



VOL. 65 ISSUE 02 • FEBRUARY 2024

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

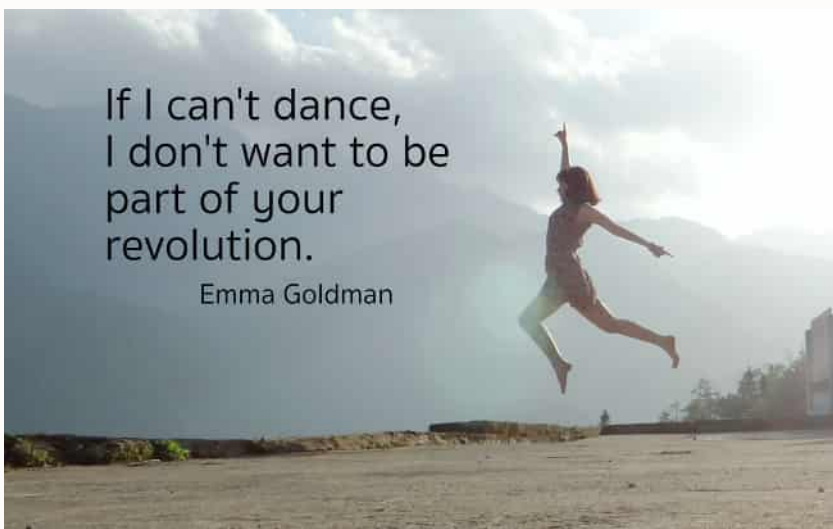
FEBRUARY'S THEME: THE GIFT OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY



February's Package

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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

February 4 *Justice and Equity*

Chorealis

“If we let rationalizations replace justice, resignation replace equity, or pity replace compassion, our human relations are diminished.” These words by Michael Daeschlein will serve as the core for our service. Through words, music and reflection we will explore what is needed and the tools we have to build a more just and equitable world.

February 11 *Freedom: A Personal Act*

with Rev. Morrison

Media and corporations try to make us believe we need more things to be happy with ourselves. Let's push back on that notion. Rather than asking ourselves what we need to be happy, let's ask ourselves what we can give. Radical acts of justice making include: being content with ourselves, sharing what we have, and offering our services as we can. Imagine the world if we all took these small steps.

February 18 *Everything is Connected: Looking In/Looking Out*

with Rev. Morrison

In this service let's explore some of the ways the interdependent web of life is more than just a principle we like to quote. What are some of the things you do to help the environment? Do our efforts make a difference? In what ways do you enjoy the natural world? In this service we'll explore environmental justice and how we can best enjoy and protect it.

February 25 *Telling Our Stories*

with Rev. Morrison

We know that stories are what we remember and love. As we move forward with building and strengthening our community, let's share some stories about how the community supports us and inspires us. What about other communities? Other stories? What stories do we need to write to become a vital and justice serving community?

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

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

*William Blake from Auguries of
Innocence*

I have always loved these words by William Blake and as a choral person have sung them many times to many different settings. Why are these words so popular? Well, for one thing they are beautiful, and as human beings we are hardwired to seek out the good, the true, and the beautiful.



However, Blake is asking us to do something quite different here; to see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower. He is reminding us that our lives must be examined for an unexamined life isn't worth living. We need to look closely, question our intentions, finish our thoughts, become aware of how our words and actions are affecting those around us and the world.

Also, if we think about this against our theme of justice and equity, we become aware not just of our personal impact, but how humans, creatures, and the earth are being exploited and abused. In this light Blake is asking us to not just focus on the beautiful, but to pay attention to all the details. If we really take a good close look at the world around us, if we decide to not look away when things are uncomfortable, then perhaps we could have the good, the true and the beautiful right here, right now.

As we move through the month of February exploring justice and equity, we'll go deeper into some of these thoughts, mine and yours.

In peace,
Rev. Rosemary



SAVE THE DATE!

ON SUNDAY, MAY 19, WE WILL HOLD AN INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR REV. ROSEMARY MORRISON AND SEVERAL CANADIAN UU MINISTERS WILL BE ATTENDING. THIS MARKS THE SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT OF A NEW MINISTER BY OUR CONGREGATION. IT IS A CELEBRATION OF THE JOY WE ALL FEEL FOR HAVING FOUND ONE ANOTHER.



