a Memorial Stone on their behalf, for the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She is accompanied by UCE friend, Jan McMillan

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## CANDIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

### **Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour**

Wednesday, January 10 | 5:30pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-unitarian-universalists-of-colour>

### **Decision Making Exploration Team: Deciding Together: Co-designing a proposal for CUC decision-making**

Saturday, January 13 | 11:00 am MT (five hours)

[Click here to register](#)

### **Gathered Here**

Tuesday, January 16 | 6:00 p.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-january-2024/1705435200/1705440600/>

### **Connect and Deepen: Resilience**

Sunday, January 21 | 2:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepen-january-2024/1705852800/1705858200/>

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

## **People Finder**

UCE Board: [board@uce.ca](mailto:board@uce.ca)

President: Brandie Moller

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair: Andrew Mills [andrew@misc.ca](mailto:andrew@misc.ca)

Secretary: Susan Ruttan

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

Minister: Reverend Rosemary Morrison [minister@uce.ca](mailto:minister@uce.ca)

Church Office: Janet Polkovsky [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto: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

# JANUARY

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 10:30 am Sunday Service	1	2	3	4 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5	6
7 10:30 am Sunday Service	8	9	10	11 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12	13
14 10:30 am Sunday Service	15	16	17	18 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	19	20
21 10:30 am Sunday Service	22	23	24 7:15 pm UCE Board mtg, Zoom	25 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26 5:30 pm Karaoke & Dinner	27
28 10:30 am Sunday Service	29 5:30 pm UUs on Tap @ Brewster's	30	31	1 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	2	3