

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator

December 2022

Sunday Services via [Zoom](#) and in sanctuary at 10:30 am

The theme for December is Wonder

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The deadline for the January 2023 Communicator is Tuesday, December 20th, 2022

What Comes First – Addiction or Health Issues?

Sunday, December 4, 2022

**Service Leaders: AIM
(Accessibility and Inclusion
Ministry) Team**

**Service Coordinator: Marian
Siemens**

Join us on to explore the relationships between addiction and health, and the potential of resulting in disabilities. Richard Walls from Red Road Lodge will be joining us to expand on these ideas.

The Wonder of it All

Sunday, December 11, 2022

**Service Leader: Rev. Charlotte
Cowtan**

Service Coordinator: Norm Cobb

Have you ever wondered at the sheer immensity of the universe, and how our earth came to be, a relative speck in a larger universe of ever expanding galaxies? How do we find ourselves and make meaning of our existence in an ever evolving and recreating medium?

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Sunday Services continued

Evergreentide, Revisited

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Service Leader: Steve Lennon

Service Coordinator: Cate Ziegler

Take a break from busy holiday preparations and join Steve and the trees, as he revisits Evergreentide, the time when we turn our attentions toward the conifers.

A Time for Sweet Surprises

Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 6 pm

Service Leader:

Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Service Coordinator:

Steve Lennon

The poet Margaret Sangster described Christmas as “the time of the year for the sweet surprise.” With the passing years, it becomes harder for many to feel surprised as the Yuletide approaches, and yet we wait and hope. And with some luck, sweet surprise and delight may yet visit us.

Season’s Greetings

December 25, 2022, 10:30 to 11:30 am

Service Coordinator:

Season’s Greetings is an unstructured Zoom service, where congregants will have the opportunity to talk with each other in a Breakout Room framework. Bring your greetings, your cheer, and your thoughts about the year past, and of the year to come. **Note:** The church building will be closed this day.



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Board Notes

by Claire Nimmagadda, President

The board met in November two days after the Fall congregational meeting to approve our financial statements and audit process for next year. Thank you to everyone in the congregation for engaging and participating in this fall meeting. Our Treasurer Peter Miller shared his reflections on our progress, our financial trends and suggested meaningful insights to consider as we head into 2023.

During November's board meeting we reviewed the Treasurer's unaudited financial report and expenditures relative to the approved 2022-2023 budget.

The board reviewed current church staffing and we were pleased to welcome back Carol Lindsey as the congregation's Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Development on contract until September 1, 2023. Carol's role is part time and will focus on supporting our Sunday morning children's offering this year while working with the Religious Exploration team to build the foundation for a new RE program for the 2023-2024 church year. Carol worked in this role previously from 2017-2020 until Covid impacts necessitated reduction of this role, we are so pleased to welcome her back.

This exciting step means we are building the Religious Exploration team to work with Carol and design the program based on our consultant's report suggesting a modernization of the family ministry offerings. If you are passionate about family ministry and children's programs, now is the time to get in on the ground floor of this redesign.

The Board has worked on securing an additional ministry contract to enhance our worship program this year to offer monthly Sunday services and program support to SunServ Team as they continue to develop our worship experiences. Thank you to our SunServ leaders and congregation members who have leaned in to offer engaging and thought-provoking services. See the announcement on page 5.

We were sorry to accept Doug Wasiliw's resignation from the board due to pressures of personal circumstances and we thanked Doug for serving the congregation in this way since June 2022. Doug will continue to serve as Endowment Trustee.

The Board reviewed our Mission Into Action congregational clusters and realigned board liaisons for the remaining church year: Properties-

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Board Notes continued

cluster liaison is Kris Breckman; Administration/Finance cluster liaisons is Peter Miller, Marjorie Doyle and Larry Phillips; Caring Community cluster liaison is Darlene Payne; Learning and Program cluster is Paula Kierstead; Congregational Vitality and Wellbeing is shared by Claire Nimmagadda and Paula Kierstead.

As we approach the last month of the year there is a lot of excitement about what's ahead. The choir began singing together and presented to the board an exciting proposal to enhance live music offerings this

year. The Coffee House on December 3rd promises to be a fun event and fabulous opportunity for social connection. The church Harvest team's annual orange drive will culminate in December - this is a special opportunity to join together to gift families in the Winnipeg Harvest program with boxes of oranges during the holidays. We are starting to see many congregational green shoots leading into December!

We wish everyone and their families a wonderful month ahead and we look forward to continuing to grow as a congregation through the holiday season.



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From the Board



The Board of Directors is very happy to announce that Rev Stefan Jonasson has agreed to work with the congregation on a short-term contract from December 1st, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

During December he will lead our Christmas Eve service and consult with church program clusters to develop an action plan for his time

with us. In particular, we expect Rev Stefan to support Sunday Services in worship exploration and planning, work with the Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Development to ensure programming for all ages, and facilitate congregational planning for the ministerial services we will require after June 30.

The contract is for 12 hours weekly including some time at the church. Rev Ren will continue to provide pastoral care for the congregation and Rev Victoria to coach the Covenant Groups. Rev. Stefan will coordinate his activities with the other ministers.

Please join us in welcoming Rev Jonasson as our congregation moves forward into the future.

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Volunteer Opportunities

As you look forward to the new year ahead, please save some time for UU volunteering. Best wishes for a meaningful and fun holiday season!

Volunteer Resources Team: Norm Cobb, Jim Gardiner, Carolyn Garlich, Brian Klowak, Barb Rudyk and Sonya Watson.