Maintaining our large building, with one major tenant and several renters, is a significant undertaking. The volunteer team responsible for building repairs on Tuesdays is getting older and requires additional support. The UCE's Human Resources Committee has been tasked by the board to explore hiring someone to take on more of the building work.

News from the Board

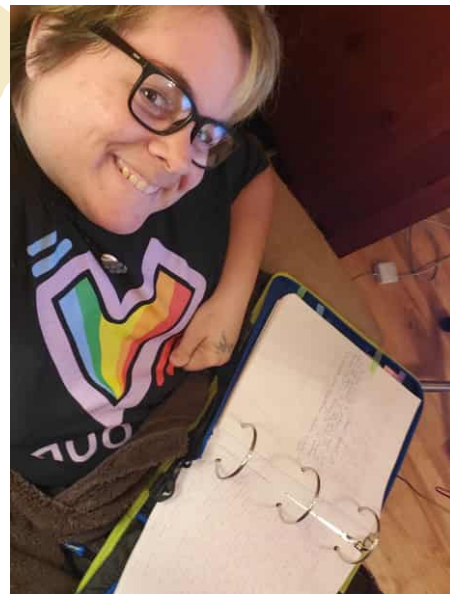


May Is Going to Be a Busy Month for UCE!

We will host Canada's UU youth annual weekend gathering from May 17-20. We will need to support them as they arrive and gather.



We are delighted to share that UCE member Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet is working towards becoming a Unitarian minister and has received the board's support





Raindrops Keep Fallin' Our Heads!

On Tuesday, January 30, our church roof started leaking. Just as we thought we were ahead of the damage from the broken sprinkler pipes, we are faced with new leaks. In this week's mild weather the snow melted on the roof and started leaking into the offices along the south wall. Our 20-year-old roof has given up. This is going to be a big problem. We are going to have leaks whenever the snow melts from now until the roof is replaced.

Can you help? We could use people to help make sure the buckets are catching the leaks and to clean up the spaces. I'd like to get most of the ceiling tiles taken down so that we can see where the leaks are. We may also need help putting up tarps to catch the leaks until the roof can be replaced. If you are comfortable climbing ladders, moving furniture, or cleaning we could use your assistance weekday mornings. We will probably also have a Saturday work bee. Call the office or Andrew at andrew@misc.ca (780-918-3288).

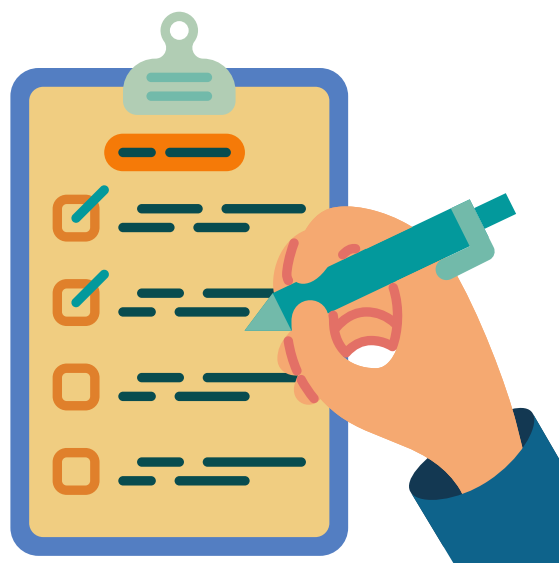
What You Thought

Thank you so much to the 63 members and friends who responded to the Human Resources Committee's survey at the end of November.

The survey asked for the congregation's thoughts on what might best serve UCE needs if we could hire another part-time staff member. People were asked to mark 3 preferred choices, understanding that a combination of options might also be considered.

Results are shown below.

Director of Lifespan Learning	22%
Events Coordinator	22%
Membership Coordinator	15%
Publicity/Marketing Coordinator	15%
Director of Religious Exploration	11%
Volunteer Coordinator	8%
Technology Assistance	6%
Affiliation:	
Members	55
Friends	4
Undeclared	4
Parent of child under 18	3
Age Groups:	
18-29 years	2
30-64 years	21
65+ years	29
Undeclared	11



Twenty-three additional comments were also submitted. They provide rich food for thought and show a deep caring for the welfare of our UCE community.

HR will continue to gather information before making a recommendation to the board. The board will then consider the feasibility of implementing the recommendation.



