

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg



## The Communicator

June 2021



Religious Exploration begins at 10:00 am for children and Sunday Services 10:30 am for church service

## The theme for June is Beauty

All services are streamed via Zoom; please check our website for the link/dial-in information: [uwinnipeg.mb.ca](http://uwinnipeg.mb.ca)

**June 6, 2021**

### ***Beauty as Well as Bread***

Leaders: Andrea James, DLFD

Coordinator: Dylan Fijal

Join us for our annual Flower Ceremony service as we look at the simple joy of beauty that inspired the creation of the first Unitarian Flower Ceremony.

**June 13, 2021**

### ***Mirth and Dignity***

Leader: Liz James

Coordinator: Odell Havsdotter

How do you steer in a world that is constantly shifting under your feet? Come hear the story of the 80,000+ person UU humour group, and its accidental beginning. And what it teaches us about navigating in a world of constant change.

**June 20, 2021**

Leaders: Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Coordinator: Steve Lennon

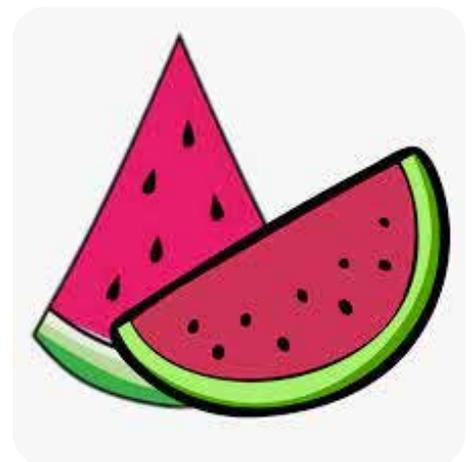
**TBA**

**June 27, 2021**

### ***Circle 'Round for Justice & Healing & Courage***

Please note, this service begins at 11:00 a.m. central time.

This powerful, communal worship experience, which is part of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, will be led by a team at the [First Universalist Church of Minneapolis](http://First Universalist Church of Minneapolis). Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in Sunday Service, [here](#) at 11:00 a.m.



hello,  
JUNE

*It's been a while since  
I've seen you last...*

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The deadline for the **July/ August 2021** issue is: **Monday, June 21st.**

## From the Minister's Study

by The Reverend Meghann Robern



Dear Members and Friends:

The last year has been a challenging and exhausting time for all of

us as we've faced the uncertainties, the fear, the dramatic changes to our lives that have come with this pandemic. I appreciate your support of our shared ministries through these times, your commitment to the well being of one another and this congregation, and your patience as we have learned together how to thrive as individuals and a congregation.

After conversation with the Board about my own needs for self care and renewal, I had planned to take my remaining study leave and vacation this summer. It was originally scheduled to begin June 7, but by the time you're reading this, it will have

already begun. I'll be on leave until August. I have made arrangements with my colleague, the Reverend Kimberley Debus, to be on call for pastoral emergencies and to support our amazing Pastoral Care Team while I'm away.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact one of our Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinators at 204.390.3299 (Bonnie Thiessen) or 204.802.4982 (Esmat Elhami).

For non-emergency Pastoral Care, please contact our team at [pastoral-care@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:pastoral-care@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

For staffing questions or concerns, please contact our Board President at [president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

For all other congregational inquiries, please contact the church office at [office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

In the spirit of love that holds us all,

*Rev. Meghann*



## Faith Development Notes

### June

- 1 Final Elders Reflections of the church year, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- 3 Wellspring: Sources with Andrea, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Youth: Cosmic Connections, 8:00 pm
- 5 Final Covenant Group Facilitators' Group, 10:00-12:00
- 8 Final 2nd Tuesday Covenant Group, 9:30-11:30 am
- 9 Final 2nd Wednesday Covenant Group, 6:00-8:00 pm
- 10 Youth: Cosmic Connections, 8:00 pm
- 15 Transgender Inclusion in Congregations (Afternoon Group), 10:00 - noon  
Final 3rd Tuesdays Covenant Group, 7:00-9:00 pm
- 16 Final 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group, 9:00-11:00 am
- 17 Final Wellspring: Sources with Andrea, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Youth: Cosmic Connections, 8:00 pm
- 18 Final 3rd Fridays Covenant Group, 9:30-11:30 am
- 20 Youth: Final Super Group, 5:00 pm (3rd Sundays)
- 22 Final Transgender Inclusion in Congregations (Afternoon Group) 11:00 - noon
- 24 Youth: Cosmic Connections, 8:00 pm
- 28 Final 4th Mondays Covenant Group, 7:00-9:00 pm

