




VOL 68 ISSUE 07 • JUNE 2026

# THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON

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*"In the tapestry  
of seasons,  
summer weaves  
the threads of  
joy and  
adventure."*

- LUNA BRIGHTWATER

## 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.

# SUMMER SERVICES @ UCE

Summer is a time for renewal, reflection, and community in new and relaxed ways. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to lead our Summer Services at UCE. Your creativity and commitment help keep our community vibrant throughout the season. If you're leading a service this summer, thank you!

Janet, our Church Administrator will have the coffee and tea ready on the Sundays. Summer services will be in-person only and will not be recorded or posted online.

## ONLINE OPTIONS FOR OUR ZOOM COMMUNITY

While UCE pauses its virtual services for the summer, we invite you to stay spiritually nourished and connected through several welcoming online Unitarian Universalist communities:

 Foothills Unitarian Church (Fort Collins, CO)

Join their inspiring Sunday services featuring Rev. Sean Neil-Barron

Details: <https://foothillsuu.org/sunday>

 UU Fellowship of Bozeman (Bozeman, MT)

Rev. Duffy Peet warmly invites UCE members to join them online at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time on Sundays.

Details: <https://uufbozeman.org>

 Vancouver Unitarians (Vancouver, BC)

Tune into their YouTube livestream at 10:00 a.m. Mountain / 11:00 a.m. Pacific for thoughtful and beautifully produced services.

Details: <https://www.youtube.com/live/Af-0xauMVqs>

Whether you're joining us in person, tuning in online, or taking quiet time to reflect in nature, we hope you find spiritual nourishment this summer. We look forward to gathering together again for our regular services beginning Sunday, September 13.

Warm summer blessings,  
The UCE Worship Team

# July Services\*

## **July 5**                      ***The Universal Expression of Gratitude***

Join John and Lynne Turvey for an exploration of how the power of gratitude can provide certainty, comfort, and confidence as we face and overcome challenges in life.

Leaders: John and Lynne Turvey

## **July 12**                      ***Music and the Spoken Word***

Join Audrey Brooks and members of the Stroll of Poets for another “Music and the Spoken Word” event. Snacks and beverages will be provided. This will also be a fundraiser for the earthquake victims in the Philippines.

Leader: Rev. Audrey Brooks

## **July 19**                      ***We Still Love Alberta***

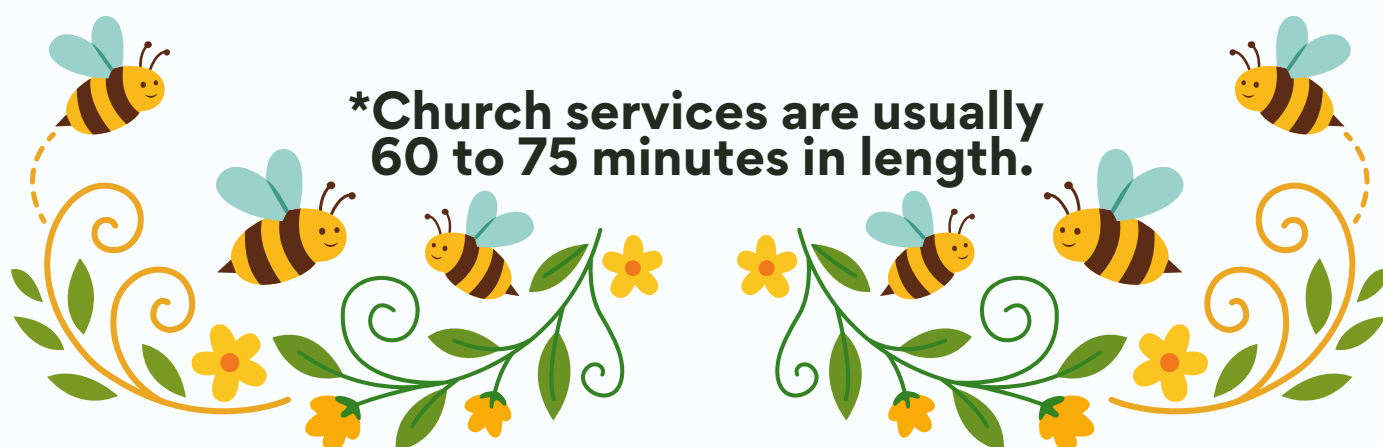
Despite many current challenges, let us cherish and celebrate all the things that Alberta offers us. For instance, Corb Lund.

Leader: Susan Ruttan

## **July 26**                      ***Seperation***

By now most of you will have heard the arguments against separation. As a volunteer for Forever Canadian! I gathered hundreds of signatures from mostly incredulous Albertan Canadians wondering why we even have to do this. I will talk a bit about what I have learned and where things stand.

