



VOL. 65 ISSUE 04 • APRIL 2024

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

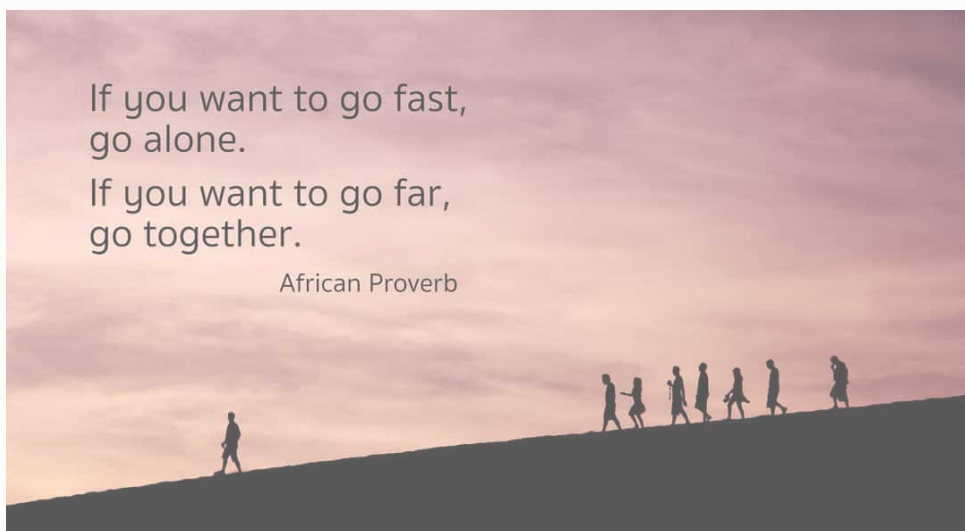
APRIL'S THEME: THE GIFT OF INTERDEPENDENCE



April'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

April 7

There Is Spirit Here

Chorealis

Richard Wagamese writes, "You can feel it if you allow it and that is the heart of the Teaching - Allowing. You can come to know that Harmony is a living thing - if you allow it." Join Choealis as we listen to and reflect on the writings of this Ojibway writer.

April 14

What You Love You Will Nurture: Interdependence in Our Everyday Lives

Rev. Morrison

We are interconnected and interdependent to each other, the space around us, and the natural world. Have you ever noticed the work of the natural world as it relates to your daily life? Do you create more interdependence between yourself and what or who you love? In this service we will explore different aspects of the natural world through the lense of Robin Wall Kimmerer's ground breaking book: Braiding Sweetgrass. What does it mean to think about our interdependence through the lens of other ways of knowing?

April 21

The Folly of Separateness: We Are Connected Whether We Like it or Not

Rev. Morrison

This family friendly service will include a Time For All Ages, along with something for our minds and spirits. We will be exploring our Soul Matters theme Interdependence and how it calls us to support and care for one another. With media and consumer giants telling us we must strive for independence, it is clear the opposite is true. It is only through our interconnectedness and interdependence that we can be truly healthy, happy, and successful.

April 28

The Yin and Yang of Interdependence: Looking From Both Sides Now

Rev. Morrison

Belonging to a congregation can have its delights and its challenges. We know we are connected and dependent on one another. This service will give you an opportunity to ask questions about UCE of one another and of our minister: Rev. Rosemary Morrison. What has been on your heart lately? What is confusing you? What are you happy about? This question box service will hopefully allow for some great conversations, while bringing out new ideas and energy!