We had a bit of scare this month when the SE Open Doors building froze up. It got (mostly) sorted out within the week but it highlights how vulnerable our church finances can be. Our major tenant, Open Doors Learning Services (www.learnitnow.ca), lost 40% of their working space. We also shut down the church for casual rentals while the fire alarm and sprinkler system was disrupted.

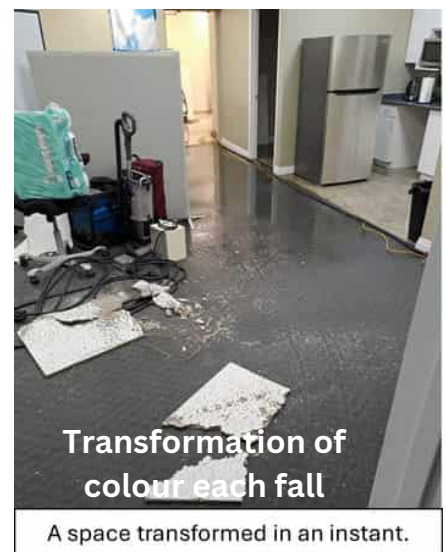
The Open Doors lease and our casual rentals make up half of our church's income. To see both of those disrupted so quickly was a bit sobering. As we worked to get the mess cleaned up our main concern was to get everything back and working as soon as possible. There is a lot that goes on in our church and even though we may not see all the activities, they all contribute to our church.

This month has given us pause. It has shown us how quickly our situation can transform. Keeping a vibrant church community going requires a steady and reliable income. Our annual canvass is about securing our income for the next church year. Half of our income may come from rentals and leases but the other half comes from you.

As members of this church we covenant to "Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time, talent and money." Once a year we ask all members to complete a pledge of their financial gifts to the church. This is that time.

Please provide us with an estimate of your financial gifts to your church by completing a pledge form by the end of March.

Thank you!



FEBRUARY

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE



FOUNDED IN 1997, IHUMAN YOUTH SOCIETY STANDS AS A BEACON OF HOPE IN EDMONTON BY CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF THE CITY'S MARGINALIZED YOUTH.

[HTTPS://IHUMAN.ORG/](https://ihuman.org/)



UUs on Tap

Monday, February 26

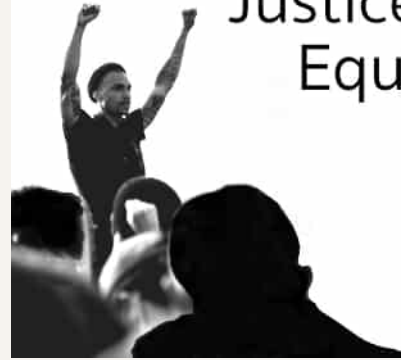
5:30 pm

Brewster's, Unity Square

11620 104 Ave

Welcome to the Gifts of

Justice &
Equity



Soul Matters
SHARING CIRCLE

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



AND IN MARCH...

SATURDAY,
the 23rd

The Chorealis
Cabaret



*You are cordially
invited to
celebrate the
90th birthday of
Dorothy Keeler!*

**March 2, 2024 – Drop in between 12:30 and 5:30 pm,
Unitarian Church of Edmonton**

Light refreshments will be served throughout the event.

No gifts please but should you choose to honour Dorothy, you may do so by donating to the following charitable causes. Use the links below or donations will be accepted on March 2

Please RSVP via email lisa61jacobs@gmail.com or phone/text Dorothy's daughter, Heidi at (403) 870-9700.(We just need a count to arrange the food)..



**Dr B T Keeler Continuing
Education Bursary**



**Child Haven
International**

Big Freeze 2024!

On Sunday, January 14th, the Open Doors southeast (SE) building was discovered frozen due to the furnace icing up over the weekend. Small heaters were deployed that night to thaw the furnace, and on Monday, Belfor Property Restoration was called in by our insurance company. They set up larger heaters, but later that evening, thawing sprinkler pipes burst, flooding the space. Quick action by individuals in the building prevented further damage, and UCE and Open Doors volunteers assisted in mopping up and restoring heat. By midnight, the space was emptied, dehumidifiers were in place, and a fire watch was initiated.

