

VOL. 66 ISSUE 03 • MARCH 2025

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

LIVING LOVE THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF TRUST



[March's Package: click here](#)

THIS ISSUE:

Service Descriptions	pg. 2
Minister's Reflections	pg. 3
President's Ponderings	pg. 4
UCE Directory	pg. 4
UCE Awards	pg. 5
Memory Project Proposal	pg. 5
Canvass	pg. 6
Remembering Dorothy	pg. 7
Sharing Our Abundance	pg. 8
Special Notice of Event	pg. 8
Lifelong Spiritual Growth	pg. 9
UUs On Tap	pg. 10
Casino	pg. 11
Garage Sale	pg. 12
CUC Events	pg. 13
Pastoral Care	pg. 14
Shaping Our Community	pg. 15
Principles and Sources	pg. 16
Social Media	pg. 17
Listen Wi-Fi	pg. 17
People Finder	pg. 18
Pullout Calendar	pg. 19

A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not in the branch but in her own wings.

Charlie Wardle



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

Mar 2

Will Everything Be OK?

Chorealis

What's going to happen? Will everything be ok? What can I do? In these days, we find ourselves too often stuck with these questions on repeat. We clutch at ways to contain, compartmentalize and control. What if, instead, we trusted?

Mar 9

Extraordinary Women Living Ordinary Lives

Rev. Brooks

This service will feature several of our 'Extraordinary' UCE women. Revs. Audrey and Rosemary are co-leading this service with Ruth Patrick as our special guest speaker. There will also be a guest musician along with special music with Maria Ouderkirk and Gordon Ritchie. You will not want to miss this Celebration of International Women's Day.

Mar 16

Where Do We Put Our Trust?

Rev. Morrison

This family friendly service will be asking us to think about our Soul Matters theme of 'trust' in a different way. What does it mean to trust ourselves, our UCE organization, and even our friends and families? Come prepared to participate, learn, and question. And to have a little fun thrown in!

Mar 23

Why Are We So Afraid of Conflict?

Right Relations Team

Please join the Right Relations Team (Carol Hutchings, Andrea Graham, Lynn Wolff, and Louise Charach for this very important service. They will be exploring with you the importance of promoting healthy relationships and addressing conflict in constructive ways.

Mar 30

T is for Trust, and Also Trans

On this day we recognize International Transgender Day of Visibility. For too long transgender and other queer folk had to hide who they were. On this important Sunday, we celebrate this community and the trust many have placed in UCE. Come prepared to learn, be moved, and participate.

Mar 30, 7:30 pm

Jazz Vespers

Rev. Morrison

Andrew Glover, one of Edmonton's premier jazz musicians will be featured in this month's Vespers service. His musical talents will help us to create a beautiful, candle lit, reflective service. We are pleased he has agreed to reschedule after he was grounded in Toronto last month due to winter storms.



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?](https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09)

[pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97779453314?pwd=VVB1VWF5ZUd0UGU1ZXQ5UGVxb0tXQT09)

March's Ministerial Reflections

Trust is choosing to risk making something you value vulnerable to another person's actions. Distrust [is when] what is important to me is not safe with a person in this situation or in any situation.

Charles Feltman

According to this definition of trust by Charles Feltman, pledging funds or contributing your hard-earned cash makes your money (something you value) vulnerable to the actions of the board and finance committee. That is the why the money spent and looked after is subject to checks and balances, transparency, and democracy. By democracy I mean that you get to decide with your vote at the annual general meeting how the money is spent.

March is canvass month, and you are going to be asked to give some of your hard-earned money to keep the church functioning, and to ensure there is adequate programing and staffing. In essence, the board and staff are asking you to trust them; to give financially as to your ability, and also of your time and talents as you are able.

If you really sit down and think about it, this is a big ask and a big leap of trust. At the same time, we as Unitarian Universalists know that a congregation such as ours is sorely needed in this day and age. We are a liberal beacon of hope for those searching to belong to something greater than themselves, a place where they can bring their whole selves. So now, more than ever, we are asking you to trust us. If we wish to remain relevant and vital, we must continue to innovate, work together, and claim ownership by supporting the congregation. Offering your time, talents, and treasure ensures that what you give is put to good use, and puts you in a close and reciprocal relationship where you have a say.

