

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

LIVING LOVE THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM



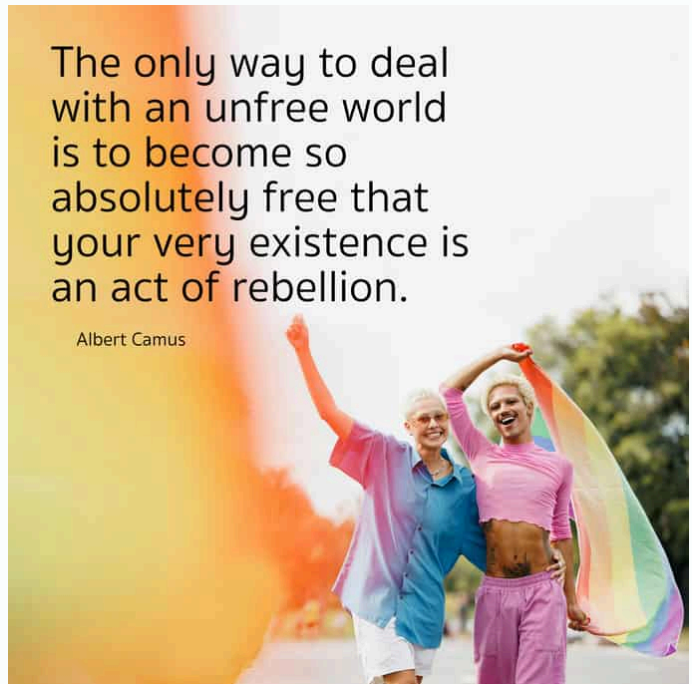
[June's Package: click here](#)

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The only way to deal
with an unfree world
is to become so
absolutely free that
your very existence is
an act of rebellion.

Albert Camus



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 1 ***All Creatures Great and Small:
Animals Bless us Every Day*** **Rev. Morrison**

Every year we honour our non-human friends and family. Our lives are enriched and we find joy in living with and caring for our furry folks.

If you would like, please bring your pet (or a picture) to be blessed by Rev. Rosemary.

June 8 ***Take PRIDE in Who You Are!***
Service Leaders: Gordon Ritchie, Maria Ouderkirk and Declan Kiely

Adam Slate writes, "We gather this morning as one community. A community united by common ideals: love, justice, diversity, freedom, mutual care, equity. Every one of us has their own story, needs, strengths, and faults."

Let's celebrate the uniqueness that lives within each of us.

June 15 ***The Earth Laughs in Flowers: Flower Celebration*** **Rev. Morrison**

Please bring a flower to share to our annual Flower Communion. This beloved Unitarian Universalist tradition started decades ago with Rev. Norbert Čapek, a Unitarian minister persecuted for his inclusive values. Celebrate with us on this important and colourful day!

June 22 ***Picnic in the Park*** **Rev. Morrison**

We end our wonderful church year as we always do, with a wonderful gathering in Queen Mary Park. Please bring yourselves, lawn chairs, pot luck entry, and ready laughter to this wonderful gathering.

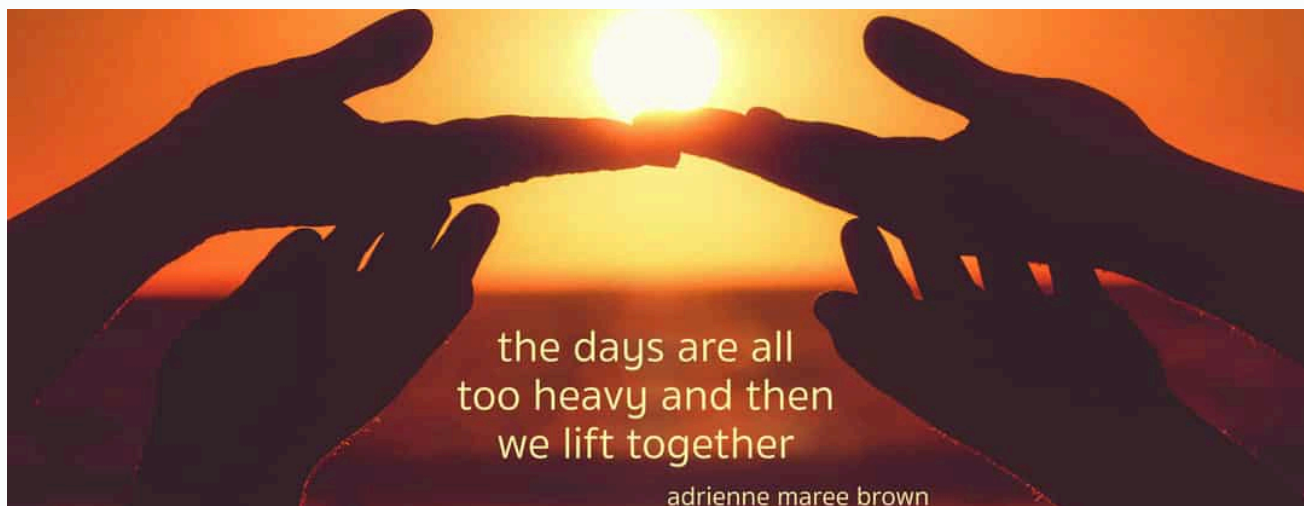
June 29 ***Connecting Through Conversation***
Sue Lynch, Louise Charach

