

VOL. 65 ISSUE 08 • SEPTEMBER 2024

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

SEPTEMBER: WELCOME TO THE PRACTICE OF INVITATION



September's Package

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If you are a dreamer,
a wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er,
a magic bean buyer.
If you're a pretender,
come sit by my fire...

Shel Silverstein

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

Sept 1 The Transformational Power of Sound and Music Gordon Ritchie

Alison Grant-Preville will explore how sound vibration and music can heal our minds, bodies and spirits. Come and feel the healing energy of music through passive and participatory experiences.

Sept 8 The Blessing of the Water: Homecoming Water Ceremony Rev. Morrison

Please join Rev. Rosemary as UCE starts the new church year in full force. We joyfully gather to celebrate our community, our relationships, and our commitment to our congregation. Bring water from your summer adventures, actual or symbolic to share. Don't worry if you forget, there will be water available to use.

Sept 15 The Invitation: Welcoming Our Newest Members Rev. Morrison

What an exciting time for UCE! Part of this service will be welcoming and covenanting with our newest members. Also, this service will answer some nagging questions. What are the rights and responsibilities of membership? What's in it for me anyway? Why do we have a new membership book? Or maybe you're thinking; "I still don't get all this covenanting stuff." Maybe you have other questions you would like answered about membership, there will be an opportunity to ask them.

Sept 22 The Invitation is to Blossom and Grow Rev. Morrison

Anaïs Nin wrote: "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." We will explore how holding onto old beliefs, patterns, and habits hold us back, keeping us from becoming our best selves.

Sept 29 Orange Shirt Day Celebration Ilara Stefanuik-Gaudet

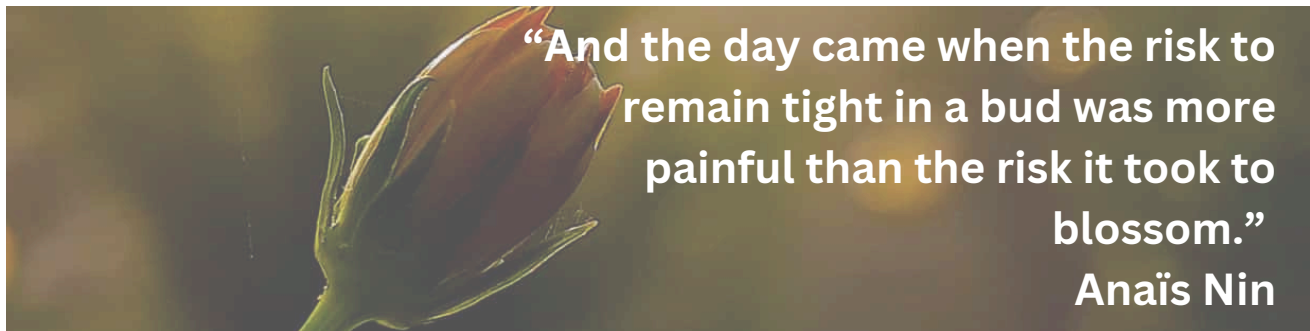
Join us in celebrating Orange Shirt Day with guest speaker Louis Cardinal. Louis is the senior advisor at kihcihkw-askî, meaning sacred land, the first urban Indigenous sacred learning and ceremonial space of its kind in Canada. Louis has also been actively involved with interfaith activism here in Edmonton, and it is a great honor to welcome him into our community to share his insights with us. A Sunday you won't want to miss!



To our beloved online members, friends and visitors, livestreaming of Sunday Services will begin September 8.

We look forward to seeing you all on Zoom from the comfort of your own home. Please use this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09>



September's Ministerial Reflections



Welcome to the 2024-2025 church year. I am very excited to see the wonderful and amazing things we here at UCE will accomplish together. We are embarking on our fourth church year together, and I can already tell that the day is fast approaching when things will begin to blossom. We have been carefully tending the UCE garden, making sure the soil is rich, the plants are tended, and room is created for new growth.