Leader: Rev. Brian Kiely



# August Services

## **August 2**                    ***The Other Referendum Questions***

The separatism question gets all the attention, but we should look closely at the other issues the UCP government will put to the voters. A big one: immigrants.

Leader: Susan Ruttan

## **August 9**                    ***Welcoming Other Worldviews: Why Representation in Research Matters***

You are invited to travel alongside Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet as they journey with one of the subjects that has caught their attention in school in the past few months: looking at Indigenous worldview and research methodologies. Ilara will primarily be reflecting on material from *Indigenous Methodologies: Characteristics, Conversations, and Contexts*, by Margaret Kovach, a beautiful book which Ilara finds insightful and inspiring and hopes you do, too!

Leader: Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet

## **August 16**                    ***UU and World Community***

Visit friends and family you didn't know you had via travel for peace organizations

Leaders: Sherry Wells and David Yaki

## **August 23**                    ***Not Available at Pritning***

Leader: Beth Storheim

## **August 30**                    ***Beyond the Veil: Reflections on Death, Life and What Comes Next***

Come together with curiosity this Sunday to learn some new ideas about the one thing that comes to all of us, yet remains our greatest mystery. All time is alive and connected-past, present and future.

Audrey Brooks, is our special guest who embraces both life and death. Audrey will share her perspectives and intimate experiences with death and how we approach it.

There will be time to ask questions and share experiences.

Leaders: Louise Charach, Rev. Audrey Brooks

# *Farewell for* REV. ROSEMARY



Some 55 people beat the rain on Sunday, June 28, with a service and potluck picnic indoors to say farewell and thank you to Rev. Rosemary Morrison. Following presentations of flowers, a gift card, memory photo album and “best wishes” signed tablecloth, the congregation joined in singing tunes especially chosen and led by three Raging Grannies.

Rev. Rosemary came to us in August 2021, as a contract minister, just when we were starting up in-person services near the end of the COVID pandemic. COVID was a difficult time for UCE, as it was for everyone. Rev. Rosemary brought a sense of stability to the congregation and fostered a renewed commitment to growing our beloved community. She became our settled minister in September 2023.

A welcoming environment modeled and supported by Rev. Rosemary has played a big part in attracting new members to UCE. She also encouraged forming various shared ministry teams, specifically Pastoral Care, Membership, Right Relations, Hospitality, and Soul Matters, and brought her knowledge and support to other lay-led committees and teams.

The congregation has become more cohesive, responsive to the genuine need for engaging with each other. Our monthly potlucks, which Rev. Rosemary encouraged, are a fine example of that. As well, working with congregants as volunteer service leaders has helped to build capacity. And her initiation of a Covenant of Right Relations has been a positive cultural step forward.

Rev. Rosemary also reached out to the wider Edmonton community through developing our relationship with the Greater Edmonton Alliance for the Common Good, and encouraged resuming our UCE Food Bank depot, now thriving with a dedicated volunteer team. As Rev. Rosemary begins a new chapter in her life journey, UCE’s warm wishes will accompany her.





# BOARD BUSINESS

Your Board of Trustees: Lt to Rt: Andrew Mills, treasurer; Tony Wong, trustee; Kelly Bertrand, incoming vice-president; Elin Logan, trustee; Lynne Turvey, president; Declan Kiely, trustee; Wendy Smith, trustee; Sue Lynch, outgoing vice-president; Susan Ruttan, secretary



The board held a June supper meeting at the church to bid farewell, with appreciation, to our outgoing vice-president, Sue Lynch, and to welcome the incoming members: vice-president Kelly Bertrand and trustees Tony Wong and Elin Logan.

Along with pizza and chitchat, we got down to business as you'll see in two transition highlights and a call for Pride.

## **Minister Transition Planning**

Karen Mills and Louise Charach have stepped forward to co-chair the Ministry Search Committee for exploring UCE's future and options for a new minister. Both Karen and Louise are members of the Governance Advisory Team, Louise as chair and Karen as the lead on the strategic planning process. They will provide recommendations for at least three more committee members for the board to consider at its August 19 meeting. Strategic planning takes on a different tenor and trajectory because of Rev. Rosemary's departure. Congregational conversations will take place in September for updates and feedback.

## **Website/Database Transition**

The Communications and Marketing Team provided a much-anticipated report on the selection of Sunergo as the vendor for a new church website and database. No one should be surprised to learn that the website needs a revamp. The PowerChurch database has become outdated and lacking features of more current models. Sunergo, a Canadian company, offers a product where those two essential tools work together. Administrator Janet Polkovsky's comprehensive research was instrumental in reaching this decision. The transition, including training, will take place over the next few months. This is an exciting development, one which the CaM team has worked diligently to secure.