## Living Our Faith

by Andrea James, Director of Lifespan Faith Development



Last month our national [Dismantling Racism Study Group](#) released their [Final Report](#), after two years

of work. In it they make four recommendations:

1. Do the work of anti-racism **now!**
2. Listen to BIPOC Voices [BIPOC = people who are Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Colour or otherwise racialized]
3. Adopt an 8th principle as an explicit expression of our commitment to anti-racism. This

can be done as a national council or as individual congregations. *We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: "Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions."*

4. A willed commitment to racial justice work, demonstrated by an investment of resources at the national and congregational level. As evidenced by the [THRRG program](#), such a commitment makes a difference. It provides hope that a similar CUC investment will manifest in increased racial justice initiatives at the congregational level.
  - a. Create an anti-racism curriculum for White Canadian UUs that includes: - Understanding implicit and unconscious racial bias:

### Recommendations from the national Dismantling Racism Study Group, the 8th principle, and us

- i. White racial identity (whiteness)
- ii. The history and ongoing presence of racism in Canada
- iii. Statistics and data on the inequality experienced by BIPO
- iv. Identification of the ways that racism shows up in our congregations both systemically and interpersonally

- v. Stories of Canadian BIPOC UUA
- vi. Actions that White people can take to dismantle racism in their congregations and beyond
- b. Assemble and disseminate anti-racism educational and worship materials for congregations.
- c. Create a best practices guide for Canadian UU congregations and develop a program similar to the [Welcoming Congregation program](#) designed for LGBTQ++.

In last month's newsletter I talked about a program called Beloved Conversations (you can [find that here](#)). Registration for the Fall 2021 term of Beloved Conversations

Virtual: Within will begin on June 23; [sign up here](#) - I recommend it highly! I also invite you to join many other congregations and consider adopting an 8th principle (the one above, or the [original](#)) as a congregation.

In faith and with love,

Andrea

[dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

## Board Notes

by Lauren Bailey, President



Hello everyone,

Thank you to the former board members who agreed to join the current board from the May meeting through our

Annual General Meeting on June 6. With their help, we have managed to create the preparations for the AGM and review the requisite materials.

These former directors are: Tanya Brothers, Lynn Clark, Jon Cowtan, Odell Havsrottir and Bonnie Thiessen.

Thank you also to Kristin Jimmy, who has served her term on the board and will be cycling off at our AGM. Kristin has put in many years of board service and we wish her well in her "retirement."

Your board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 18:30 on Zoom. Are you interested in attending? The meetings are open to all church members - email me to get the Zoom link. Exceptions for some topics will occur for confidentiality reasons.

I want to hear from you. You can contact me at [president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca).

## Volunteer Admin Team - Keeping Our Church Office Running and Saving Money

by Liz Redston

### Looking for a few more to join the team

For almost a year now our team of volunteers have made sure that our phones and emails are answered, the calendar is up to date, weekly communications continue with our All Church Email updates, Rentals continue to be managed so we can earn revenue and our books are balanced with finances managed and in good order. All of this volunteer effort has allowed us to reduce our operating costs significantly with the elimination of the full time Office Admin role and part time Rentals Coordinator role **and** the team has committed to keeping these functions in place with volunteer effort for another year! Let's give a big shout out and thanks to Larry Phillips, Anne Bigelow, Laurie Marcella, Marjorie Doyle, Jenny Gerbasi, Darlene Payne and Liz Redston. Lorie Battershill will be joining our team.

The team met recently in response to a request from the budget planning team to look at how sustainable the volunteer strategy is for the coming year. The team felt strongly that it would be prudent to recommend budgeting to cover at least 50% of the fulltime salary of an Office Admin from the upcoming budget year and saving these funds to put towards a new hire sometime towards the end of the 2021/22 fiscal year. This will give us a good start on what we need to cover the salary for a new person joining approximately a year from now. And if the church opens and services resume before we have a new person in place. Then our volunteers have a strategy to make this work as well with coverage in the office so we have people in the building.

**Needed in the late fall for November to March for Finance and Membership Systems:** Larry Phillips is currently spending about 5 hours weekly managing our Financial and Membership systems. This is easily done by spending a short day in the office at church to work through invoices, bills, member pledges, and coordination with the Bookkeeping role. No specific experience is necessary but a comfort level with working online and familiar with simple Excel spreadsheets, banking and finances is helpful. Larry is available to train and to offer support and guidance throughout the five months. We would like to have coverage for this role determined by September so training can be easily arranged. Note: this role does *not* include the Accounting and Bookkeeping which Anne Bigelow does and Janet Toews has graciously offered to cover while Anne is away.