We will be following the Soul Matters themes again this year to allow the various groups in the congregation to have a focus and allow for some deep contemplation and education. The Soul Matters umbrella theme is: Living Love Through the Practice of _____. For September we are Living Love Through the Practice of Invitation. I love this theme as there are so many aspects to invitation. In the September services we will be exploring a few of those.

On September 8th, an invitation goes out to everyone in the congregation to return home to celebrate our community and engage in a special Homecoming Water Ceremony. On September 15th, there is an invitation to membership. We will gather to acknowledge, celebrate, and covenant with our most recent members. The service on September 22nd will invite us to think about how we can break out of patterns and habits that no longer serve us. September 29th is Orange Shirt Day with special guest Louis Cardinal. You are invited to come and gain insights and understanding.

The invitation to participation has been given, your presence is precious and necessary for our community to fulfill its goals and aspirations. Let us draw the circle wide as we open our hearts and minds to one another. That's what it will take to truly blossom!

Let's take some risks together and create something wonderful!

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

Church Business

Board Report

Hello from your new Board of Trustees for 2024/25! As an AGM refresher, here is the team:

Lynne Turvey, president

Susan Ruttan, secretary

Andrew Mills, treasurer

Brandie Moller-Reid – past president

Vice president - position remains unfilled.

Trustees:

Marilyn Gaa

Gerard Hayduk

Art Breier

Wendy Smith

Rev. Rosemary Morrison, ex officio (non voting)

We held our first meeting of the new church year on August 21.

Highlights:

1. A board planning retreat will be held on Saturday, September 14, to talk about challenges and opportunities ahead and to set some goals to strive for.

2. Finances are in decent shape, although the roof repairs have depleted the reserves substantially. Andrew, our very capable treasurer, will keep a close eye on the bottom line over the coming months.

3. Andrew, who has stepped up as the building and grounds liaison, reported that our volunteer maintenance crew (Gaylord Madill, Art Breier, Allan Boyle and Reg Edie) is working well together, along with our custodian Kristine Morehead. Kristine's partner, Todd, has suffered a stroke so has been unable to assist her throughout the last few months. He is undergoing therapy and is anxious to return. In the meantime, I believe it would help Kristine a lot if the congregation would stack chairs after Sunday services.

4. Church rentals are going gangbusters, continuing to contribute much needed funds to our coffers. Our church administrator, Janet Polkovsky, submitted an enlightening rental activities report.

Some highlights:

- The kitchen and sanctuary continue to be the most heavily used rooms, with Mock up Mocktails being the most frequent kitchen user.
- Most event rentals are from various African communities for weddings and baptisms. Longtime choirs and Orchestra Borealis are expected to return for the new rehearsal season.
- Marie Perry Bridge Club, Prime Timers, Mandate Sober, Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton and a children's art class are expected bookings.

UCE has provided a safe space for marginalized groups and grassroots organizers in Edmonton, including Dragging Youth, the Edmonton Food Bank, Food Not Bombs, Kaleo Collective and Migrante Alberta. Uncles and Aunts at Large will return for their collective kitchen use.

Church Business

Board Highlights (cont'd)

5. Rev. Rosemary submitted her monthly report to the board, briefly outlining activities under several headings: Worship and Rites of Passage, Pastoral Care and Presence, Spiritual Development for Self and Others, Meetings, Administration, Serving the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith, Leading the Faith into the Future. These headings are based on the UU Fulfilling the Call ministry model. The board's next regular meeting is September 18.



Building our Beloved Community

- An Invitation for Input



Over the past three years, the Governance Advisory Team has collected the congregation's input to develop the Vision, Mission, Covenant of Right Relations and several board policies. This work and your input is important to help ensure UCE has a strong foundation to operate from and that information and expectations are clear and accessible to everyone.

We're building on this work by developing 3 new policies. We want to share the drafts with you and gather your input through two sessions.

