

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator

April 2023

Sunday Services via Zoom and in sanctuary at 10:30 am

The theme for April is Resistance

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**The deadline for the May 2023
Communicator is
Thursday, April 20th, 2023**

April Love

April 2, 2023

Service Leader: Steve Lennon

Service Coordinator:

Marian Siemens

April love! – after the long, hard winter, we have finally made it to spring – the land moist with the generosity of melting winter snows, our spirited, giddy minds sodden with all the possibilities of the new growing season. Come join Steve for this frolic, and fall in love again with April!

Pilgrims on the Emmaus Road

April 9, 2023

Service Leader:

Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Service Coordinator: Jill Moats

Easter. The Choir will sing.

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Sunday Services cont'd

Better Together

April 16, 2023

Service Leader: Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Service Coordinator:

Marian Siemens

New member recognition service; the spiritual importance of religious community.

Road to Resilience

April 23, 2023

**Service Leaders: Curt Hull,
Climate Change Connection, and the
Green Action/Social Justice Team**

Service Coordinator: Cate Ziegler

Climate resilience means we must learn to provide for our essential

needs without fossil fuels. Curt Hull, Project Manager at Climate Change Connection, investigates how we might farm, heat all our buildings, and move goods and people sustainably with the help of Manitoba's abundant renewable electricity.

A forum on **Pathways to Zero Carbon Buildings** follows the service at noon. *We will offer this forum both in person and on zoom. Same link at Sunday Services.*

Title TBD

April 30, 2023

Service Leader:

Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Service Coordinator: Norm Cobb

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Sing Into Spring!

by Sonya Watson



Ready for some fun?
Stick around for a free lunch after
church on Sunday, April 16, from noon - 2:30.
We'll hear a brief tribute to our UU volunteers, as it's
Canada's Volunteer Week.

Then spring into action for some live music
(think karaoke!)

Say tuned for details. All ages welcome -
see you there!

*Brought to you by Adult Programming, Volunteer
Resources and the Board.*

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Board Notes

by Paula Keirstead



As signs of spring begin to peek out of our snowy landscape I take a moment to review my many time and volunteer commitments.

My goal is to see what I can wiggle my way out of so I can just focus on enjoying our warmer weather!

So let's see, I don't want to give up my chair exercises three times a week cause this keeps me limber. Don't want to give up my biweekly massage appointments as it relieves my muscles and joint pain so well! It also makes me feel so pampered! Should I cut back on my in person biweekly visits with my three different friends or my biweekly zoom visit with my other two friends? Or my weekly visit with my sister from another mister. No way! These visits contribute to me feeling cared for and loved.

Can't stop singing with the two choirs I belong to as singing is one way I choose to offer my talent to the community! Of course I can't stop running around town on my scooter Emerald! In fact I hope to increase how much I am out and about as the weather warms up.

Time to review my volunteer com-

mitments. What takes up most of my available time is sitting on our church board. Why did I feel compelled to do this you might ask? When I first joined the board I must admit I felt a bit overwhelmed. I asked myself what had I got myself into! I realized that lots of good work was being done by my fellow board members and lots of work was needing to be done.

From my very first meeting I started to realize the many responsibilities the board deals with. What I also realized was the amazing amount of work and activities going on in our church! The number of volunteers involved in keeping our church running and growing is impressive! I also felt so welcomed and valued by my board colleagues. The skill and talents of our board members has ensured that we meet in a respectful committed atmosphere. I feel like I am part of an energized group of people who sincerely want to lead and guide our church on a successful loving path.

I started attending this church approximately five years ago and became a member within my first four months of attendance. After retiring I knew I wanted to find a community to join. Being a board member provides me an opportunity to express my joy in being part of our caring and loving community.

Come join us and enjoy the ride!