*“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”
William James*

Some Current UU Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday Hospitality Team: Contribute to our in-person connections by greeting people as they enter, doing prep or cleanup for our coffee time together, or collecting the offertory.

Religious Exploration (RE) Committee: Work with staff to develop children’s and intergenerational programming using recommendations of RE consultant from June. Pave the way for the future of this congregation.

RE Program Leaders: Share your love of children and foster their development by leading program segments. Criminal record and child abuse registry checks are prerequisites.

Membership Committee: Help us welcome newcomers and encourage long term UU involvement.

Social Justice Team/Green Action Committee: Join a socially engaged group that works for a just society and for our life-sustaining planet. Participate in peace walks, letter writing or other means of peaceful protest.

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Volunteer Opportunities con't

IT Support: Help committees offer Zoom meetings and programs, or computerize their information and records.

Special Event Volunteers: Assist with Adult Programming Committee special events such as coffeehouse set-up, door duty, or selling raffle tickets.

Let's explore volunteering you might enjoy, that meets the needs of the congregation. Please contact the Volunteer Resources Committee: vinc@uwinnipeg.mb.ca

Share your skills..Mobilize your values..Make new friends



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Adult Programming Committee (APC) Winter Offerings

by Shannon Breckman

Are You Curious About What You Didn't Learn in School?

APC has a program for you (with help from University of Alberta)!

"Indigenous Canada" is a highly acclaimed, free, online course which explores the different histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada. The course consists of 12 modules, each about 2 hours long, which can be accessed to suit your schedule.

Join the Conversation

APC invites you to join a weekly discussion group, facilitated by our own Pat Lane, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, to deepen our understanding of each module of the course (each week, we would individually complete the module on our own time, prior to the meeting).

The group will meet 12 Wednesdays 7:00 to about 8:15 pm, starting January 11th (through to March

29th). Depending on feedback from the group, after the first four weeks, the meetings might be every second week, covering two modules of the course at each meeting.

For more information about the course, search online at University of Alberta Indigenous Canada.

Please register for the APC program by emailing your name and phone number to adultprograms@uwinnipeg.mb.ca We will confirm your registration by email and give you further information about the discussion groups and registration for the U of Alberta course. If you have questions you can send an email to the address above, or contact Pat Lane (facilitator), Shannon Breckman or Carolyn Hill-Carroll (APC). Check the UU Directory for email addresses.

Don't be a bear and hibernate this winter! Get out and explore some new ideas!

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Share the Plate

by Lynn Clark

The Red Road Lodge is our Share the Plate partner for December. Their Mission: Provide Homes, Hope, Help and Healing”

Red Road Lodge is located at the corner of Main Street and Logan Avenue. The Lodge operates a transitional, supportive housing facility, providing homes to 47 individuals in recovery from addictions, suffering from a mental illness or often both. It is the only dry, safe single-room-occupancy hotel on the Main Street strip. The proven housing model, significantly contributes to long-term successful tenancies, addiction recovery, mental health wellness, reintegration, volunteer and employment opportunities.

In addition to their abstinence-focused approach to housing, the Lodge reaches out to the homeless community to provide drop-in hospitality in a culturally respectful environment with a strong focus on

Indigenous arts, culture and teachings. The Lodge has recently introduced two new healing programs. The first is called **“Earth Voice – The Healing Journey”** this Land based healing program and is based on Ecotherapy delivered via HDTV with fieldtrips to traditional wilderness locations in Manitoba and North Western Ontario. The second program is based on the Wellbriety” movement and is called **“Fresh Start or Oshki Maadiwin”** and incorporates elements of the well respected 12 Step AA program with the Seven Sacred Teachings and the Medicine Wheel. This is a more culturally focused approach to recovery and healing and helps to address Intergenerational Complex Trauma, a leading cause of substance abuse.

To walk the Red Road is an Indigenous saying meaning a deep commitment to living life in the best way possible — with an intrinsic respect for others, oneself, and all creation.



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A Note on the History of Unitarianism in Canada

by Gini Martin

Did you know that the General Conference of Unitarian and other Christian Churches met in Montreal in 1917? The first time the biennial conference was held outside of the United States.

A note in the Dictionary of UU Biography (on line) in the entry on Helen Reid states:

“The National Conference of Unitarians and other Christian Churches was restricted to churches in the United States until 1911 when the group voted to replace the word “National” in the organization’s title with the word “General”. This opened the conference to Canadian Unitarian Congregations.”

The 26th Biennial conference was held in San Francisco in 1915. Two hundred and sixty of the US delegates to the conference traveled across Canada. The group traveled from Boston to Montreal. Starting in Montreal they traveled via trans-continental train to Vancouver and then south to San Francisco. They stopped and visited local Canadian churches along the way.

Many of the Canadian Unitarian Churches were in crisis because so many men and ministers were away serving overseas in WW I.

The conference voted to provide \$4,000 dollars to help support Canadian congregations and also voted to hold the next biennial conference in 1917 in Montreal.



The Communicator

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg Mission Statement

We are a diverse and caring community that is loving, inclusive, responsible, and encouraging.

We are a learning community open to evidence and varied insights that encourages reflection and exploration.

We use what we learn to strengthen our relationships and our capacity.

We are a socially engaged community that works collaboratively, compassionately, and urgently for a just society and for our life-sustaining planet.

We are Caring, Learning and Socially Engaged.

Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to: communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

The deadline for the January 2023 issue is:

Tuesday, December 20th, 2022

The opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors, the editorial board, the newsletter editor, or the church minister.

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