- **Sunday, Sept. 22 - noon to 1:30 p.m** - Safe and Inclusive Visitor, Member and Employee Policy; and Conflict Resolution Policy
- **Sunday, Sept. 29 - noon to 1:30 p.m.** - Destructive Behavior Policy

The sessions will be held at UCE, with the option to participate on Zoom (same link as the church service). Light refreshments will be available for those attending in person.

The policies will be posted to the UCE website prior to the sessions so that you can review them before participating if you like (but it's not required).

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

The Governance Advisory Team - Louise Charach, Karen Mills, Brandie Moller-Reid, Lynne Turvey

Church Business

Updating Church Security

As we continue to nurture our vibrant community and uphold our vision and mission, it is essential to address a matter that affects the safety and security of our sacred space: updating our security codes and building access procedures.

Why This Matters

The changing volunteer team as well as certain events over the last year have highlighted the need to update our access codes and refine our building access procedures. This proactive measure will help safeguard our church and its members, providing peace of mind for all who enter our doors.

What We're Doing

- 1. Key Tracking:** If you have a church key, please inform the church administrator at chadmin@uce.ca of your key and it's identifying number (if it has one). If you no longer need it, please return it to the church office or to Andrew Mills.
- 2. Updating Security Codes:** To enhance security, we will be updating all access codes for our church facilities. This includes codes for doors, alarm systems, and other entry points. If you are a key holder, you will be assigned your own personal code. Previous codes will be deactivated.
- 3. Afterhours/Rental Access:** We will be updating the contact list of persons that our security system provider (Telsco) can call in case there is an alarm at the church.

How You Can Help

1. If you are a key holder:
 - please contact the church office about getting a refresher on security procedures for opening and closing the building if needed.
 - if you would like to access the church for volunteer work, please let the office know beforehand if possible.
 - Church events and meetings need to be scheduled with the administrator so that there are no conflicts.
2. Report Any Concerns: If you notice anything unusual or have concerns about security, please report them to the church office, our vigilance helps keep everyone safe.
3. Volunteer to be an after hours contact person for Telsco to call in regards to alarms from the building. We are looking at formalizing a information packet for that position.

Looking Ahead

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the safety and well-being of our church community. Together, we can ensure that our church remains a place of worship and fellowship, secure in its mission and spirit.

Janet Polkovsky, Church Administrator

NEW MEMBER

— WELCOME —

Join us on September 15, as we welcome and introduce our newest UCE members. The service will include a recognition of the new member's commitment to the Unitarian Church community, and the congregation's commitment to the new members. Finger Food pot luck with cake to follow.

Join our Food Bank Team!



Each Wednesday evening, our church transforms into a bustling Food Bank depot, serving about 30 families in need. We need three dedicated volunteers each week to check in clients, assist with food distribution, and manage setup and cleanup.

Volunteers work from 5 pm to 7:30 pm. If you're interested in being on a call list to help out, please email Susan Ruttan at ruttans@shaw.ca. It's a fulfilling way to support our community and make a real difference in people's lives.



Child Haven International



East Indian Lunch

Silent & Live Auction and Bazaar
12:30 pm | Sunday | Oct. 6, 2024
at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton
10804 - 119 Street

In Support of over a thousand women and children in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Tibet



Advance Adult Tickets: \$50 | After Sept 15: \$65

Under 12 - \$20 | Under 5 - free

cheques payable to Child Haven International

etransfers: fred@childhaven.ca

**For more information or to
purchase tickets, please
contact Sylvia Krogh @
780-454-6216**



September

Adult Education

Join old and new friends with Soul Matters as we unbundle profound topics and what they mean to us personally and to our lives as UUs. Starts in September with themes of Invitation, Deep Listening, Repair, Presence, Story, Inclusion, Trust, Joy, Imagination, Freedom

Soul Matters is offered in person and on zoom. **September 29 at 7 pm is the first online gathering.**

More information to come!

