

VOL. 65 ISSUE 03 • MARCH 2024

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

MARCH'S THEME: THE GIFT OF TRANSFORMATION



March's Package

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**Change happens
at the speed
of trust**

Stephen M.R. Covey

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

March 3

Thresholds and Layers

Chorealis

Every day we cross thresholds - real and imagined - that can change how we view and relate to the world around us. Each time we change, we add to the layers of experience we accumulate over our lives: deposits of joy and sorrow on the foundation of who we are. Crossing and changing are just other ways of transforming. Join us as we examine the possibilities and challenges of transformation.

March 10

***Women Hold Up Half the Sky:
Celebrating International Women's Day***

with Rev. Morrison

As we celebrate International Women's Day, let's explore some of the wonderful people in our lives that loved us into being, who suffered for our rights, and who we love today. We'll do this through story, song, reflection, and with our own experiences. Come prepared to be inspired, to participate, and to be renewed.

March 17

***From Scarcity to Abundance:
Becoming a Generous Congregation***

with Rev. Morrison

March is our canvas month, the time when we come together to think about and make decisions on what we can share with our spiritual community. We have such a rich mosaic of individuals that give generously of their time and talents. Once a year, we take a moment to reflect on how we can support UCE with our treasures, be they great or small. All are welcome, all are valued, and we need all of us to pull together to be successful. Guest musician; Tami Cooper, flute and Gordon Ritchie, celtic harp.

March 24 *Seven Ways to Tell if You are Experiencing a Transformation*

with Rev. Morrison

How can we be sure we're on the right path? Are we becoming more spiritually mature as a congregation? Is your personal or spiritual growth galloping along or stopped dead in its tracks? Let's get together and talk about what a spiritual/personal transformation might look like. This service will be family friendly and will include a Time for All Ages.

March 31

Celebration of Spring

Erica Deneve and Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet

You are invited to participate in a sacred celebration to welcome spring! Come plant seeds of intention for the year ahead and honour the fertility of Earth with ritual, song, and a drama of renewal!

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)

MARCH

REFLECTION



Lama Surya Das, Quoting the Buddha

Giving brings happiness at every stage of its expression. We experience joy in forming the intention to be generous; we experience joy in the actual act of giving something; and we experience joy in remembering the fact we have given.

In Dr. Gary Chapman's groundbreaking book: *The 5 Love Languages*, he lays out the five general ways that people prefer to give and receive love. These are: words of affirmation, acts of service, gifts, quality time, and physical touch. So often relationships are damaged or strengthened by a basic understanding of our love languages. Both in how we like to show our love, and how we appreciate love being shown to us.

Being part of a community and in a relationship with so many people makes the idea of love languages even more complex. What experiences do we need to feel love coming toward us from our spiritual home? How do we feel fulfilled in our service and giving back to UCE? We belong for all the reasons. We wish to hear words that help us feel okay when we're not. We wish to give back and therefore help out with programs or the Sunday service. We offer what we can in terms of our money so that our spiritual home will be here. We love to spend time with one another and get to know one another. And lots of times we come to shake hands, get a hug, be smiled at, and sometimes held when we really need some support.

March is canvass month. It is during this month that we ask everyone to submit a pledge form. The budget needs to be set, and the folks that volunteer their time to help us manage our money, can't do it without knowing what is coming in over the year. I would encourage you to submit a pledge form, even if you think your contribution isn't going to be enough to make a difference. Your part added to all the other parts does indeed make a difference, even if it is \$5.00 a month. \$5.00, \$50.00 or \$500.00 a month or anything in between is welcome and needed. UCE relies on us all pulling together to get things done, have effective programming, adequate staffing levels, and vibrant Sunday morning services each and every week. We can't do it without your generosity, without your presence, and mostly without your participation.

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.



News from the Board

THE BOARD IS FOCUSED ON GETTING THE LEAKING ROOF REPAIRED, AND ON FINDING THE RIGHT STAFF/VOLUNTEER MIX TO KEEP THE BUILDING CLEAN AND IN GOOD REPAIR. THOSE ARE BIG TASKS. MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON IT.

Zoe Larsen has stepped down as a member of the board. Her departure leaves two board vacancies, since the vice-president's position has been unoccupied since last spring. Anyone interested in joining us, contact board secretary Susan Ruttan at ruttans@shaw.ca.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL, WILL BE AN ONLINE MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 25, STARTING AT 10:30 AM OUR TIME. WE ARE ENTITLED TO THREE DELEGATES. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, LET SUSAN RUTTAN KNOW.