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=VVB1VWF5ZUdOUeGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUdOUeGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09)

April's Ministerial Reflections



The word
'love' is
most often
defined as a
noun, yet
we would all
love better
if we used
it as a verb
-bell hooks

“Much as I enjoy popular New Age commentary on love, I am often struck by the dangerous narcissism fostered by spiritual rhetoric that pays so much attention to individual self-improvement and so little to the practice of love within the context of community. While it may lead to the consumer feeling better about his or her life, its power to enhance our communion with ourselves and others in a sustained way is inhibited.” bell hooks

One of the things I love about congregational life is that there is a beautiful feeling of belonging to something greater than myself. I look back to when I was a lay person offering my time, talents, and treasure to my congregation. I so valued having a place where I could go and just be sometimes, or pitch in and get things done, or even initiate an activity or start a program. I always felt like I was free to go ahead and do some of those things. Sometimes they flopped, and I learned more from the flops than I did from the successes. Being part of a congregation means that we have a place to experiment in front of a forgiving and compassionate audience, we get to begin forming and then honing our leadership skills, and we even get to try out some of our big ideas.

In this month of April, we are exploring the gifts of interdependence. I invite you to think about what it is you might like to initiate, how you might like to become more interdependent with others, where you can step up and get more involved with your community. As we continue to fill in the gaps and get systems up and running that were hindered by COVID, there are still many places that require your creative energies and initiatives. We need one another to succeed and we need all of us to be pulling together for the betterment of our community.

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.





Canvass month may be over but we are not quite done yet. We got started a bit late and all the problems with the freeze up and the roof put us behind even further. If you did not return your pledge yet then there is still time. I need to wrap up canvass before we complete the final budget at the next board meeting on April 17th.

This canvass one of our main points was our covenant guideline where we agree to “Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time, talent and money.”

We need to raise \$1000 per member each year to keep this church going. That’s \$83/month for each member. Fortunately, 27% of our members give more than the \$1000/year and last year we are able to reach \$159,000 in donations.

On this year’s budget I am planning for \$160,000 in donations. If we get to that amount then our budget will balance. We must have a balanced budget this year – we are about to spend nearly all of our reserves on the roof repair. Deficit budgets were OK when we had a backstop of reserves, but don’t work when the reserves are not available.

So if you haven’t pledged yet then please send us your pledge now. It’s important.

[Here is a link to our online pledge form.](#)

Thank you to those who financially support the work of our church.



IMPORTANT



UCE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual general meeting of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton will be held on **Sunday, 5 May, 2024**, after the church service. Business will include approval of a budget, election of board officers, and other matters. All members are urged to attend, in person or on Zoom.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

Nominations are now open for UCE's two annual awards: the Alexander Award, honoring a dedicated volunteer within our congregation, and the Potter Award, recognizing a church member's exceptional volunteer efforts for noble causes beyond UCE.

Please note that current UCE board members are ineligible for nomination. However, previous winners are eligible for re-nomination.

The deadline for nominations is April 15th. To submit your nomination, kindly email the Board Secretary, Susan Ruttan, at ruttans@shaw.ca. Alternatively, you can deliver your nomination to Susan Ruttan via our administrator, Janet Polkovsky (chadmin@uce.ca). You may do so by mailing it to the church or dropping it in Janet's mail slot located on her office door.

Stay tuned for the exciting announcement of the award recipients at our upcoming annual meeting on May 5th. For a list of past winners, please refer to the bulletin board in the foyer. Let's honor those who make a difference in our community!

UCE ROOF UPDATE



On March 19th I signed the contract for the replacement of the roof over the centre and east UCE buildings. The contract is for \$140,000 but there will be extras such as: GST, the lifting of furnaces to repair the roof underneath, and likely some repairs to insulation. The contractor will start as soon as they can; likely within 4 to 6 weeks.

The roof will consist of two plies: IKO Protectobase, and IKO Torchflex 250. I have put out samples in the church for you to see. I chose a light grey colour for the roof and a dark brown colour for the metal trim. [Here is an IKO video](#) showing how the roof is installed.

I want to thank our “Rain Catchers” for watching the church for leaks in the afternoons. They come in when there is snow on the roof and melting is predicted. All leaks have been caught and cleaned up and there is no water damage. Thank you, Rain Catchers!