During this canvass month, our Soul Matters theme is 'Trust.' As we explore trust together, may we find new ways to trust ourselves, one another, as well as the board and staff.



May we become an even more generous and trusting congregation. Let's take 'Just One Step' together!

In peace,
Rev. Rosemary

Church Business

President's Ponderings
by Lynne Turvey

STEPPING UP

We – in Alberta, Canada and indeed the world – find ourselves in a weird, worrisome time. Like Linus without his blanket or a trapeze artist who has let go of the bar, the familiar is in flux, and we don't feel on solid ground. The disequilibrium is disconcerting for most of us.

UCE has an important role to play in these uncertain times. Our diverse and inclusive beliefs and deeply shared values of pluralism, justice and generosity can help to buffer the many bewildering changes.

Our church sanctuary means more than the room where we gather on Sundays. It symbolizes the very essence of UCE – safe and welcoming, not just for the fortunate few who have known it for many years, but for others searching for such respite. As our recent hymn of the month proclaims, “This is a place of belonging”.

We are welcoming newcomers almost every week. Along with our minister (who does much more than Sunday services), many volunteer teams and committees are working hard to sustain and grow the gem that is UCE. We need to keep up the momentum.

This is a time to step up as a church community to “be the change we wish to see in the world”, with our energy, talents and, yes, dollars. March is canvass month when our pledges are vital. Andrew, our treasurer, will be talking more about this at church and on our website. It's a message worth acting on. Let's keep our church financially viable so that we can live the UU values we hold dear.

UCE Directory



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 chamin@uce.ca and let her know your new details.

Two annual awards will be presented at the UCE Annual General Meeting on May 5

The W.H. Alexander Award honours a person or persons for extraordinary services provided to benefit the church community.

The Charles Potter Award for Community Engagement honours a member of our congregation who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to communities outside our church, and whose work there shows exceptional commitment to UU principles and values.

Submit your nominations for these awards by March 31 to board secretary Susan Ruttan by email – ruttans@shaw.ca – or in writing through the church office. If you want a list of past winners, email Susan.

Rules:

- Nominations must be made by UCE members and must include reasons for the nomination.
- Members of the board may not submit nominations.
- Staff members and members of the board are eligible for nomination, but not if they have served in their roles within the preceding year.
- There is no limit on the number of times a person may be nominated for, or win, the award.

Proposed Memorial Project



As years go by, we must say goodbye to valued members and friends. The recent deaths of Beth Jenkins and Dorothy Keeler brought friends together to share fond memories. The idea emerged, "We should have a display " where the names of our valued deceased members can spark conversations and keep UCE history alive.

The first step is to form a team of volunteers to study the possibility of a memorial display. There are many examples in other churches to investigate. Later, esthetics, structure, materials, criteria, and finances would have to be considered. If some or all of these aspects appeal to you, please consider volunteering to be part of this project. Contact Marilyn Gaa, marilyngaa@telusplanet.net if you wish to help.



This month, I want to pay tribute to long-time UCE member and supporter Dorothy Keeler. I got to work closely with Dorothy when we built our current building. As the chair of the building committee, she led us to finish this beautiful facility on time and on budget.

But did you know that Dorothy had also been on the building committee that built the previous church in 1965? Yes, she was a leader in our church – and denomination - for that long. I am going to miss her positive energy, and her lifelong commitment to this church.

Dorothy's leadership extended far beyond bricks and mortar. She poured her heart and soul into UCE, serving as a board member, Religious Education helper, choir member, and virtually every other role imaginable (short of Board President!). Her positive energy was infectious, her commitment unwavering. She gave generously of her time, her talents, and her resources. Her absence leaves a void in our community that will be deeply felt.

Dorothy believed in UCE. She understood its value as a special place, a source of connection and growth. We all share that belief. We may not all be able to contribute at the same level as Dorothy, but we can all honor her legacy by supporting the community she loved.