Anyone interested in the national AGM is invited to attend a CUC online workshop on Saturday, March 9 at 11 am our time. Discussion will be about CUC strategic priorities in coming years, and to test a new system for handling the on-line AGM meeting. Leading this meeting will be Robbie Brydon, who used to be at the Westwood congregation. Contact Susan Ruttan if interested.



To contact Susan: ruttans@shaw.ca.

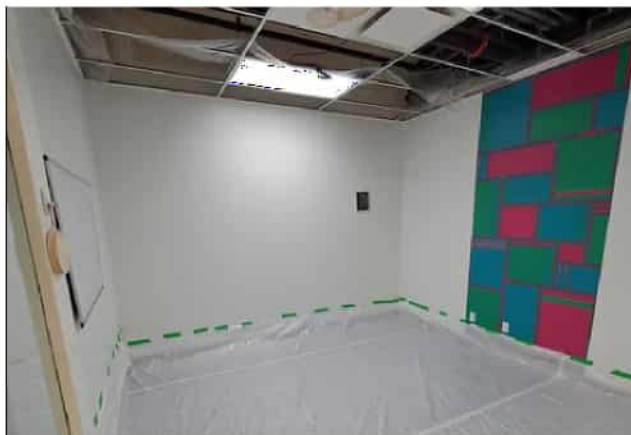
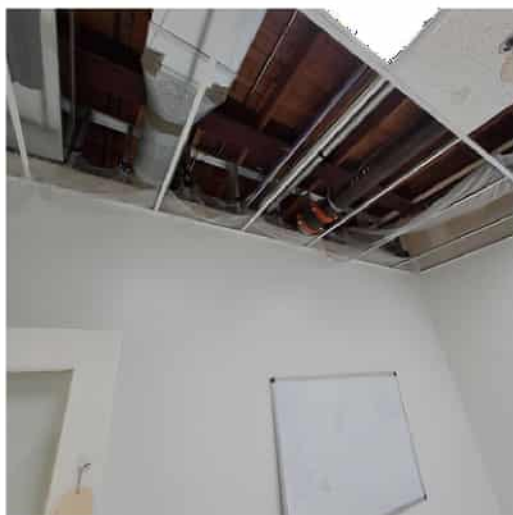
Raindrops Keep Fallin' Our Heads!



Just when we thought we had the freezing pipes under control, the roof started to leak! Our 20-year-old roof didn't hold up in the recent extreme cold, and we counted drips on 72 ceiling tiles. Such widespread leakage necessitates a new roof.

Our 20-year-old roof couldn't withstand the recent extreme cold, leading to widespread leakage, with drips counted on 72 ceiling tiles. The congregation approved spending \$140,000 for a new roof on Sunday, February 11th. We'll use funds from our cash reserves and casino account to hire a roofer, with selection underway but repairs likely starting in a month.

Despite experiencing leaks on January 30th and 31st, they stopped when temperatures dropped, allowing us to clean affected areas and remove damaged tiles. To prevent water damage until repairs, we've erected plastic "tents" above walls, placed plastic on floors in leak-prone rooms, and formed a volunteer team called the Rain Catchers to monitor leaks.



Regarding freezing pipes, cleanup in building 3 was completed mid February, with Open Doors returning to their office February 19th. The \$70,000 insurance claim for this will affect our coverage for years. To avoid further damage from the roof, help by completing your canvass pledge and consider an extra donation for the repair. Any contribution is appreciated.



When we were discussing this year's canvass theme some of the input I received was "don't make it about the church building." If only it were that easy!

On January 30th temperatures went up and the center section of our roof showed more than 70 leaks. My guess is that the extreme cold weather opened up a number of holes in our 20-year-old roof which showed up as soon as the weather changed. This past Sunday the congregation approved up to \$169,000 for roof repairs. We have put up plastic to help catch leaks and have organized a team of "Rain Catchers" to be in the church on warm days to make sure the drips don't cause any damage. It would have been nice to not make this season about the building, but the water just keeps coming!



Meltwater on Jan 30th. All of this water has to either evaporate or drip through the roof. As you can see it is not draining very well.

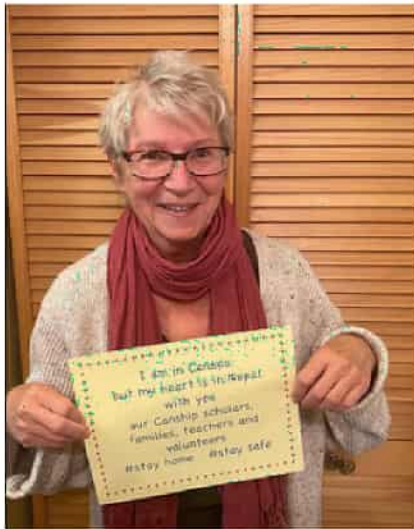
This month is canvass month. By March 31st we need to hear from all of our church members as to what their planned financial contribution will be for next year. If you are a member, then you should be returning a pledge. The amount is up to you, but your membership says that you covenant to "Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time, talent and money."