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Stewardship and Generosity

by Peter Miller, Treasurer



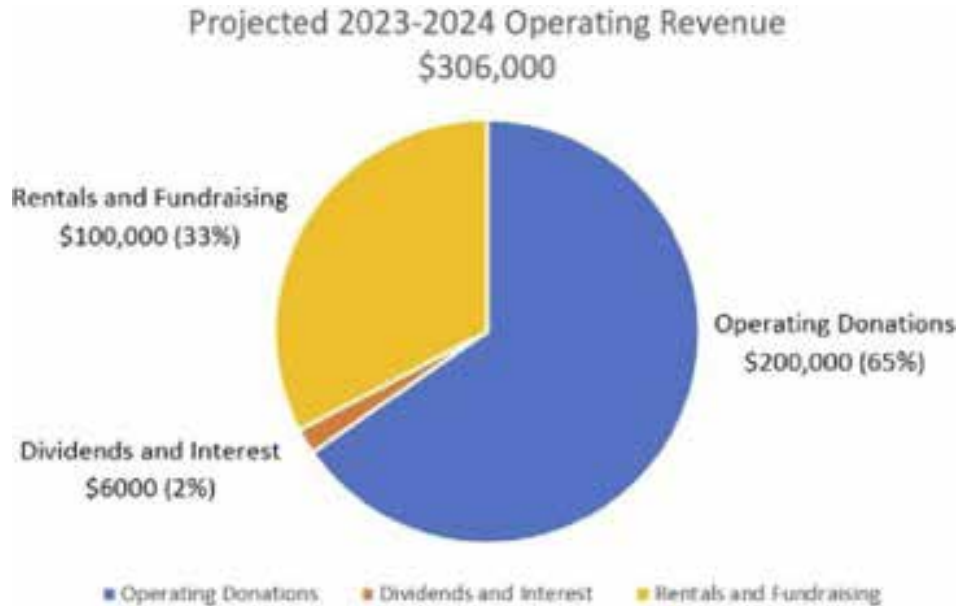
April is pledging month, when we remind ourselves that our church exists and thrives only because members and friends care enough to invest themselves and their resources in what we do. Remarkably, “we” have been doing this in Winnipeg, through thick and thin, since 1891.

- Kickoff is Sunday, April 2 after church. Stay for a hybrid event, with a pizza lunch for folks in the Sanctuary. This is your opportunity for a financial update and discussion of a high-level projection for next year with our Treasurer, Peter Miller.
- Throughout the April pledge drive month, in personal visitations, phone calls, and email communication, we will be focusing on three pertinent questions, and gathering feedback. What is your main concern about our church? What is the greatest opportunity that our church faces right now? What do you find most engaging about our church?
- Check out the new [Stewardship and Generosity](#) and [Give](#) pages that Karin Carlson created for us and Larry Phillips helped implement. Credit card donations are now received on our own site rather than Canada-Helps and you can text **give** to **1 204 817 8771 to donate**. **Automatic withdrawal from your bank account continues to be** the most efficient and cost-effective way to fulfill your pledge. [Pledge here](#).
- You can also download [Budgeting 101 – Thinking about our 2023-2024 budget](#). This is an unofficial projection of possible income and expenses to provide food for thought on the choices we face together and individually. Did you know that almost 2/3 of our operating income comes from your donations, which support our staff? Another third, from rentals and fundraising, pays for building expenses. Dividends and interest raise 2%. Next page is a pie chart of projected income and expenses.

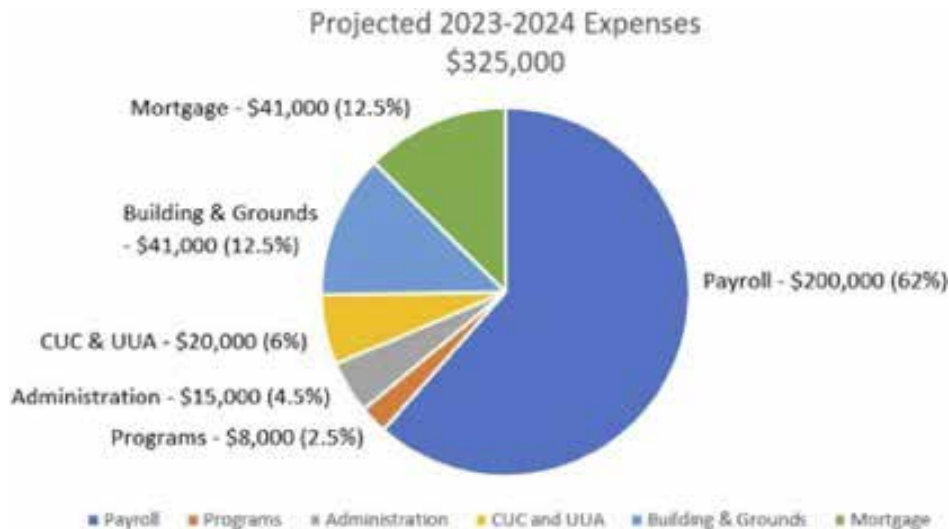
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Stewardship and Generosity cont'd