As you consider your pledge this year, please reflect on Dorothy's lifelong devotion and ask yourself: What can I do to ensure UCE continues to thrive for generations to come? We're not just asking you to maintain our current programs; we're inviting you to be a part of our growth. A modest increase of 5-10% in your pledge will empower us to expand our reach, enhance our services, and create even more meaningful experiences for our community.



We need your pledge returned by March 31st please. [The online Pledge Form is here.](#)

For more information about canvass, go to the [canvass web site](#). I would also be happy to discuss your pledge with you. Come talk to me in church or call/email me at any time.

Remembering Dorothy



A life centered around work, family, and church – on the surface sounds like a pretty typical pattern for those in the last century. But her relationship to this church was anything but surface.

If you've been around UCE long enough, you may have known her as Dot, but most of you knew her as Dorothy and as a fixture of the congregation for over six decades.

Born in Toronto on March 4, 1934, she was the eldest of four children. Her parents, Jarvis and Avis McCurdy, embraced Unitarianism, shaping her lifelong faith. She married Bernie at First Unitarian Toronto, and after moving to Edmonton in 1960, they raised four children, all involved in UCE.

A dedicated educator, Dorothy taught at the School for the Deaf before spending decades as a teacher and librarian at Rio Terrace Elementary. She and Bernie were active in various circles—ATA, NDP, bridge, bowling, curling, and community causes—but UCE remained central to their lives.

Dorothy served UCE in many roles, from board member to RE teacher, with her greatest passion being the Denominational Affairs Committee. She found spiritual renewal in the wider Unitarian movement, attending UUA and CUC gatherings.

And yet, UCE was home, the grounding, the anchor of their faith. UCE returned that honour and respect with awards like the W.H. Alexander award and the naming of Keeler Hall.

On February 18th, after a short two and a half days in Sturgeon Hospital, Dorothy's body gave way. Her children Glenn and Megan, and her grandchild Dee, were at her bedside. She was just short of 91.

Dorothy is gone. But we remain.

Scott M. Keeler



**MARCH
SHARING OUR
ABUNDANCE**

WINGS - Women In Need Growing Stronger

WINGS saves women and children who are escaping domestic abuse by delivering secure long-term housing and wrap-around support services to help families 24/7. While these fully furnished apartments provide needed shelter for survivors, WINGS does much more than provide a roof over their heads.

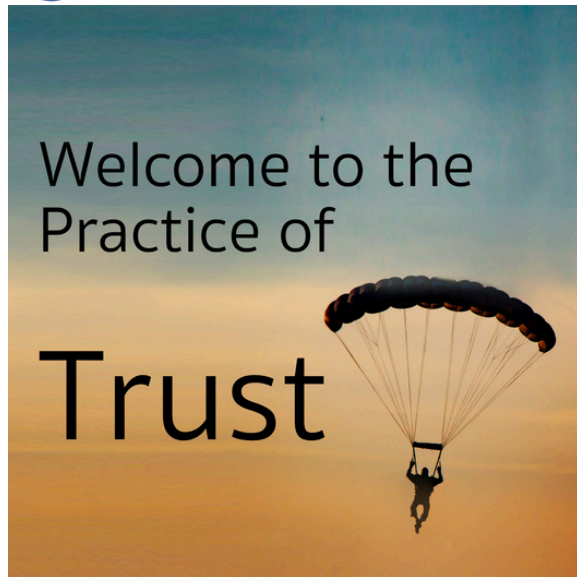
<https://www.wingsofprovidence.ca/>

Important Notice Regarding Dorothy Keeler and Beth Jenkins

UCE has suffered these two significant losses recently, resulting in a great need to gather, grieve, and share stories. Rev. Rosemary will host two opportunities to do this in March. One will be online and the other in person.

