

VOL. 65 ISSUE 05 • JUNE 2024

# THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

## JUNE'S THEME: THE GIFT OF RENEWAL



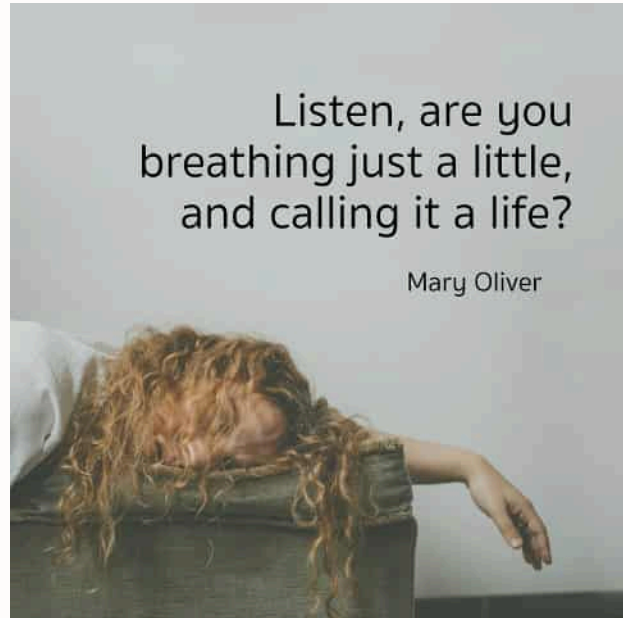
### June's Package

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Listen, are you  
breathing just a little,  
and calling it a life?

Mary Oliver



#### 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

## **June 2      Each of Us is a Flower: Celebrating Flower Communion      Rev. Morrison**

Join Rev. Rosemary this Sunday in our beloved annual ritual celebrating community and our uniqueness within Unitarian Universalism. Please bring a flower from a garden, the woods, the roadside, wherever.

Also, this week Rev. Rosemary is providing us with a cake in gratitude for our very successful weekend complete with the annual gathering of youth and young adults, as well as our lovely installation service. So many hands went into making all this possible. Come and share in this celebration of spring, beauty and gratitude.

## **June 9      All this Glitter: Celebrating with Pride**

This service promises to be full of joy and sparkle. Come prepared to laugh, participate, and be challenged. We here at UCE have long been involved in the LGBTQ+ community, and we're proud of it. Let's celebrate together!

## **June 16      Paws and Purrs: We Bless Our Animal Friends      Rev. Morrison**

Every year in June we take time to introduce to each other our beloved animal friends and family. We are so lucky to share our lives with pets and the creatures of the natural world. Bring your pet to be introduced to the congregation and then blessed by Rev. Rosemary

## **June 23      Picnic in the Park      Rev. Morrison**

Our annual end of the year potluck picnic in Queen Mary Park happens this Sunday. We'll meet across the street for food, conversation, and a very short service. Kailyn Kowalyshyn will be a special musical guest: A true prairie wild rose, Kaylin has been an aspiring musician since age 3. She explores various folk genres to express her muse in deep, meaningful ways that touch the heart. The singer-songwriter-in-the-round format perfectly suits her talents and collaborative spirit.

## **June 30      Summer Share and Sing      Ilara Stefanuik-Gaudet**

Join us for an in-person sharing and singing circle to launch our summer services! Our Soul Matters theme for June is "Renewal," and we will be exploring this theme together to celebrate the end of our church year and the beginning of a new season!

**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)**

# June's Ministerial Reflections



Phew! We made it through May in grand style. May was certainly a very busy month with CanUUdle and Chorus in town, UU ministers from across Canada arriving, and the installation marking the change in relationship between myself and the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. I am so very grateful to everyone who offered rides to and from the airport, sleeping mats and bags for the youth, everyone who helped out on the installation morning with extra duties, and a big thank you to Yvonne Mireau for the gorgeous stole, Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet – CanUUdle liaison and service planner, Gordon Ritchie who did such a wonderful job with the flowers (and harp), Oksana Atwood for her role in planning and then leading the service, and Marilyn Gaa who headed up the team that created a delicious lunch for us all.

Words of thank are not really enough, so of course there will be cake on the first Sunday of June as a token of my gratitude.

As I look to our last month of this church year, I am reminded of all the wonderful things we have accomplished together over the past 12 months. More importantly, I know with certainty that we will continue to learn and grow together in love and care. As well, we will continue to create and establish systems and teams that will ensure our congregation functions well and serves our members and friends within our walls and as well as to the wider community.

June holds for us our special traditions of flower communion, Pride service, Blessing of the Animals and our annual church picnic. As we wind down our church year, let's take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened over the year. Let us all be grateful for our continued care for one another, the abundance we share, and our desire to be loving and inclusive. We have so much to offer one another, and more importantly, to those seeking a community filled with open hearts and minds, generous spirits, and a desire to be of service.

May the warmth and beauty of the summer months help us renew and rejuvenate as we prepare for the year ahead.

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

by Susan Ruttan



## Board Report

- Our outgoing board members and new members will meet in mid-June – in person, for a change. We're planning a late-morning Saturday brunch, with lots of good conversation. Our new board president is the hard-working Lynne Turvey. The new board officially takes over on July 1
- One unfinished piece of business from the annual meeting was to appoint a new Leadership Committee. One member of this committee, Jennifer Hinchcliffe, has agreed to stay on, but there are three other positions to be filled. The board is thinking we need to look at this committee to see if changes are needed in its operation.
- At our the annual meeting, we bestowed upon Rev. Brian Kiely the status of Minister Emeritus. There will be a celebration to mark that achievement, in the fall.