- And here are Projected Expenses, which are higher. What are we going to do about that?



- Gifts of kindness, time, skills, passion, and money make visible the love and generosity that sustain our community and its [mission](#). All are needed for us to thrive. **Let's turn up for the upturn and make our renewal sustainable!**

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Volunteering Weaves Us Together

by Sonya Watson for Volunteer Resources Committee

Congratulations UU volunteers! You are part of the esteemed group of 24 million individuals volunteering in Canada this year!

According to Volunteer Canada, National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration intended to spur an important conversation – why volunteers matter. The National Volunteer Week theme for April 2023 is **Volunteering Weaves Us Together**. We're interconnected, supportive and vibrant volunteers and staff at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg.

Think of all the things at church that wouldn't get done if volunteers didn't step up. Just to name a few things:

- No coffee or raisin bread after church on Sundays
 - No breadth of programming for children and youth
 - No committee planning a range of creative and inspiring Sunday services
 - No Board of Directors accepting responsibility for the legal and financial administration of the church
 - No office coverage
 - No regular in-person pastoral care visiting
 - No special events such as picnics, coffee houses or movie discussions
 - No archiving of the church's rich history
 - No help to maintain the church building and beautifully flowered grounds
 - No 'sharing the plate' offerings to local non-profit organizations
 - No Harvest food bank
 - No weekly emails or monthly newsletters to help keep us informed
- You get the idea.

It's been a bit challenging the past few years encouraging new volunteers to join seasoned folks for committee work or ad hoc events. Is your church participation limited to joining us for Sunday services? You

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Volunteering Weaves Us Together cont'd

may be surprised at how meaningful and enjoyable UU volunteering can be. Current volunteer opportunities can be found on the church website, or in the church lobby pamphlet rack. Or contact the Volunteer Resources team at vrc@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca for a personal discussion of ways to share your skills, mobilize your values or make new friends.

A word about volunteer/staff partnerships. We are most grateful to work in tandem with skilled and caring staff: our two ministers, coordinator of lifespan faith development, webmaster, choir director, accompanist, IT staff, caretaker, and rentals director.

William Shakespeare commented that "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." A heartfelt thank you to all UU volunteers for sharing your immeasurable gifts with us!



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Delegation: Using a Committee Email Together

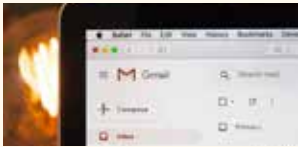
by Peter Miller

TRAINING: EMAIL

GMail Guidebook

For BOD members, committee chairs, and committee members

Karin Carlson, Webmaster First UU Church of Winnipeg



INTRODUCTION

This document will give you an overview of how we use Gmail at the First UU Church, including policies. It also gives instructions for logging in to email, assigning a delegate, becoming a delegate, and managing email as a delegate. Tips and tricks for Gmail productivity and additional resources are also covered.

How to use this document

Select (click or tap) a heading in the Table of Contents to jump to a particular section in the document. You can also use the OUTLINE panel on the left to jump to a section.

If you want to contribute to the document, feel free to leave a comment.

Our church assigns email addresses to our committees and teams, e.g., board@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca or worship@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca.

How can different team members access the

team's shared email address? The answer is through delegation. Our Webmaster, Karin Carlson, has prepared both a [blog](#) and [guidebook](#) on how that can be done.