This year we not only need your contributions for our church operations, but we could use an extra donation to help pay for the roof. We would appreciate it if you could add an extra one-time payment to your pledge this year.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the work of our church.

Thank you!





A Bequest from Bonnie Sharplin

Bonnie Sharplin joined UCE in 1984 and was active in the UCE community along with her son Scott (originally in child and young UU programs).

In recent years we were not so likely to see her in person at church services, due to the time she spent in Nepal (helping with a charity supporting education for children from families in need) and the time she spent with Scott and family in Nova Scotia.

In late 2021 she received a diagnosis of terminal cancer. Till her death just after Thanksgiving 2023, she shared this final journey with her wide circle of chosen family and friends, which included some from the UCE community.

Lessons I take from my friendship with Bonnie: she had the courage to face, and share, the day-to-day realities of her final journey with those she trusted. In the midst of many things she could not predict or control, she seized control over what she could. It was so important to her to leave her affairs the way she wanted -- and one of those wishes was to leave a lasting gift to her church.

The Endowment Trustees (Jan McMillan, John Turvey and I) are honoured to acknowledge receiving Bonnie's bequest to the UCE Endowment Fund, which Scott sent in December.

Bonnie's commitment to Unitarian-Universalism lives on. Her bequest and the other donations to this fund will sustain our church community over the long-term -- by providing a source of funds for major outlays as determined by the congregation. Meanwhile, investment income from the funds goes to offset any operating deficits.

Our memories of Bonnie will include the example she set of thinking ahead, and making sure that her will captured not only how she left things at the end of her life, but was also a "testament" to how she had lived her life.

If you have any questions about planned giving, please be in touch with one of the Endowment Trustees. General information is provided in the Planned Giving brochure:
Your paragraph text

--Ruth Merriott, Endowment Trustee

MARCH

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

International Convocation of UU Women (ICW)

A global voice to empower and enable women and girls worldwide, accelerating progress toward gender equality.

<https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/>

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)

The Sharing Our Faith fund is a program of the Canadian Unitarian Council, supporting projects that enhance ministry, growth, and outreach for congregations and for the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. click [here](#) for more information.



Soul Matters
SHARING CIRCLE

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



Don't
forget.
Dorothy
turns
90!

**March 2, 2024 – Drop in
between 12:30 and 5:30 pm
Please rsvp:
lisa61jacobs@gmail.com,
(403) 870-9700 (Heidi)**



UUs on Tap

**Monday, March 25
5:30 pm
Brewster's, Unity Square
11620 104 Ave**



Ostara Ritual

Friday, March 22,

7 pm @ UG&

come join us as we celebrate the spring equinox with a ritual honouring the goddess eostre and a celebration of new life. we will make plans for planting and nurturing our spiritual gardens as we move into the season of growth and fertility.

At Westwood: Playshop for Adults

Making connections through creativity.
Interested in exploring some possibly new to you art projects?

Or perhaps you'd enjoy working on your own project in progress alongside others.
This friendly group looks forward to welcoming you.

All welcome.

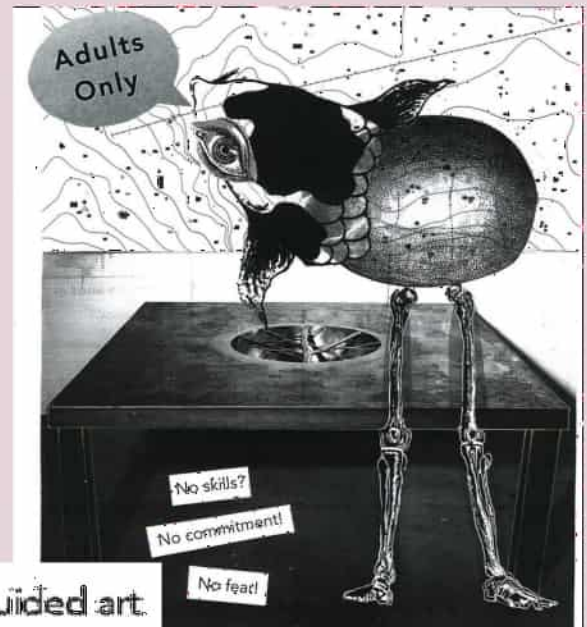
Questions?

