VOL. 66 ISSUE 02 • FEBRUARY 2025

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

LIVING LOVE THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF INCLUSION

February's Package: click here

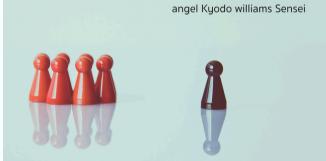
Soul Matters

ARING CIRCLE

THIS ISSUE:

Service Descriptions	pg. 2
Minister's Reflections	pg. 3
Board Update	pg. 4
Spudtacular Sunday	pg. 4
Canvass	pg. 5
Caring Community	pg. 6
Soul Matters	pg. 7
Interfaith Concert	pg.7
Casino	pg. 8
Garage Sale	pg. 9
UUs On Tap	pg. 10
CUC	pg. 11
CUC Events	pg. 12
Pastoral Care	pg. 13
Shaping Our Community	pg. 14
Principles and Sources	pg. 15
Social Media	pg. 16
Listen Wi-Fi	pg. 16
People Finder	pg. 17
Pullout Calendar	pg. 18

Inclusivity is not 'how do we make you a part of what we are?' but 'how do we become more of what you are?'



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

Feh 2

Simple - Inclusion.

Sara Eileen LaWall writes,"Out of the flames of fear we rise with courage of our deepest convictions to stand for justice, inclusion and peace." Inclusion may seem daunting at times but we can take simple steps to create a safe and welcoming community. Chorealis invites you to a time to celebrate and affirm UU values.

Just As You Are: You Are Accepted

Unitarian Universalist singer/songwriter Lea Morris's song, 'Just as You Are' is the inspiration for this service. Bringing inclusion to life is necessary for people to feel accepted, wanted, celebrated, and loved.

Feh 16

Feh 9

The Grace of Wholeness

In this family friendly service you can expect to be moved by what you hear, what you see, and more importantly, how you show up and participate. Looking at inclusion from many different angles along with participating in an activity will help us all understand how inclusion invites us to be gracious and generous.

Feb 16, 7:30 pm

Jazz Vespers (In person only)

The very talented Andrew Glover will be featured in this month's vesper's service. Rev. Rosemary and Andrew are teaming up to create a reflective and meaningful evening you won't want to miss. You can learn more about Andrew Glover here: https://andrewglover.ca/

Feh 23

What Do You Mean by Inclusion?

The term 'inclusion' has been used so often and in so many contexts, its meaning has become diffuse and opaque. Is there an essence to inclusion for communities? In this conversation, Lori Campbell will speak to a few foundational concepts around inclusion and invite discussion on what it could mean and how it could sustain community for UCE.

Please welcome Dr. Lori Campbell as our guest speaker for this service. Lori is also a member of UCE. She is a professor of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Grant McEwan University.

Dr. Campbell's career has included progressive leadership opportunities in both the private and post-secondary sectors, including 15 years as a teacher and leader in the N.W.T. She has built strategies and programs from the ground up including the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program for the University of Alberta and a company wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy for an international company in the energy sector. Her capabilities include Organizational Leadership; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Initiatives; Instruction and Facilitation, Policy Development and Implementation; and Writing and Research.



We look forward to seeing you all on Zoom from the comfort of your own environs. Please use this link: https://zoom.us/j/97779453314? pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZX05UGVxb0tX0T09

Chorealis

Rev. Morrison

Rev. Morrison

Rev. Morrison

Rev. Morrison

February's Ministerial Reflections

Just As You Are by Lea Morris

Just as you are, without changing a thing. Just as you are, I accept you I see you, I hear you, welcome you in: Just as you are

How often in our lives can we say that we truly acted in an inclusive way? Inclusion is difficult, it means that we have noticed that someone or something isn't like us, or that something isn't the same as it used to be and we are not only okay with it, but understand open hearted acceptance is the only option. Our vision asks us to open our doors (literally and figuratively) to all seekers of spiritual growth and to nurture change for a just and healthy world. That my friends, is a tall order, not one to be taken lightly, and we must not think these things are easy. Of course, it's our vision, something we can aspire to become, not a statement of where things are, where we are now.