Don't miss this opportunity to share your views and exchange ideas at the Sunday service June 29. The theme is "Outside Looking In." We will share how we think others see us and how we want to be seen. Come, share your voice.

Services are typically 60-75 minutes in length



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



June's Ministerial Reflections

We are now at the end of our very successful church year. Some great things of note have happened.

For example, the Communications and Marketing team is well populated and has been doing great work figuring out what UCE needs to thrive in the future. The fledging Social Action Team has met a few times and stay tuned for how they will involve the congregation in this important work.

We now have a Hospitality Team that will be making sure that we have what we need to develop close relationships. Building those relationships happen when we share food and ourselves with one another.

The board has done great work over this past year and I look forward to working with the new board next year.

This month we will celebrate our pets, our PRIDE, our flowers and then ourselves as we gather in Queen Mary Park on June 22nd for our annual church picnic.

Summer services will start on June 29th. Our tech team will be taking a well-deserved break, therefore, the summer services will not be broadcast on zoom from June 29 – September 7.

My hope and prayer for you all is that these summer months bring renewal and delight. Whether you garden, head to the lake, or take time on your own patio, may the warmth of summer be a balm for your heart.

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

Church Business

ANNUAL AWARDS

Two valued members of our congregation received our annual awards this year, which were announced at the UCE annual general meeting on May 4.



Alex Polkovsky received the Alexander award, which goes to someone who has provided extraordinary services to our church community. Alex's tireless work as our webmaster for 10 years provided a crucial link between our church, its members, and the general public. He did this vital work while dealing with an ongoing health issue. Many thanks, Alex.

Lynn Wolff received the Potter award, which goes to someone in our community who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to communities outside our church. For the past three years, since Russia attacked Ukraine, Lynn has housed and supported ten Ukrainian refugees (including three children). Five of them have moved on to live and work independently, five still live with her. Well done, Lynn.



Right Relations Reflections

Getting to the Other Side of Conflict



- **Start from a place of respect**
- **State the problem clearly**
- **Be an active listener**
- **Maintain curiosity in the other person's perspective**
- **Propose positive solutions**
- **Speak to persons directly to share concerns**

A NOTE FROM YOUR LAY CHAPLAIN

At the end of this month, May 2025, my six year term at UCE's Lay Chaplain comes to an end. I have been honoured to represent our Unitarian faith at four weddings and one memorial. My experience has been a mix of celebration and disappointment, as I have had very few opportunities to serve. For some occasions, I have worked in cooperation with our administrator, to coordinate the use of our sanctuary for events. As a result, new people have come into our church for positive experiences. Reverend Rosemary has been interested and supportive.

As my license expires, I will no longer be qualified to legally perform weddings but I am open to using my training and talents to officiate at memorials and child naming events if I am called. I have resource materials to share with my successors. I encourage anyone to consider training for this rewarding work.

I have felt honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility to serve UCE as Lay Chaplain for these past six years.

Thank you, Marilyn Gaa

Celebration of Life for
Maurice Bourgoïn

Saturday, June 7, 1 pm
Unitarian Church of Edmonton
[Obituary Link](#)



Celebration of Life for
Barbara Forbes

Saturday, June 28, 1 pm
Reception to follow,
Unitarian Church of Edmonton
[Obituary Link](#)



**George Spady
Society**

*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.

<https://www.gspady.org/>

Preparation Brings Peace of Mind: Memorial Societies Can Help

Notes from Susan Lynch

As our busy lives move forward, we don't often take the opportunity to think well ahead of time about preparations for the end of life. Though difficult to contemplate, end of life preparations can bring considerable peace of mind for ourselves and our families. Joining a memorial society can help.