As part of the roof replacement, I looked at some alternatives. The first was to see if we could add a sloped (shingled) roof to the east building. The materials appeared to be less expensive, but the structural changes needed to slope the roof were prohibitive.

I am also investigating leak detection. I used to do leak detection and there is a chance we could do something like that on the new roof. I’ve a couple of things to check yet.

Thank you to those donating to our reserve fund to help offset the spending on the roof. There will be a bigger campaign to “Raise the Roof” in April after Canvass is complete.

Link to the video

<https://youtu.be/p9jIWp1vNZg?si=SLI4Cv6oZ2EKdZdC>

Andrew Mills

GARAGE SALE ALERT

**Mark your
calendar for
May 3 and 4th!
(Friday/Saturday)**



As we all know, it takes many hands, much time, and whatever energy we can muster to pull it off. We have been very successful every year and each year our faithful volunteers get older, achier, and even busier.

So..... This is an appeal for past volunteers and hopefully some new and younger volunteers to not only save the sale days but also some blocks of time the week before to set up tables, unpack and organize items, price them, and then participate in the Big Sell.

In past we have earned between \$8,000 and \$12,000 for the church - sometimes offsetting a deficit, other times for extra purchases needed. And this year we are facing major roof repairs. An added benefit to all church members, their families and friends, is that we offer the golden opportunity to downsize all that 'stuff' we have collected and need to move on.

So, please save those dates, give whatever assistance you are able, and join in with the work and the fun. There will be sign-up sheets on the foyer credenza or see me or one of the committee members (will announce the names when confirmed). . And in anticipation, thank you for all the support and labour so many have given and continue to give.

✉ Email: Gypsiedonna17@gmail.com

☎ Phone: 780-425-0728

📱 Mobile: 687-937-0728



April

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE Child Haven International

Inspired by the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Child Haven International is a registered not for profit charity founded in 1985. We assist children and women in developing countries, who are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, emotional and moral support.



HELLO SPRING

UUs on Tap



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

There Is Still Time! **Pastoral Care Survey**

The pastoral care team would appreciate you completing our brief questionnaire. We're a new team and we want to better understand what you might need and what you might be willing to give.

[Click here](#)

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 | 5:30 PM

You're All Invited!

POTLUCK & OPEN MIKE

Karaoke available, read a poem, sing a song, dance, play an instrument. Let's have some fun will we strut our stuff!

TO REGISTER YOUR DISH, PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)



Dorothy's 90th Open House



An open house was held in honour of Dorothy Keeler at UCE on Saturday, March 2, where friends and relatives came to celebrate her 90th birthday. Dorothy was feted and acknowledged with enthusiasm! Some of her relatives from away hid in the back room and surprised Dorothy with a grand entrance.

In lieu of gifts, donations were made to her husband, Bernie's education foundation and to a children's charity.

edmonton vocal minority presents

EVM
Queerly
entertaining

This is Us

cabaret & silent auction
hosted by Darrin Hagen

Saturday, April 13th 2024 | Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Ticket info: <https://www.evmchoir.com/Events.htm>

Hosted by:
Declan Kiely
and
Maria Jenkins!



HERC VS VILLAIN
All Ages
Drag Show
Saturday
April 20

Dragging Youth
Fundraiser for
Unitarian Church of
Edmonton Freeze /
Flood Repair Fund

Unitarian Church of Edmonton
uce.ca

\$5.00 Advance Tickets:
[DRAGGINGYOUTH.MYSHOPIFY.COM](http://www.draggingyouth.myshopify.com)
Doors 5pm Show 6pm – 10804-119 st

Ticket info: <http://www.draggingyouth.myshopify.com/>



Concert at
St. Andrew's United Church
9915 148 St NW Edmonton, A

Concert
Sun., April 28, 2024
3 PM

Johann Strauss Jr.
Wiener Blut

George Gershwin
An American in Paris

Robert Schumann
Konzertstück, Op. 86

Ottorino Respighi
Pines of Rome

Edmonton Community Foundation again offers a series of FREE educational presentations during Estate Administration Week, April 15-19.