Contact: programs@westwoodunitarian.ca

Westwood Playshop Drop-in offers optional guided art projects or a space to work on your own art in the company of others. Materials are provided for the guided projects.

\$5.00 or pay as you can

The 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30 PM.





Dragging Youth Shows (DYS) are monthly shows that happen right here at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Normally DYS do 1 fundraiser a year for UCE but this year they are doing 2 different UCE fundraisers to help with the repair fund from the freeze/flood.

Karen Bilida is looking for volunteers to help with checking tickets, setting up chairs, and helping in the concession. Please contact Karen at unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca

March 30 is a Special Bingo Event, tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at <https://draggingyouth.bingo>

April 20 Heroes and Villains – is hosted by UCE's very own Declan K. and Maria J.

Tickets at <https://draggingyouth.heroes-villains>

\$5 Advance Show Tickets Online At: www.DraggingYouth.myshopify.com

Doors 5:00PM Show 6:00PM

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.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

AGM Motions Feedback Wednesday, March 6, 10:30 am MT

Feedback 4

<https://cuc.ca/events/agm-motions-feedback4-2024/1709728200/1709733600/>

Where Are We Going? Saturday, March 9, 11:00 am MT

Considering the proposed CUC goals and strategic priorities for 2024 – 2026

<https://cuc.ca/events/proposed-cuc-goals-2024-2026/1709985600/1709994600/>

Gathered Here Tuesday, March 12, 12:00 pm MT

Gathered Here is a monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults.

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-march-2024/1710273600/1710279000/>

Connect and Deepen, Sunday, March 17, 2:00 pm MT

Join us as we reflect and connect with our 2nd CUC aspiration: *We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities.* Anne Barker will be your host.

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepen-march-2024/1710691200/1710696600/>

Right Relations With Indigenous Communities Q & A, March 27, 5:00 pm MT

Join our “live studio audience” as we record a video podcast using challenging scenarios that UU’s have encountered in their efforts to be in right relations with Indigenous peoples. Includes a curated Q&A conversation between Sharon Jinkerson Brass, Dave Skene, Erin Horvath, and Amber Bellemare, all of whom have extensive experience with settler-Indigenous relations.

Share your questions and experiences in the registration.

<https://cuc.ca/events/right-relations-with-indigenous-communities/1711566000/1711573200/>

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. 65 No. 3
10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
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E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEBSITE www.uce.ca

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

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Dorothy Keeler's 90th birthday open house 12:30 start
3 10:30 am Sunday Service	4	5	6	7 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8	9
10 10:30 am Sunday Service	11	12	13	14 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	15	16
17 10:30 am Sunday Service	18	19	20 UCE Board Mtg on Zoom 7:15 pm	21 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	22 Ostara Ritual 7 pm	23
24 10:30 am Sunday Service	25 UUs on Tap Brewster's 5:30 pm	26	27	28 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	29	30 Raise the Roof Fundraiser doors: 5 pm



Yes! Yes! I want to help us transform into a generous church!
Here is my financial pledge of support to the Unitarian Church of Edmonton:

My name is: _____

I would like: (choose one)

- ☐ to pledge 10% more than last year
- ☐ to pledge the same as last year
- ☐ to pledge a specific amount:

For the period 1 Jul 2024 to 30 Jun 2025 _____
(how much per month or how much per year?)

I will pay my pledge: (choose one)

- ☐ with the preauthorized deposits that I have already set up
- ☐ with preauthorized deposits I would like to set up now please (contact Andrew)
- ☐ with cash, cheques, or online donation that:
 - ☐ I will send or donate now (include cheques with pledge form)
 - ☐ I will send later (I've explained when in the notes)
 - ☐ I will pay as I am able (explain in the notes)

Would you contribute an additional amount for the roof? We still need you to pledge for canvass but an extra payment to help offset our roof costs would be appreciated. Place your tax-deductible donation in a specially marked "Raise the Roof" envelope in church or donate online with Canada Helps or an etransfer to chadmin@uce.ca. Your donation will go to help replenish our reserves.

Contact: Andrew Mills 780-918-3288 (cell), andrew@misc.ca
The www.uce.ca page on the "Donations" tab has more info & an electronic pledge form

Put your completed pledge form in a return envelope; place in the collection; mail to the church; or drop at the office.

Mail to:

Transformation
10804-119 Street NW
Edmonton, AB
T5H 3P2