

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator

March 2022

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

The theme for March is Balance

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The deadline for the April 2022 issue is **Monday, March 21st, 2022**

March 6, 2022

Mind The Gap

Leader: Cate Ziegler

Coordinators: Marian Siemens, Steve Lennon

In music we look for the interval between notes; in sculpture the light provides context and dimension. In mindfulness the space between thoughts is an opportunity. Clarity, patience, compassion, and a connection with the spirit can reside in this space. Join us on March 6th as we explore the meditative element of "minding the gap."

March 13, 2022

A Certainty of Honour

Leader: Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Coordinator: Odell Havsdottir

Stefania Sigurdsson was a longtime member of this congregation and a force of nature. She was the epitome of humourist Garrison Keillor's tagline about Lake Wobegon – "where all the women are strong" – but she was more than just strong. Yes, she was tough and tenacious, but she was also kind and generous. And she was honourable. Stefania – or Bunny, as her closest friends called her – always reminded me of Eleanor Roosevelt and, at her

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Sunday Services continued

memorial service, Lois Whyte read a passage from Adlai Stevenson's eulogy for the former First Lady that ended by describing her as "a certainty of honour." Church history too often focuses on the tenure of ministers while ignoring the critical leadership of laypersons. Today, we will look for inspiration in the life of an everyday congregant.

March 20, 2022

A Deeper Understanding of Mental Health and Addictions

Leaders: Angela McCaughan, Executive Director of SSCOPE, and Social Justice/Green Action Team

Coordinator: Steve Lennon, Marian Siemens

Often times, we as a society focus on the outward appearance and actions of a person, without taking into consideration what they may be living with

behind the scenes. That is the reality of the majority of individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and those living with addictions. We need to take into consideration that they may need more support from a mental health perspective, and that, if provided with that support, they would be in a very different situation altogether.

March 27, 2022

Ô Nuit

Leader: Steve Lennon

Coordinator: Kelvin Seifert

Inspired by a beautiful old French musical ode to nighttime, by Jean-Philippe Rameau, and by a *Nocturne* exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery years ago, Steve looks at our emotional and spiritual connections to the night, and to the darkness.



Rev. Meghann Robern Away

First UU Church of Winnipeg is proud to meet the Fair Compensation Guidelines of the UUA. These guidelines ensure that we take good care of our professional staff and recognize the importance of adequate paid vacation time (four weeks per year), as well as study leave (four weeks per year) and sabbatical (one month for each year of service). Rev. Robern will be combining these three portions of her contract for the next six months to return July 1, 2022. We wish her rest and renewal during her absence.

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Board Notes

by Marlene Schellenberg, President

Winter is often a time to hibernate; it is a time we use to reflect and contemplate while we wait for the warmth of spring and summer.

Not so this winter at First UU of Winnipeg. Our volunteers are keeping our community humming. The Sunday Services Team numbering almost 20 people if you count the tech support folks, are working like a well-oiled machine creating beautiful services every Sunday morning. The choir, even though we don't see them singing, can be heard thanks to the Sunday Services Music Team. This group of passionate folks have stepped forward to support the SunServ Team while we continue our search for a new Music Director. They are leaning on recordings of performances done by our choir both recently and in the past when Esther Kathryn was our Music Director.

The Social Justice and Green Action folks have joined forces to act on our Mission to remain socially engaged. Our Administration Team of volunteers work in the background keeping our communication system running. The Pastoral Care Team continues to thoughtfully develop and adapt how we express care for each other to align with our values and Mission.

A small group of folks are continuing to develop the best plan for offering hybrid services (in-person and on

Zoom) so that when we re-open – yes, the Board is tentatively looking at May 1 – no one will be excluded and our most vulnerable leaders and congregants will feel safe participating in a way that is most comfortable for them.

The Handling Conflict Constructively Working Group has begun the workshop series with Jan Schmidt to deepen our learning about how conflict can be a catalyst for change. And almost every committee was represented at *Living into our Mission - Part 1*. Look for the Sign Up for *Part 2* March 19 in the All-Church email.