Will you find yourself dealing with a loved one's estate?

Do you aim to leave your own estate in the best possible state for those who will have to deal with it?

A team of volunteer estate lawyers explain general information and answer your questions about estate administration.

- Why have a will?
- What can a will do --- or not do?
- How can I plan so as to avoid tax problems and conflicts?

A variety of topics are covered in short presentations, in person and online.

For details, see information on the ECF's website: ecfoundation.org

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.

CANDIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour

Wednesday, April 10, 5:30pm MT

Gathering together with others who share similar identities and experiences can reduce isolation and support us in getting our spiritual needs met.

<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-unitarian-universalists-of-colour-april-2024/1712777400/1712782800/>

Congregational Conversations: Worship Programming and Leadership Development | Friday, April 12, 11:00 am MT

The “CUC Congregational Conversations Series” has recently launched and will continue through the spring season. Preliminary queries identified topics of priority for congregations and we’re delighted with the enthusiastic response

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-worship-programming/1712926800/1712932200/>

Gathered Here Friday, April 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-april-2024/1712930400/1712935800/>

Congregational Conversations: Children and Youth- Presence and Programming | Wednesday, April 17, 11:00 am MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-children/1713358800/1713364200/>

Congregational Conversations: Financial Planning and Income Streams Saturday, April 20, 11:00 am MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-financial/1713618000/1713623400/>

Connect and Deepen: Actively Engaged, Sunday, April 21, 2:00 pm MT

Join us as we reflect and connect with our 3rd CUC aspiration: *We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.* Linda Thompson will be your host.

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepen-april-2024/1713715200/1713720600/>

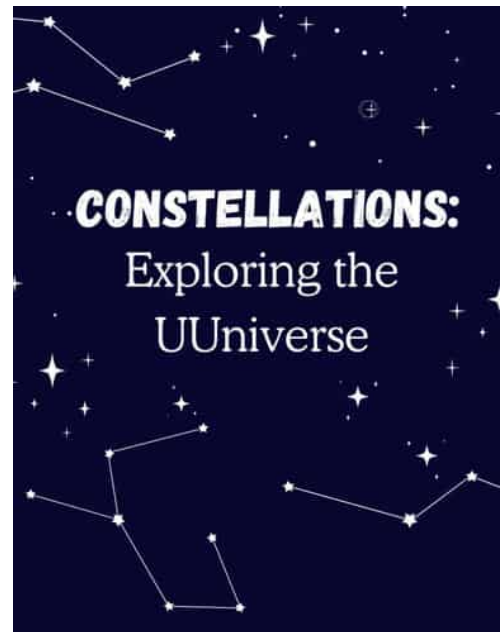
CanUUdle XXIV

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

May 17-20th, 2024!

Registration until May 1!

<https://cuc.ca/events/canuudle-xxiv-constellations/1715968800/1716206400/>



CanUUdle is the annual national conference for Unitarian Universalist youth (ages 14-19) and their adult advisors (25+).

Chorus 2024: Navigating Our Cosmic CommUUnity!



Westwood Unitarian

May 17-20th, 2024!

Registration until May 1!

<https://cuc.ca/events/chorus-2024/1715968800/1716206400/>

Each year, Canadian UU young adults (18-35) gather to build beloved community, deepen our cross-country connections, and grow as spiritual beings.

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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E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca WEBSITE www.uce.ca

Church Office 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

04

APRIL

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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 EVM Cabaret & Auction 7:00 pm
14 10:30 am Sunday Service	15	16	17 UCE Board Mtg on Zoom 7:15 pm	18 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	19 UCE Potluck 5:30 pm	20 DYS Fundraiser for UCE 5:00m pm
21 10:30 am Sunday Service	22	23	24	25 Chorealis Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26	27
28 10:30 am Sunday Service	29	30				