# UCE and Ministry

## - *What's Next?*

### **Search Committee**

The first and most important step is to establish a search committee. This team holds a vital piece of the church's future in their hands, so its composition needs to be balanced, respected and reflective of the entire congregation. Our bylaws state that the board approves membership of the search committee. The board has appointed Louise Charach and Karen Mills as committee co-chairs.

### **The Work of the Search Committee**

The search committee will meet at least monthly, develop a covenant to guide committee expectations, consult with the congregation, be a point of contact for those with questions, provide updates to the board and congregation, complete a comprehensive Congregational Profile (our "calling card" to applicants), review applications, participate in interviews, recommend terms of employment, select and prioritize potential candidates, and recommend a final selection to the board.

We want to ensure members on the Search Committee bring insights from the following perspectives:

- Family, Children and Youth
- Long-standing members
- Young Adults (under 35 years old)
- Social Justice
- Familiarity with a variety of worship styles and models
- Pastoral Care

It's expected that committee members will attend each meeting, participate in ongoing information gathering, and commit to the entire process of selection from beginning to end. Committee members will need to leave their personal preferences behind and think of what is best for the whole church. We need good listeners and decision-makers with sound discernment.

### **The Role of the Congregation**

There will be many opportunities for input through general meetings and ministry surveys as we move forward. **Mark your calendars for September 20, 2026** for the first consultation as we discuss our vision for the future and the kind of ministry we need to help us get there.

If you are interested in being considered for the Search Committee, please contact Karen Mills at [Karenmills@me.com](mailto:Karenmills@me.com) or Louise Charach at [Louisecharach@gmail.com](mailto:Louisecharach@gmail.com) BY JULY 30, 2026.

# EXCITING NEWS

## A FRESH NEW LOOK (AND FEEL) FOR THE UCE WEBSITE!

The Communications and Marketing Team (CaM) is thrilled to announce: work is officially underway on the long-awaited refresh of our church website and database!

After careful exploration, we have partnered with Sunergo, a B.C.-based vendor that exclusively builds digital spaces for faith communities. They understand that a church website isn't just an informational billboard—it's a virtual front door for seekers and a bustling hub for the UCE community.

### What This Means for You

This isn't just a cosmetic makeover; it's a complete upgrade to how we stay connected. By seamlessly linking a modern, vibrant website with a robust new database, we are aiming to make UCE life easier and more accessible:

- **Connection at Your Fingertips:** A fully responsive design means you can easily check the calendar, join an online service, or read the newsletter whether you're on a desktop, tablet, or cell phone.
- **Streamlined Living:** From effortless event ticketing and registration, to secure text and online donations, to volunteer scheduling, participating in our community can be as simple as just a few clicks.

### Next steps

Bringing this vision to life is a team effort. CaM will be steering the website development, while Andrew Mills is taking the reins on the database integration. Our wonderful Church Administrator, Janet, has been an integral part of this journey from day one and will be central to the implementation.

We'll be working hard through the summer with the goal of launching this exciting new tool in the fall, just as our congregational life kicks back into high gear.

Stay tuned for updates as we build a digital space that truly reflects the warmth, energy, and values of UCE!

Your (excited!) CaM Team — Karen Bilida, Louise Charach, Jon Littlefield, Karen Mills, Lorne Pendleton, Janet Polkovsky



# PRIDE PARADE

08/22  
SAT

**Would you like to march in the Edmonton Pride Parade 2026? UCE will organize a walking group with banners to participate. Our church has marched in the parade for many years. Come and be a part of that tradition and join us for this celebration!**

**The parade will be Saturday, August 22nd, and will start in Churchill Square and end in Fan Park.**

**Kindly RSVP to Declan Kiely and more information will come!**

**[declanv11@gmail.com](mailto:declanv11@gmail.com)**

## Sharing Our Abundance:

Our church community encourages all who gather here to grow in generosity of spirit and action. Each month, we share half of our unidentified cash offerings with an organization in the wider community.

### July: iHuman



iHuman Youth Society is a non-profit that believes all young people matter and have contributions to share. In partnership with marginalized young people, we amplify their creative expression, address their needs, and support their goals.

### August: Boyle Street Community Services

Boyle Street Community Services is a non-denominational organization that welcomes and serves people of all ages, backgrounds, and orientations. While we are non-denominational, we acknowledge that the majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in Edmonton identify as Indigenous First Nations, therefore, we incorporate Indigenous ceremonies in our practice.





### **Want to go for a walk?**

The walking group is continuing as weather permits, every Friday morning. We mostly do "out and back" walks and separate into faster and slower walkers, so you can walk at your own pace and distance. Contact Jon Littlefield at [jon.littlefield@yahoo.com](mailto:jon.littlefield@yahoo.com) to be added to the email list.