September Package Link



Post Service Labyrinth Walk, Sept 22



Since ancient times the labyrinth imprint is found in many cultural locations around the world. It has only one path and no dead ends. The path becomes a mirror for where we are in our lives. The rhythm of walking, placing the one foot in front of the other, quiets the mind, relaxes the body, and refreshes the spirit, as we walk with an open heart and an open mind

(UCE is a member of the World Wide Labyrinth Locator)

Mabon Ritual and Drum Circle | September 20 at 7pm

Join us for a celebration of the Autumnal Equinox with Indigenous Elders Terry Aleck and Christine Turenne. Terry and Christine will offer teachings on the spiritual significance of the fall season for Canada's Indigenous peoples, and will lead participants in a drumming circle. You may bring your own drum if you have one, or borrow one from the Elders.



September

Calling All singers and Aspiring Singers!



Chorealis is UCE's mixed-voice adult choir and we'd love to have you sing with us. We enjoy a wide range of music, rehearse once a week (7:30-9 pm on Thursdays) and sing in a service about once a month. You don't need to audition or read music, just the ability to carry a tune and participate enthusiastically.

Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, Sept. 5. Please come at 7 p.m. to get your music and find seating.



CUC Events

**2024 Unicamp Young Adult Retreat Unicamp of Ontario, Honeywood, ON
September 13, 7:00 pm – September 16, noon Save the Date!**

<https://cuc.ca/events/2024-unicamp-young-adult-retreat/1726254000/1726488000/>

Congregational Conversations: Emerging Needs

**Saturday, September 14 11:00 am MT (1.5 hours) OR Wednesday,
September 18 – 11:00 am MT**

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-emerging-needs/1726318800/1726324200/>

Online Goodbye and Appreciation Event

Thursday, September 19, 5:00 pm MT (90 minutes)

<https://cuc.ca/events/yaya-goodbye/1726772400/1726777800/>

Gathered Here

Tuesday, September 19 - 6:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-september-2024/1726776000/1726781400/>

Deciding Together I & II, Session I

Saturday, September 21 11:00 am MT (2 hours)

<https://cuc.ca/events/deciding-together-1/1726923600/1726930800/>

Connect and Deepen

Saturday September 21, 2024: CARING – 2:00 pm MT (90 minutes)

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepen-september-2024/1726934400/1726939800/>





Pastoral Care

The newly minted Pastoral Care Team was active this summer at the UCE, offering practical, spiritual, and emotional support to our congregation. Members and friends were helped with housing, visiting and messages of care.

The team is ready to continue this fall!

How We Help:



Meal Deliveries: For those recovering and unable to cook.



Transportation: For rides to church.



Friendly Visits: For those in senior residences or with mobility issues.



We can also send caring cards upon request.

For assistance:

Contact Gloria Krenbrenk our Caring Connections Dispatcher at 780-668-9166 or at ucecares@uce.com.

To contact the whole team **anytime**, there is an easy way to do this. Simply go to our website, <https://www.uce.ca/contact-us/> and click on the pastoral care link.

Rev. Rosemary, Carol Hutchings, Alec Moorji and Gloria Krenbrenk

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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People Finder

UCE Board: board@uce.ca
President: Lynne Turvey
Vice President: vacant
Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca
Secretary: Susan Ruttan
Trustees: Marilyn Gaa, Gerard Hayduk, Wendy Smith and Art Breier
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

SEPTEMBER

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 am Sunday Service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 am Sunday Service	9	10	11	12 7:00 Chorealis Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:30 am Sunday Service	16	17	18	19 7:30 Chorealis Rehearsal	20	21
22 10:30 am Sunday Service	23	24	25 7:15 UCE Board Meeting on Zoom	26 7:30 Chorealis Rehearsal	27 7:00 Mabon Ritual	28
29 10:30 am Sunday Service	30	1	2 UUs on Tap	3 7:30 Chorealis Rehearsal	4	5
noon to 1:30 UCE Workshop						