### *Congratulations!*



**Louise Charach**



**Rosemary Falconer**

The Alexander Award for dedicated volunteer service to our congregation went to Louise Charach, chair of the Governance Advisory Team. The Potter Award for outstanding volunteer work with non-profit groups outside the church went to Rosemary Falconer, recognized for her efforts with the Welcome Home program, aiding former homeless clients in settling into apartments.



**NEW  
TO  
UCE?**

*You're Invited!  
Sunday, June 9th  
after the service*

If you're new or newish to Unitarian Universalism and/or UCE this session is for you: This workshop will provide you with an orientation that will help you find your own path within the larger community. You'll learn more about who we are and what we believe by sharing your story through the lens of Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. You'll also have an opportunity to hear from other members of the congregation what brought them to Unitarian Universalism and what keeps them here. A light lunch will be provided.

**by Gordon Ritchie**



**Summer  
Services 2024**

UCE would like to invite members and friends to create and lead a Summer Service during July and August. If you are interested, please contact Gordon Ritchie with your ideas. Please note that there will be very minimal technical support available. [ghritchie@telus.net](mailto:ghritchie@telus.net)

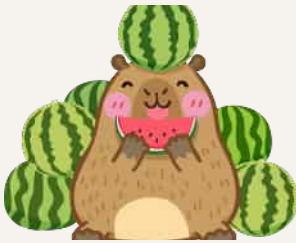


# JUNE

## SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE:



The George Spady Centre Society is recognized as a leader in the development and delivery of effective services for the care, treatment and support of individuals with substance-related disorders and dual diagnoses. People who come to us find dignity, hope and healing as they set a new path towards health and well-being.



click: [June's Package](#)



## Last One Before the Summer Break!



## UUs on Tap

**Monday, June 24**

**5:30 pm**

**Brewster's, Unity Square**

**11620 104 Ave**

# JUNE

The Eco-Solar Home Tour is Sat/Sun Jun 1 and 2. This free tour of net-zero and energy-efficient homes shows how you can build or renovate to achieve net-zero. The tour runs noon to 5 pm both days. For addresses, times, details, and a map to the homes go to [www.ecosolar.ca](http://www.ecosolar.ca). UCE is an in-kind sponsor of the tour providing meeting and storage space.



## **Celebrate Solstice at UCE: Friday, June 21**

You're invited to celebrate the Summer Solstice with us! Join Ali Hammington and gather for an earth centred night of ritual, joy, and community. (Time TBD)

## *Trans/Queer Potluck*



The UCE is hosting a monthly potluck support group for trans and queer folx to gather in community and support each other. Held the fourth Sunday of every month directly after the church service (around 11:30 am) in the large Classroom. All trans and queer folx are welcome including minors (with parental consent under 15), and any questioning individuals too. Lack of resources will not be a barrier, there will always be food to share, join us!

# Garage Sale Wind-up



Well, it is over and we topped last year's total - \$13,300 with a few dribbles still coming in. We worked long and hard for 3 weeks, we had fun, we ate well, we endured weariness and aches. But, we cleared the premises of all signs of the sale by Tuesday the 7th. What a well-oiled, efficient crew!

I cannot thank you all enough, whether it was a few hours or many long days; in the end it was truly a team effort and could not happen without the part each of you played - from donating saleable items, to lunch providers, to tech expertise, to working the floor, to clean-up. And please, pass on a thank you to your extended families and friends who also donated and/or worked during the sale. Some renters donated and even pitched in.



The Garage Sale has been a successful fundraiser for years and we fervently hope to continue the tradition. It also does a service to everyone looking to downsize and need a venue to donate their 'stuff'. Looking to the future, the church will be recruiting others to step forward as several of us will be reducing our involvement or exiting altogether. So, think about 'who' will lead and 'who' will take areas of responsibility. Lots of time to ponder and prepare.

Cheers and have a good summer!

Donna Hamar and Committee



# CUC Events

## **Congregational Conversations: Worship Programming and Leadership Development**

Saturday, June 1 – 11:00 am MT (1.5 hours)

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-worship-2/1717246800/1717252200/>

## **Gathered Here**

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – 6:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-june-2024/1718136000/1718141400/>

## **Congregational Conversations: Children and Youth- Presence and Programming**

Saturday, June 15 – 11:00 am MT (1.5 hours)

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-children-2/1718456400/1718461800/>

## **Connect and Deepen**

Sunday, June 16, 2024: Spiritually Grounded – 2:00 pm MT (90 minutes)

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepen-june-2024/1718553600/1718559000/>



**Westwood Unitarian Casino: July 4, 5**

**Pure Casino**

**7055 Argyll Rd NW**

**Westwood needs volunteers to help with their upcoming casino. Please use the link below to sign up :**

<https://www.westwoodunitarian.ca/event/casino-fundraiser-2/>

# 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).

# 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.

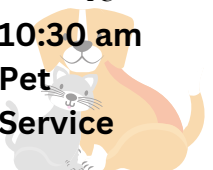




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Phone 780-454-8073 Fax 780-452-1641  
E-MAIL [chadmin@uce.ca](mailto:chadmin@uce.ca) WEBSITE [www.uce.ca](http://www.uce.ca)  
Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 2 pm**

## **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

# June



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 10:30 am Flower Communion 	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 am Pride Service New UU 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 am Pet Service 	17	18	19	20	21 Solstice Service time TBD 	22
23 10:30 am Picnic in the Park 	24 UU's On Tap 5:30 pm Brewster's 	25	26	27	28 Soul Matters Movie Night 6:30 	29
30 10:30 am Share & Sing Trans/Queer Potluck 