As for the Board, we are continuing to examine and adapt or change the systems and policies as recommended by the Shared Ministry Team. We are adding to the list of policies for revision that the previous Board began. Currently, we are gathering models for staff evaluation recommended by the CUC and the UUA. Also, we are examining new models for stewardship and on-going donation options.

With all this exciting work you are passionate about, we are confident that you will also respond as you are able to requests for financial contributions.

In his 2-part sermon "Get Back", Steve Lennon talked about feeling like we are living in Bizarro's world where things we knew at one time no longer have the same meaning. He said it takes powerful medicine to heal us from feeling this way. He said our words and

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caring are that powerful medicine. Healing occurs every time we respond in a way that is loving, inclusive, responsible, and encouraging and grows the spirit of this community. The work each of us does that is grounded in caring is the healing we need.

*In gratitude for your caring,
Marlene Schellenberg*

Living into Our Mission

**Part 2: March 19
10 am - 12 noon**

**All Committee*/Board Workshops
Facilitated by Deb Weiner**

[Sign Up here](#)

Here's how we'll continue the work we started in Part 1:

How does our work express appreciation of each other and our Mission? How can we address and remove potential barriers to living into our Mission?

Even if you weren't able to attend Part 1, please feel free to attend on March 19. If you want to see what you missed, check out the Zoom recording here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I3IatWt641ZPSsxpTQTfq6NT-6cBCrJjOFMxILual8SI/edit?usp=sharing>

*Not connected to a committee? Not to worry; there's room for any interested persons. Not sure if you should attend? Anyone interested in our future is welcome. Contact Marlene Schellenberg at president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca or (204)960-3218 for information.

Grief Circle – Update



Given the number of wonderful online opportunities our church is offering on weekends this next little while, your Pastoral Care Team will **not be holding** our **Grief**

Circle on **Saturday** these next two months.

Instead, we invite those who would like to participate in a **Grief Circle** to let us know. **We will gladly schedule a circle at a time that works for you!** So just let us know – drop us a note:

New Associates for The Pastoral Care Team

by Bonnie Thiessen

Please join us in welcoming Paula Wachs and Brian Klowak to our Pastoral Care Team. Their fresh perspectives, caring presence and new energy is most welcome.



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Volunteer Corner

by Sonya Watson
for Volunteer Resources Committee (VRC)



Say hello to Board member Marjorie Doyle. As one who cares so much about the health of our congregation, Marjorie joined the Board of Directors last June with a hearty 'yes'. A real

plus is Marjorie's experience and perspectives from being on other boards including her condo, Provincial and National Girl Guides, and the University of Manitoba Retirees Association. Marjorie is presently the Secretary and a member of the Executive for our FUUW Board of Directors.

Marjorie says, "I'm now more aware of the inner workings of our church - its struggles and triumphs." Being on the Board has made Marjorie feel more connected to the church and meeting and getting to know the other members of the Board in a deeper way has made the work easier. They know each other's strengths and even some of their weaknesses.

Marjorie feels that the present

Board is a good mix of people of all ages who are working very hard together as a team. She is excited by what they can accomplish! They're looking forward to reopening the church and having our hybrid services. The church now has people attending from different parts of Canada and the U.S. The Board is presenting opportunities for people to learn about Conflict Resolution, new directions for both our church and our Religious Exploration.

We are asking church members to please nominate possible candidates to the Board, within the next week. Who do you know who is keen to help shape church direction and success? We're looking for dedicated team players with strong communication and administrative skills. Experience in communications/public relations or fundraising would be particularly helpful. Nominees will have been church members for one year or longer.

Someone in mind? To nominate a potential candidate, please email vrc@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca, or call Norm Cobb at 204-647-0484 or Carolyn Garlich at 204-452-9017. Thanks for giving this some thought. And special thanks to all Board members currently serving our congregation.