Memorial societies are non-profit membership organizations whose members work together to provide information and help for end of life preparations. The Cooperative Memorial Society (formerly the Memorial Society of Edmonton and District) is Alberta based and provides information on various important steps to take in planning for your own end of life and that of your family members. The Cooperative also keeps a roster of funeral parlours who have agreed to provide Memorial Society members death services at much reduced rates.

For members The Memorial Muse Newsletter keeps members up to date on matter relevant for ongoing planning and peace of mind.



You can become a member of the Cooperative for a onetime fee of \$40 (+GST) through the website link at <https://www.coopmemorial.org> Your membership will give you access to planning documents, your own membership planning file, and a wealth of information to help with your preparations. If you are already a member, you can log on with your own membership number to your personal file of plans you have developed. Not sure if you are a member? Just log on to the website and send a query.

Getting started by joining The Cooperative Memorial can be your first step to peace of mind for you and your family.



Pastoral Care: Come Join Us!

The Pastoral Care Team could use some some volunteers to act as connectors for any of the following:

- Transporter
- Nourisher
- Visitor
- Handihelps

Contact your Caring Connections Dispatcher Gloria Krenbrenk at 780-668-9166 gkrenbrenk@gmail.com or use the Pastoral Care request form on the UCE website.

"I acted and, behold, service was joy"

Rabindranath Tagore



Could You Use Some Help?

If you're going through a tough time or just need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support you with care, a listening ear or a ride – whatever you need. You're not alone, and we'd be honored to walk alongside you!

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

Lifelong Spiritual Growth

Welcome to
the Practice of
Freedom



Soul Matters

For June's Theme Package, [click here](#)

- **Soul Matters Movie Night will be Friday, June 27 at 6 pm**

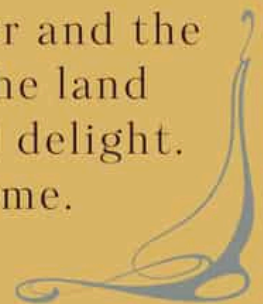


Celebrating Litha

Join Ali Hammington on
Friday June 20 at 7pm to
celebrate the ancient Celtic
festival of Litha, when the sun
returns at Midsummer and the
Faerie Folk roam the land
causing mischief and delight.
Everyone welcome.



Unitarian Church of Edmonton
10804 - 119 Street NW



In Our Community



Westwood Unitarians

Soup & Bannock Speakers' Series

**June 1, 2025 6:00 pm: Stories From the Métis
Culture with Beatrice Demetrius, (live and online)
Tickets on EventBrite**

**July 20, 1-3 pm: Free Guided Visit at kihcihkaw
askî with Lewis Cardinal EventBrite Tickets**



Also in June...

The Eco-Solar Home Tour is coming up the weekend of June 7th and 8th . This free tour of net-zero and energy-efficient homes is organized by our own Andrew Mills. There are 18 homes to see this year. For details of the homes, addresses, hours, and a tour map, go to www.ecosolar.ca.

EDMONTON VOCAL
MINORITY'S
2025 PRIDE CONCERT



Fierce & Fabulous, hosted by Darrin Hagen

Saturday, June 28th 2025

Westbury Theatre (Fringe Theatre Arts Barns) 10330 84 Avenue

8:00 PM

Tickets: \$20 or \$15 (students) from EVM members

CUC Events



**Adventure Awaits: A Farewell Celebration
for Rev. Linda Thomson**

Saturday June 7, 2:30 pm MT (2 hours)

<https://cuc.ca/events/linda-party/1749312000/1749322800/>

Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour

Wednesday, June 11, 5:30 MT

<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-unitarian-universalists-of-colour-june-2025/1749670200/1749675600/>



Camellia Jahanshahi

Dismantling Barriers: Talking About Joy as Resistance

Thursday, June 26, 5:00 pm MT (2 hours)

<https://cuc.ca/events/dismantling-barriers-joy-resistance/1750964400/1750973400/>

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



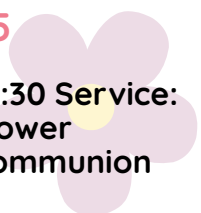



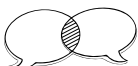
Step 4: Adjust volume on your device

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN
IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY
by the UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON Vol. 66 No. 06
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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 JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 Service: Pet Service 	2	3	4	5	6	7 1 pm Bourgoin Celebration of Life
8 10:30 Service: Pride Service 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 Service: Flower Communion 	16	17	18 7:15 pm Board Mtg (Zoom)	19	20 7 pm Litha Ritual 	21
22 10:30 Service: Picnic in the Park 	23	24	25	26	27 6 pm Soul Matters Movie Night 	28 1 pm Forbes Celebration of Life
29  10:30 Service: Connecting Through Conversation	30					