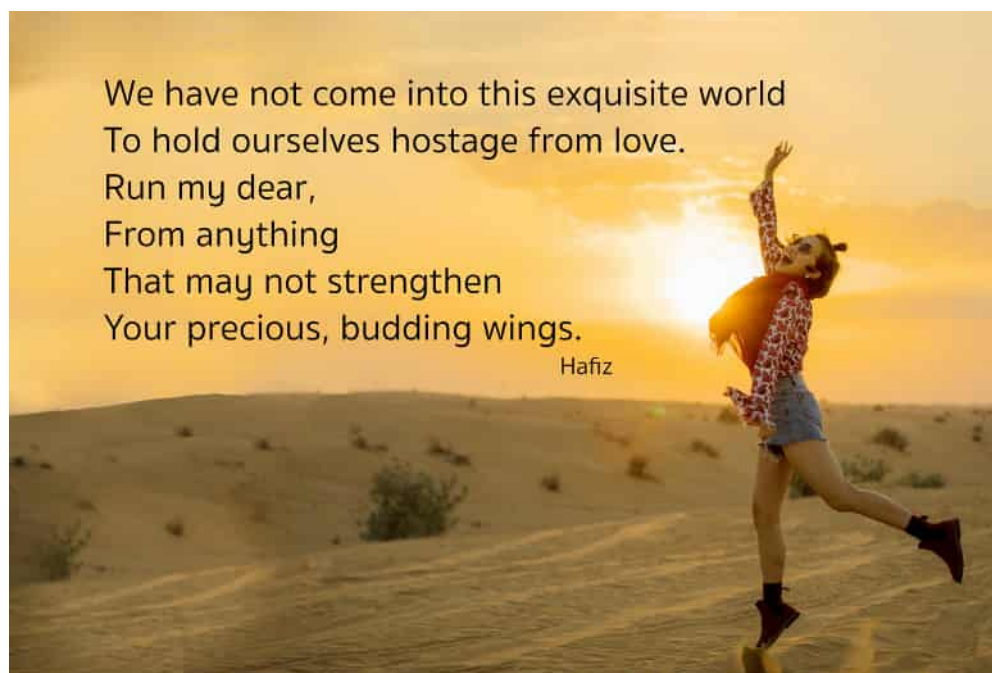
Although the initial damage was contained to the Open Doors SE building, the loss of the sprinkler system affected all UCE spaces, necessitating a 24-hour fire watch. All activities were initially canceled, except for the Food Bank, to allow repair teams to work. Cleanup efforts continued throughout the week, including drying carpets, removing wet drywall, and addressing asbestos concerns.

Sprinkler repairs were completed on Thursday, and by Friday, the system had passed testing, ending the fire watch. The church resumed activities, including the Sunday service on January 21st. The furnace, which had frozen due to a damaged switch, was repaired by Friday. Despite challenges, the main water line to the church remained intact, with only a smaller line to the east buildings freezing. Repairs were made, and the plan for the coming weeks involves replacing drywall and deciding on carpet maintenance. Gratitude was extended to everyone who contributed, including those involved in the initial response, water cleanup, fire watch, and contractors. Special thanks were given to Janet Polkovsky for her coordination efforts.

The incident will be reviewed for future prevention measures. Thanks to all who played a role in resolving the situation.

Big Freeze 2024!





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. 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.

“BUILDING BRIDGES AMONG FAITH TRADITIONS”



MULTIFAITH CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF UNITED NATIONS WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

Sunday February 4, 2024 at 2 pm Unitarian Church 10804 - 119 St.

Refreshments * Silent Auction
\$10 donation at the door

CANDIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

Gathered Here Friday, February 9 | 12:00 p.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-2024/1707487200/1707492600/>

AGM Motions Feedback

Feedback 1 Thursday, February 15, 2024 – 5:30 p.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/agm-motions-feedback1>

Feedback 2 Saturday, February 17, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/agm-motions-feedback2>

Feedback 3 Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 5:30 p.m. MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/agm-motions-feedback3>

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

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

02 FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	2	3
4 10:30 am Sunday Service	5	6	7	8 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9	10
11 10:30 am Sunday Service	12	13	14	15 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	16 Karaoke, Food & Fun 5:30 pm	17
18 10:30 am Sunday Service	19	20	21 UCE Board Mtg on Zoom 7:15 pm	22 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	23	24
25 10:30 am Sunday Service	26 UUS on Tap Brewster's 5:30 pm	27	28	29 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	1	2 Donothy Keeler's Birthday 12:30 pm