- March 9, will be the in person gathering right after church. Please bring potluck finger food to share. UCE will provide coffee, tea, and juice.**
- March 16, after the service, will be the online gathering. Please use the Sunday Service link in the e-weekly.**

LIFELONG SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Welcome to the Practice of

Trust

For March's Theme Package, click here

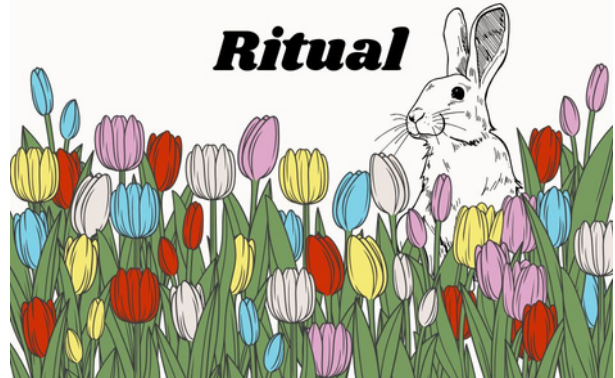
- Check out the Soul Matters display at church for more inspiration and information
- Soul Matters Movie Night will be Friday, March 28 at 6 pm



Beyond Land Acknowledgements - Learning to Share Land

On Sunday, March 16, Westwood is hosting a talk in its ongoing series called "Beyond Land Acknowledgements - Soup & Bannock Speakers' Series." It is in-person and online, via Zoom. For those attending in person, there is a simple shared meal followed by the speaker, and then usually a question & answer session afterwards. It runs 6-8 pm (doors open at 5:30). This talk will have two speakers from the Treaty Land Sharing Network. They will talk about what they are, why they came about, and how it has been going. Eventbrite Link: [here](#)

Ostara Ritual



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT BUNNIES AND EGGS HAVE TO DO WITH THE SPRING EQUINOX?

MARCH 21, 7 PM

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE ANCIENT GODDESS OF SPRINGTIME TO FIND OUT! PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME TO AVOID INTERRUPTING THE RITUAL. EVERYONE WELCOME.



UUs
ON TAP

Wed | Mar 26 | 6pm

THREE VIKINGS

10713 124 ST

JOIN REV. ROSEMARY FOR A WARM AND WELCOMING MARCH 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!

UCE'S BIGGEST FUNDRAISER

CASINO DATES ARE HERE!

10 SPOTS LEFT TO FILL!

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 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. <https://volunteersignup.org/FC94W>

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.



The UCE Garage Sale is Coming!



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.

CUC Events



Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour

Wednesday, Mar 12 5:30 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-unitarian-universalists-of-colour-march-2025/1741807800/1741813200/>

Connect and Deepen: Belonging
Saturday, Mar 15 – 2:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-and-deepen-march-2025/1742054400/1742059800/>



AGM 2025 Conversations, Wednesday, Mar 19 - 5:30 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/agm-conversations-2025-1/1742412600/1742418000/>

(The CUC's AGM is held online on Saturday, May 31, 2025)

Congregational Conversations: Hard Conversations (2nd run)
Saturday, Mar 22 – 11:00 am MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/congregational-conversations-hard-conversations-2nd-run/1742648400/1742653800/>

Conversations with Annahid Dashtgard

Author of *Bones of Belonging*

Wednesday, Mar 26, 5:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/conversations-annahid-dashtgard/1743015600/1743022800/>



Dismantling Barriers: Talking About Bylaws

Thursday, Mar 27, 5:00 pm MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/dismantling-barriers-talking-about-bylaws/1743102000/1743111000/>



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 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 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

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People Finder

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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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 10:30 am Service	3	4	5	6 7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal	7	8
9 10:30 am Service, post service event (in person)	10	11	12	13 7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal	14	15
16 10:30 am Service, post service online event	17	18	19 7:15 pm Zoom Board Meeting	20 7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal	21 7 pm Ostara Ritual	22
23 10:30 am Service	24	25	26 6 pm UUs On Tap 3 Vikings	27 7:15 pm Chorealis Rehearsal	28 6 pm Soul Matters Movie Night	29
30 10:30 am Service 7:30 pm Jazz Vespers	31					

March 2025