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Imagining our Future Religious Exploration Program

Greetings! I'm Deborah Weiner, and I'm pleased to work with the First Unitarian Universalist community in Winnipeg as Transitional Religious Education Consultant. I will be working with my colleague, Lily Rappaport, also a transitional religious education specialist, as we move this work forward.

Lily and I will be working together to help you explore the congregation's unique religious education identity – where you are today and where you would like to be in the future. Over the next months we will be working in collaboration with the church's Religious Exploration Committee to provide guidance and support in achieving the following goals:

- Explore new visions for the congregation's religious exploration program and build support for a program that will excite and engage the congregation.
- Identify, through conversations with some of the congregation's current and recent families and members, what excites them about the congregation, what an energized vision for involving children, youth and families would look and feel like.

In February we offered facilitated group conversations and interviews to begin discussions on the mission, vision and health of the RE program and to help lay a foundation for the future

implementation of a revitalized RE program. **These were held on Monday, February 21 from 7:00-8:30 PM CST, and Sunday, February 27, from 3-4:30 CST.**

We need **YOU** to be part of this work! In March we will be reaching out to RE families and participants to engage in further exploration of the congregation's unique religious education identity. These conversations will happen in one-on-one sessions as well as in small groups. These are opportunities for you to share your perspective and experiences in your RE program and to help shape its future. Children and youth are also invited to participate in this process!

We look forward to hearing your stories and aspirations and to working with you in reimagining, reinvigorating religious exploration program with your congregation during this time of change and opportunity.



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New Endowment Fund Created at The Winnipeg Foundation

by James Watson



A new endowment fund has been established at The Winnipeg Foundation (TWF) in the name of First

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg (FUUW).

Putting the FUUW's name out in front of more potential donors is one of the main reasons for creating the fund with Canada's first community foundation which was established in 1921. Other advantages include a professional investment team, prudent investment and financial management practices that maintain purchasing power of the endowment in perpetuity, low cost, and yearly payments to FUUW.

The conversation to create this new fund began two years ago. Endowment fund trustees wanted to diversify current investments to increase income for the church. The original idea was to transfer some funds from low-return GICs (Guaranteed Investment Certificates) to TWF. Unfortunately, trustees

soon realized that, according to our by-laws, this transfer could not materialize. Undaunted and with approval of the church's Board of Directors, work continued on establishing an additional endowment fund at TWF in the church's name and it would report to the church's endowment fund trustees.

Please know that only new money, directly donated by individuals, will go into this new fund.

You can make a donation at <https://www.mycharitytools.com/gift/wpgfdn/donate?fund=2699> or by clicking on the GIVE logo or MAKE A GIFT flag on TWF's home page <https://www.wpgfdn.org/> and using the 'Search for a Fund' link. After your gift is processed a tax receipt will be sent to you by email. (To ensure your electronic charitable receipt is delivered to your email address, add TWF email address – info@wpgfdn.org – to your "Safe Senders" list.)

Funds donated to the FUUW Endowment Fund at TWF become vested in the foundation.

The church's current endowment fund managed by volunteer trustees continues to exist under FUUW by-laws.

In 2021, TWF received more than \$189.8 million in gifts and distributed \$84.9 million to the community.



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Introducing Sheila Farago Rental Director

by Marlene Schellenberg



The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Sheila Farago as our new Rental Director. She brings a wealth of work experience in the funeral services

industry, systems consulting, and now for the past many years as an entrepreneur with her own business My Little Secret, helping clients in many facets of their lives. Sheila can tell you in her own words a little about herself:

"I am very happy to join the First UU Church of Winnipeg family as the new Rental Director. A little about me - I have three lovely kids. My oldest daughter and her husband live in Courtney, BC. My middle daughter is just starting in the work force as a legal assistant and my son just turned 14. My husband and I are enjoying our time as the kids get older and find their own way. Our house would not be complete without our three cats. Look forward to meeting everyone soon."