**Back Up Support:** Maybe you are not ready to help right now but want to express interest in future support needs that may arise. When the building opens and church services resume we may need a few people be available to be physically present. Or maybe you could support possible rental events by opening or closing the building. Let us know if you just want to be in the loop on what our future needs might be for volunteer support.

If you're interested in learning more, have questions or want to offer your assistance please contact the Admin Team at [office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

## A Candle to Remember

by Gini Martin

*The more we know of history, the more liberated we are. ~ Maya Angelou*

This month's Candle to Remember celebrates:

### Norbert and Maria (Maya) Čapeck

The Flower Ceremony we hold in June at which we exchange flowers is an annual expression of our connection to one another. Originally created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), founder of the Unitarian Church Czechoslovakia, it was brought to North America by Maria Capek.

Norbert was born in 1870 to a family in Bohemia. At 18 he left the Catholic Church, became a Baptist evangelist and founded churches in Eastern Europe. He came to the United States in 1914 and served Baptist churches in the U.S.

Maria was born in 1888 in Bohemia. In 1907 with her family she immigrated to the US. She was working as a librarian in New York when she met her future husband. Maria and Norbert married in 1917. Developing increasingly liberal views, Norbert left the Baptist ministry and church in 1919. The family joined the Unitarian Church in Orange, New Jersey.

In 1921, the couple returned to the newly independent Czechoslovakia and founded a Unitarian Church in Prague. Maria was

ordained there probably in 1922.

The new church had many members who had left other religions to become Unitarians. In June 1923, it was decided to create a new ritual for their congregation: a Flower Celebration, where everyone exchanged flowers to symbolize how all human

had a long history of social service. Under the leadership of Maria Capek from 1940 -1943, the church prospered. Maria held the flower ceremony there.

At the end of 1943, Maria left New Bedford and was at the headquarters of the American Unitarian Association in Boston, doing work for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, helping to provide relief to Europeans after the Second World War. In 1947, she joined the organization Relief for Czechoslovakia.

Sadly, while Maria was in the United States, in 1941 Rev. Capek was arrested by the Gestapo. He was put to death in a Nazi prison camp

in October 1942. Maria did not learn of his death until 1945 at the end of World War II. After the war, Maria stayed in the United States, deeply saddened by her husband's death. She continued her relief work and died in 1966.

Their legacy of the Flower ceremony is remembered and celebrated in many Unitarian-Universalist churches – a favorite and cherished service for many of us.



beings are connected. During the Capeks' ministry in Prague, the congregation by 1941 had increased to 3200 members, the largest Unitarian church in the world at the time.

After the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938, Maria returned to the U.S. to raise funds for relief work. When she was unable to return, in 1940, she became the minister of a Unitarian church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The church

## UU Celebration Park Update

by Liz Redston

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Feedback Sessions and Survey and helped us carry on planning, knowing your thoughts and feelings about this important project. As a quick recap – we are working on a development plan that will offer the following:

- Memorial Path Walk Way on the west side of the building – a place to honour loved ones with a memorial plaque on special wall/fence area as well as other types of commemorative markers like engraved paving stones
- Scatter garden for the cremated remains of loved ones at the front south east corner of the building with a sitting bench area
- Riverside Reflection sitting area with benches by the big tree in the back yard
- Gathering area for events with Pergola or structure to support services, social events, weddings, memorials and all sorts of gatherings for our church and community

- The goal is to preserve the natural beauty and enhance our property in ways that allow us to use and enjoy the space supporting a wide variety of activities for people of all ages in our church and sharing with broader community via rentals and other special events

We had 33 people respond to the online survey about this project and end of life planning. Here are a few highlights of what we learned:

- 73% said “I like the UU Celebration Park plan and the features presented in this plan”
- 82% are in favour of having a Scatter Garden on our property for cremated remains
- 76% are in favour of having an area dedicated to Memorial plaques or markers
- 82% have not formalized any plans as of yet regarding their own end of life body disposition plans

However ...