On the front cover of this month's newsletter is a quote by Angel Kyodo Williams Sensel: 'inclusivity is not 'how do we make you a part of what' we are? But 'how do we become more of what you are?' When an organization agrees to a vision statement like ours, it means that with each new seeker that joins us, we will be changed. If we are to live into our vision and accept each other and our newcomers, 'just as they are' as Lea Morris writes, it means that we will change individually and as a congregation.

Inclusivity is hard for a congregation. We are being asked to be non-judgemental, accepting, and above all willing to bend a little, flex a little, see things in a new light a little, all while juggling the mundane and trying to create magic on Sunday mornings. As I said, a very tall order!

Maybe throughout the month we will learn about ourselves a little more so that we can bend and flex, accept some change, and get a glimpse of our own barriers to inclusion (because we all have them!).

May we be open to new ideas, new people, and new ways of doing things so that we can create beloved community together.

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

Church Business

WELCOME. CHRISTINA

Board Highlights by Lynne Turvey, Board President

You may be occasionally greeted by a new face – or different voice – at the church office in the coming days. At its January meeting, the Board of Trustees approved hiring Christina Keast on a casual, on-call basis, to handle church office duties during some absences of church administrator, Janet Polkovsky. Janet's job has become more diverse and demanding over the years, so Christina will be trained in those various roles in a few stages as time permits.

Christina has been a UCE member for many years, along with her husband Mike, who was instrumental in management of our building for more than 20 years. Mike also served three two-year terms on the board as president. Although his new job commitments prevent him from serving in those roles now, he remains part of our Sunday service volunteer tech team. With daughter Alicia sometimes joining him on camera duty, the Keast family is making support of UCE quite a family affair!

Hiring support staff for Janet's job has become increasingly important. Janet needs more flexibility in time off to attend to the needs of her husband Alex. As many of you may already know, Alex's health is declining. He is in hospital again, his fourth admission in seven months. Janet has added a note about this in the caring and connections book in the church lobby. The board understands Janet's need for flexibility and knows the congregation will also support her in spirit during this difficult journey.



Join us for a special lunch after church on Sunday, February 16th

We are switching menus for a change! This time, we will be preparing baked potatoes with various toppings and salads.

There will be sign up sheets in the lounge for salads and toppings as well as a cleanup crew.

Please sign up and join us to celebrate our church Family Day event!



What steps are you taking to support your church? This is your church. And your church will only be successful if you support it with your time, talents, and money.

Each year I ask you to pledge your financial support to our church. I do this because I need to prepare an estimate of your donations for our annual budget. When you see my donations budget at the annual general meeting in May, it is based on your pledges for the coming year. To create an accurate estimate of donations I need to hear from all members.

Are you a member of this church? Then you need to send me a pledge before the end of March. I need you to take this one step so that I know your intentions for supporting our church.

Take this one step and complete a pledge form for the coming year. It takes just one minute. Do it now at this link: <u>UCE Just One Step Pledge Form</u>



UCE's annual canvass runs from January through March each year and is the time when we talk about the financial support we provide to our church. I will be asking every member to pledge their support during this time. If you are a member then you need to return a pledge.

If you have questions about canvass, then follow <u>this link</u> to more resources on the <u>canvass web site</u>. I would also be happy to discuss your pledge with you. Come talk to me in church or call/email me at any time.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



OUR CARING COMMUNITY



NEW CONTACT DIRECTORY IS COMING

Have you moved in the not so recent past and need to update your address? Have you changed your email address recently? Please contact the church administrator, Janet at <u>chamin@uce.ca</u> and let her know your new details.



CINDERELLA'S CLOSET UPDATE

The Dragging Youth Series is now partnering with the Pride Centre to share and swap items between Cinderella's Closet and Queer Prom. The everyday wear that gets donated will also be made available at the Pride Centre which will help clothe marginalized people and newcomers. Please see Kim Pizzy for more information.

SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE <u>iHuman Youth Society</u>



iHuman Youth Society is committed to recognizing and nurturing the innate talents of marginalized youth and serves as a beacon of hope for at-risk young people in Edmonton.

Requests for Cards & Letters

- Corrine Jackson is now home from hospital. She welcomes cards and visitors.
- Vic and Bev Romanyshyn cards can be sent via Rev. Audrey
- Jean Lomow is also looking for visitors and cards! She is in the Edmonton General. 4th Floor, C Wing, Room 17.

Check out the Pastoral Care page that's in every newsletters to learn how the team is able to support you and help find resources in the local community.

TRUCK AND MUSCLES NEEDED A

Do you have a truck and access to muscled men? We need donated furniture moved to a location where it will be distributed to Ukrainians or other people setting up residences. Contact Gloria Krenbrenk 780-668-9166 or <u>gkrenbrenk@gmail.com</u> for details.

LIFE LONG SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT UCE







For February's Theme Package, click here

- Check out the Soul Matters display at church for more inspiration and information
- Soul Matters Movie Night will be Friday, Feb. 28 at 6 pm

UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2025

Sunday | February 9 | 2 pm Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Building Bridges Among Faith Traditions Concert



Featuring the Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology Transcultural Orchestra

Tickets are \$10 at the door (suggested) | Refreshments | Silent Auction

The Edmonton Interfaith Centre will also be presenting the 2025 Interfaith Advocate Award to Lewis Cardinal.



UCE'S BIGGEST FUNDRAISER



Volunteer Sign up is open! https://volunteersignup.org/FC94W

MONDAY, TUESDAY | APRIL 21, 22

EDMONTON PURE CASINO ON ARGYL RD





Our next casino will be April 21st and 22nd, 2025, at the Edmonton Pure Casino on Argyl Rd. The Casino is our biggest fundraiser and contributes

The Casino is our biggest fundraiser and contributes approximately \$70,000.00 to our operating budget over 2 years.

We will have a paid advisor on site the entire time, who will train volunteers for their positions and stay with us.
All volunteers will be provided meals. If transportation is required, that can be provided at no expense to the volunteer.
To sign up please go to the link and complete the form for the position you wish to fill. <u>https://volunteersignup.org/FC94W</u>

If you have further questions about what is entailed or if you require transport, please reach out to Brandie Moller-Reid Brandie can be contacted at brmoller@hotmail.com or find her in church!

Thank you to all in advance.

Page 8 of 17



May 1st to 3rd

Come and discover treasures galore at our annual sale.

Do you have treasures that you can donate? Set them aside now to donate to this year's sale. We will be accepting your treasures in the week before the sale (no furniture, computers, or clothes please). We will be accepting your donations starting on Saturday April 26th.

Can you help with the garage sale? Volunteers are needed in the week before the sale to set up and to price all the treasures. Then during the sale we will need cashiers, hot dog makers, and other helpers. Watch for the sign-up sheets in March or contact Andrew (andrew@misc.ca).

The UCE Garage Sale is one of our main church fund raisers. Last year's sale raised over \$14,000 (thank you Donna and Jan!). We look forward to your donations and assistance with this important event.

ON TAP Med | Feb 26 | 6 pm

THREE VIKINGS

10713 124 ST

JOIN REV. ROSEMARY FOR A WARM AND WELCOMING FEBRUARY GATHERING-A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH FELLOW UUS, SHARE IN COMMUNITY, AND NOURISH BOTH HEART AND SPIRIT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



Sharing Our Faith Launch Event: Belonging Sunday, Feb 2, 2025

2:30 pm MT

Join us on <u>Zoom</u> for this launch event!

The theme for 2025's Sharing our Faith program is "Belonging."

Choose your own adventure! New for Sharing Our Faith 2025, we invite you to this launch event to explore our new options for engaging with SOF, a spiritual and growth initiative for Unitarians and Universalists. This launch event is NOT a Sharing Our Faith service, and is hosted by Congregational Life staff Revs. Linda Thomson and Anne Barker.

Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz, creator of the 2025 Sharing Our Faith program, will join us as we introduce this new resource format – and honour the many ways we Share Our Faith as Canadian UUs. Part Celebration, part Information, biggest part "Belonging"

For EVERYONE, not just for congregations, this year's theme of "Belonging" asks: in these divisive times, how do we create spaces where belonging is available for everyone? How do we nurture our own sense of belonging to our communities and this earth?

The Sharing Our Faith program* materials will offer opportunities to explore the meaning of belonging (and not belonging) in our own personal lives as well as inviting us to lean into our commitment to dismantle oppression in our communities — our 8th principle.

*For more information and to get to the program materials, please use the following link: <u>https://cuc.ca/events/sharing-our-faith-launch-</u> <u>2025/1738513800/1738519200/</u>

CUC Events



Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour Wednesday, Feb 12 5:30 pm MT https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-unitarianuniversalists-of-colour-january-2025/1736364600/1736370000/

Black folks, Indigenous folks and people of colour (<u>BIPOC</u>) are often in the minority in Unitarian Universalists congregations and communities. Gathering together with others who share similar identities and experiences can reduce isolation and support us in getting our spiritual needs met. Rising Together is the place where we can find each other!

Dismantling Barriers: Guided Meditation and Vigil Saturday, Feb 15 11:00 pm MT

http://cuc.ca/events/dismantling-barriers-2/1739624400/1739629800/

Connect and Deepen: Belonging Saturday February 15 – 2:00 pm MT https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepenfebruary-2025/1739635200/1739640600/



Connect & Deepen is an online community for adults interested in meaningful reflection, conversation, and shared ideas for living our values. This welcoming space encourages spiritual, philosophical, and practical exploration. The intent is to deepen our experiences of Unitarian Universalism, enriching our own lives with thoughtful meaning-making – so that we live grounded in our UU values.

Dismantling Barriers: Lessons from Africville Wednesday, February 19 – 5:00 pm MT

https://cuc.ca/events/dismantling-barriers-3/1739991600/1739997000/

Join us to learn about Africville, an important and often forgotten aspect of Black Canadian history. After watching a short documentary, provided as a resource which will be provided in advance of this event, you're invited to come, learn more, and get inspired about how our actions as UU's can be shaped from these lessons in light of our principles.



Pastoral Care

The newly minted Pastoral Care Team offers practical, spiritual, and emotional support to our congregation. Members and friends were helped with housing, visiting and messages of care.

The team is ready! 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 <u>ucecares@uce.com</u>.

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

 $\cdot YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmpm5DXHKM7pRnnzcC75txQ$

·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 Renamed Listen Wi-Fi

Listen Wi-Fi is a service to replace our aging FM radios.

First time user

Step 1: Connect to UCE wifi on your mobile device

- In WiFi settings select UCE
- Type in Password:

Step 2: Download Listen WiFi App (from app store)

Step 3: Tap on Listen WiFi app on your device

Step 4: Select venue - UCE

Step 5: Adjust volume on your device

Returning user Step 1: Connect to UCE wifi on your mobile device

- In WiFi settings select UCE
- Type in password if it has not been saved

Step 2: Tap on the Listen WiFi app

Step 3: Select venue - UCE

Step 4: Adjust volume on your device



THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY by the UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON Vol. 66 No. 02 10804 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2 Phone 780-454-8073

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People Finder

UCE Board: board@uce.ca President: Lynne Turvey Vice President: Sue Lynch 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 rmorrison@uuma.org 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

UCE Events February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						7 pm Imbolc Ritual
10:30 am Service	2 3	4	5	7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal 6	7	
10:30 am Service 2:00 pm Interfaith Concert	9 10	11	12	7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal 13	14	
0:30 am Service Spud-tacula Sunday 7:30 pm Lunch! Jazz Vespers 1	r 6 17	18	7:15 pm Zoom Board Meeting 19	7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal 20	21	
10:30 am Service	23 24	25	6 pm UUs on Tap Three Vikings 26	7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal 27	6 pm Soul Matters Movie Night 28	