Vespers Services

by Janine Reid



Too many tabs open? Join us for a weekly mind refresh on Tuesday at 6 pm CST on Zoom for our rejuvenated Vespers service. Consider building it into your flow as a weekly ritual, or dip in when you need a boost. You

will be offered a half hour of music and meditative readings to consider on your spiritual journey, followed by an optional half hour of conversation and connection with the group participants. The zoom link is listed on our website and will be the same every week.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93643328083?pwd=eX-hiMU1OQ2Ztb1cybU81RndtU3V5dz09>

Meeting ID: 936 4332 8083

Passcode: 928082

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The Unitarian Universalist Association: 1961

by Gini Martin



In historical material, is an individual identified

as Unitarian or Unitarian Universalist or Universalist? It all depends on the date. Historically, the denominations were separate groups until 1961. That year, The American Unitarian Association (AUA) and the Universalist Church of America joined and became the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). A possible merger had been discussed for some years. Both groups were based in the U.S. but had member congregations in Canada.

The first Universalist association was founded in 1783. Known from 1866 as the Universalist General Convention, the name was changed to the Universalist Church of America in 1942. The American Unitarian Association was founded in 1824. Many, but not all, of the early Unitarians and Universalists originally came to Canada from the United States.

In Canada in 1961, Unitarians outnumbered Universalists about one hundred to one but in the U.S., the ratio was about five to two. There were three Universalist congregations in Canada at Olinda, Ontario, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and North Hatley, Quebec. All three congregations still exist.

The Halifax church, founded in 1837, is named the Universalist Unitarian Church.

The North Hatley congregation, now named UUestrie, says on its website 'Greetings...a liberal spiritual community first gathered in 1886 as the First Universalist Church of North Hatley...'

About the same time of the merger, in 1961, The Canadian Unitarian Council (French: *Conseil unitarien du Canada*) (**CUC**) was established, initially as the national organization for Canadians belonging to the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#). Between 1961 and 2002, almost all member congregations of the CUC were also members of the UUA and most services to congregations in Canada were provided by the UUA.

However, in 2002, the CUC formally became a separate entity from the UUA, although the UUA continues to provide ministerial settlement services. Some Canadian congregations have continued to be members of both the CUC and the UUA, while most congregations are only members of the CUC. The Canadian Unitarian Council is the national body for Unitarian Universalist congregations in Canada and is a member of the [International Council of Unitarians and Universalists](#).

Currently there are 47 UU congregations in Canada. Listed on the CUC website. There are 19 in Ontario, 16 in BC, 4 in Alberta, 3 in Quebec, 2 in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and 1 each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. All

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The Unitarian Universalist Association: 1961 continued

have websites with information about the congregation, history, minister, etc.

The American Universalists were pioneers in the ordination of women. The first was Fidelia Gillette. Rev. Gillett served the Bloomfield (Ontario) Universalist church in 1888 -1889. She may have been the first woman who was an ordained minister to serve a congregation in Canada.

So if the material refers to someone who lived before 1961, the identification will be either Unitarian or Universalist. If after that date, the identification may be Unitarian Universalist.



Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to: communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca
The **deadline** for the **April 2022** issue is:
Monday, March 21st, 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.

Who's Who

Minister - on sabbatical

the Reverend Meghann Robern
minister@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Vacant

dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Consultant

Deb Weiner (January 1-April 30, 2022)

Lay Chaplain

Darlene Payne

Board President

Marlene Schellenberg

president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Bonnie Thiessen and Esmat Elhami

pastoralcare@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Music Director & Choir Accompanist

Vacant

music@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Caretaker

Ray Aikens

Webmaster

Karin Carlson

webmaster@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Sheila Farago

rentals@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Newsletter Editor

Marjorie Doyle

communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Editorial Assistant

Linda Henderson

Vacant - Office Administrator

office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Winnipeg**

**603 Wellington Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3M 0A7**

Telephone: 204.474.1261

Fax: 204.284.2639

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

www.uuwinnipeg.mb.ca