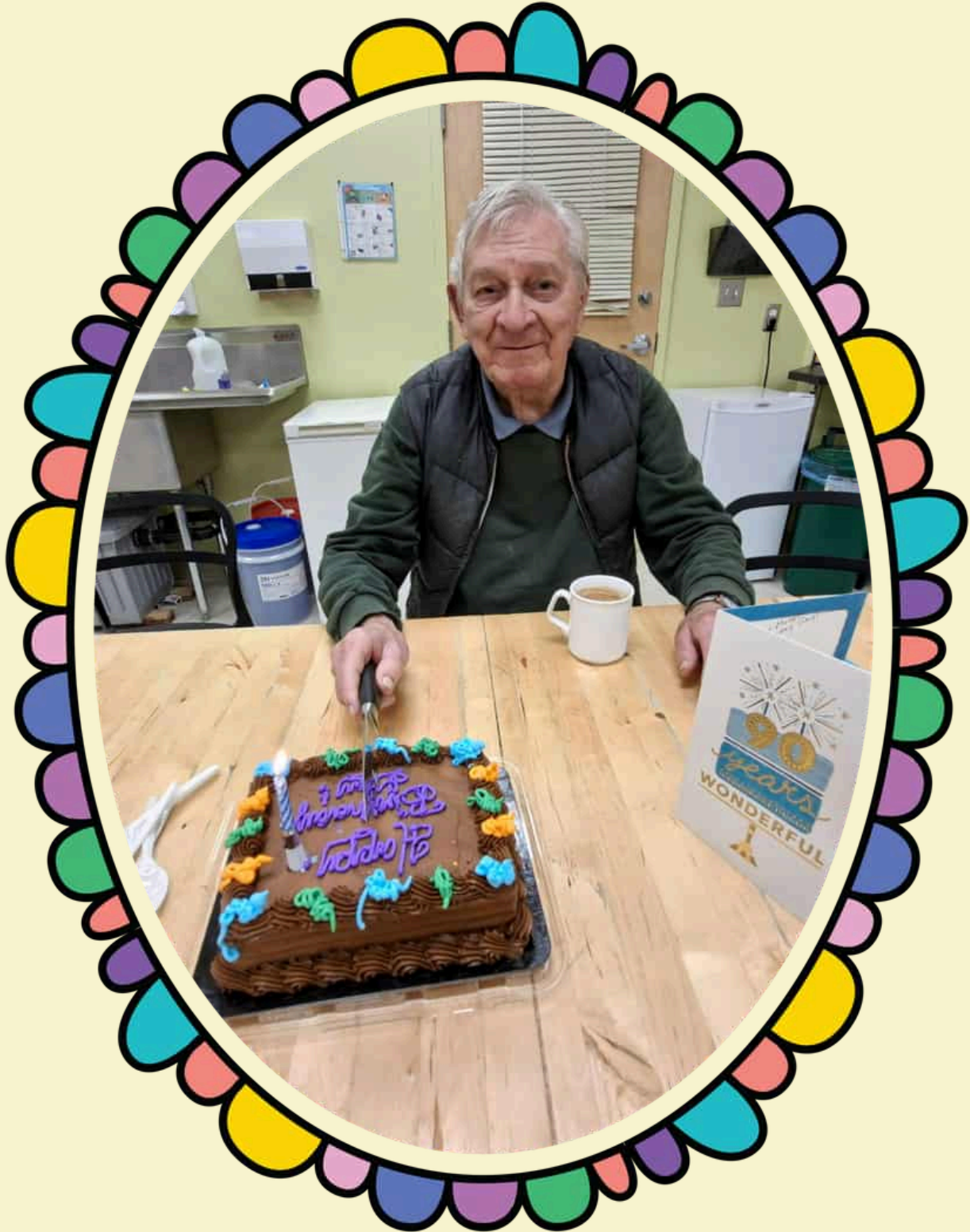


# Right Relations Reflections

**“Sometimes our light goes out,  
but is blown again into intense  
flame by an encounter with  
another human being.”**

**Albert Schweitzer**

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
to Gaylord Madill!





# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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.

**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

<b>UCE Board</b>	<a href="mailto:board@uce.ca">board@uce.ca</a>
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<b>Vice President</b>	Kelly Bertrand
<b>Treasurer, Finance Ctte Chair</b>	Andrew Mills, <a href="mailto:andrew@misc.ca">andrew@misc.ca</a>
<b>Trustees</b>	Wendy Smith, Declan Kiely, Elin Logan, Tony Wong
<b>Minister</b>	vacant
<b>Church Office</b>	Janet Polkovsky, <a href="mailto:chadmin@uce.ca">chadmin@uce.ca</a>
<b>Head Teller</b>	David Rae
<b>Chorealis Choir</b>	Gordon Ritchie, Karen Mills
<b>Building and Grounds</b>	Alan Boyle
<b>Communications</b>	Karen Mills