- 42% are thinking of cremation and another 42% are in favour of a green burial or other green option
- 58% are in favour of some kind of memorial marker for themselves
- 67% are in favour of scattering their ashes – in a garden, a favourite spot or a variety of locations

We feel there is strong positive support for the UU Celebration Park project and look forward to providing more update at the June 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Our next steps are to formalize the conceptual design with the help of our landscape architects HTFC who have worked with us on all of the property development project plans. We hope to have this stage completed over the summer and when we have our next Annual General Meeting in the fall there will be a motion to approve the plan. We look forward to sharing more information as this project continues to evolve and welcome your feedback and comments. Members of this working group include Peter Miller, Esther Kathryn, Lois Whyte, Shirley Kitchen, Gini Martin and Liz Redston.



## Pros and Cons of a Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI)

Paula Keirstead, Member of A Team and Social Justice Team and Adina Lyon, Member of Social Justice Team

The reality of people living in poverty in our society has been an ongoing important social justice issue of concern to our congregation. A number of significant initiatives have been established in our church to address this reality such as our Thursday Harvest Manitoba Food Bank and our Friends of Refuge fundraising activities to name just two.

For both the A Team and the Social Justice Team, alleviating the impact of poverty in the lives of our most vulnerable members of society is a priority issue. The double jeopardy that people living with a disability experience living in poverty is a specific issue we want to lift up for scrutiny.

We have highlighted quoted information from authors in the two links dealing with the issues surrounding the establishment of a Guaranteed Liveable Income in Canada.

1. Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) *JUSTnews* - [JUSTnews Vol. 23 #1 Winter 2021 Basic Income](#):

- Lynn Armstrong (CUSJ President): *This issue on Basic Income is particularly timely as it was prepared during the COVID-19 crisis when the need for fairer distribution of resources is so glaring.*

- Joan MacNeil: *We should respect the lived experiences of participants in Canada's BI pilots. Participants in Manitoba (1970s) and Ontario (2018-19) reported that their standard of living improved, enabling them to shift out of "crisis mode" and take steps toward a better future.*
- Leslie Kemp: *A key point of debate among those who support or oppose a guaranteed income is around the merits of universal, flat-rate benefits versus an employment-based social policy which provides benefits such as unemployment insurance, pensions, childcare and social assistance. . . . Many proponents of a basic income see its key value in fairness: that all individuals are entitled to a certain amount of money regardless of their life situation and behaviour. . . . This "solution," would not, on its own, address wealth inequality, the lack of taxation paid by high income people and corporations, the housing crisis and more.*
- Chava Finkler and Nancy Vander Plaats: *The Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) delivered income support to Canadians rapidly and efficiently. CERB's success generated interest in Universal Basic Income (UBI). The current*

*discussion, however, ignores disabled persons' concerns. This article raises disability-specific issues related to Universal Basic Income. . . . There are disability-specific concerns. First, if UBI is instituted, disabled persons should receive an additional sum, specifically to address the cost of disability-related devices or supports e.g., a walker, hearing aids, etc. Disabled persons should also receive a drug card, a dental card and subsidized transportation.*

2. Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) August 5, 2020 Statement - <https://cuc.ca/cuc-releases-statement-on-guaranteed-income-august-5-2020/>:

- *The CUC's National Voice Team has released a statement calling on the federal government to include a Guaranteed Livable Income program in its pandemic recovery plans.*  
*Information is only powerful if it motivates action!* After reading this article if you draw a conclusion about the GLI, relay your views by communicating with your Member of Parliament as soon as possible! The CUC link includes a sample letter. Please join our Church community in advancing and developing our responses to issues such as this.

## Share the Plate

by Marlene Schellenberg



The Sunday morning Offering is a weekly ritual of giving and one expression of our 7 Principles

in action. As part of the Offering, the Share the Plate program allows us to practise that form of love we call generosity. Through Share the Plate – where we share with a local non-profit organization – each of us has an opportunity to make a difference in the wider community, even by sharing a dollar or two. Each month we share one half of our open plate cash offerings with a charity nominated by one of our members.

**The Share the Plate Partner for June 2021: Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Inc. (PWRC)**

Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Inc. (PWRC) is a non-profit organization whose main goal is to treat injured and orphaned wildlife and to successfully release them back into their natural habitat. To maximize survival rates and ensure integration once in the wildlife population, PWRC uses effective and state of the art rehabilitation techniques, such as integrative medical therapies, including both conventional and homeopathic medications, as well as attention to environmental enrichment techniques. The PWRC also takes an active role in public education regarding wildlife issues as well as research activities including tracking released animals and documenting the success of natural treatments to assist other wildlife rehabilitation organizations.



## Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to: [communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca) or 204.663.2126

The **deadline** for the **July/August 2021** issue is: **Monday, June 21st, 2021**

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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