In a nutshell, Gmail delegation allows people other than the one person with the committee's email password to log in to a committee's email with their own account. This allows everyone to keep track of their own login passwords and recovery information while preserving the integrity of the committee email.

For further information, first read the [delegation blog](#) and [Gmail Guidebook](#). If you still have questions, contact the Webmaster [Karin Carlson](#).

Adult Programming Committee Pop-Up Project

by Shnnon Breckman

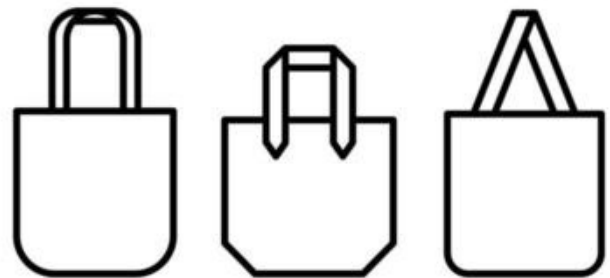
Craftivism

Create a Tote Bag - one for yourself and one for Harvest.
Date: **April 15th (10:00 - 3:00ish)**
Place: **Unitarian Universalist Church (603 Wellington Crescent)**

We will be sewing cloth grocery/tote bags. Sewing machines and materials will be supplied. Bring a machine if you have one. Can't sew? We'll teach you!

Please email any questions, and your intention to attend to adultprograms@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca.

We need to know numbers to plan supplies.



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Toilet Talk –

Making our downstairs washrooms friendly to all.

by Peter Miller

On March 10, 2023, A-Team, Board and RE representatives reached a consensus on how to make our basement washrooms more welcoming to all. Sara Allen summarized the consensus as follows.

Purpose: To be intentionally welcoming to the community and put the 8th principle into action.

- This pilot has been designed to intentionally welcome three groups: Transgender People and Those exploring Gender Expression, People with Caregivers, and People with Young Children.

What: A 6-month gender-inclusive washroom pilot.

- The multi-occupancy washrooms in the basement are the focus of this pilot.
- The current Male and Female icons outside the washrooms will remain up.
- Icons representing what is inside the washrooms will be posted next to the existing signs. Both washrooms will have icons of a toilet, a baby changing surface, and the accessibility symbol (a person in

a wheelchair). The current Men's washroom will also have an icon of a urinal.

- Information Signs declare: **Choose the washroom that best fits your needs!** They also point to private washroom alternatives on the first and second floors and cite our 8th principle covenant to overcome systemic barriers to full inclusion. These signs will be posted outside both downstairs washrooms.

Feedback: There will be a sign asking for feedback placed between the washrooms.

- Below the sign will be a box with provided paper and pens/pencils. People do not need to sign their feedback for it to be counted.
- Feedback will be collected online through emails sent to the aim@uwinnipeg.mb.ca email address.
- At the 3-month mark (mid-pilot) and 6-month mark (end of pilot), feedback will be summarized and presented to the Board by a member of the AIM Team.

The Board ratified this consensus proposal at its meeting on March 21st.

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Toilet Talk cont'd

Thanks are due to Sara Allen, Diane Pearce and the A-Team for their research, engagement, and persistence in creating welcoming washroom spaces, including a Sunday service last May, two Communicator articles in the fall, responses to queries and comments, and several proposals to the Board until we found one acceptable to all.

Thanks are also due to all parties for demonstrating the [mutual learning model of decision-making](#) adopted in [Mission into Action](#).

[Toilet Talk background slides](#) describe issues and alternatives for the consensus discussion.



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2023 – Scatter Garden Project Update - We need your feedback

by Liz Redston



As we welcome the coming spring weather and look forward to

engaging and growing in our Church community, we can also look forward to furthering special projects like our UU Celebration Park Scatter Garden. In June of last year we voted to approve the conceptual design plans for UU Celebration Park and adopted the Scatter Garden as our first initiative. The Scatter Garden will be a beautiful space next to our front walkway on the east side of the Sanctuary where cremated remains of our members and friends can be lovingly placed and honoured.

We are looking for your input in the survey on the next page to help guide our planning and fundraising for the Scatter Garden. We need approximately \$5000 - \$7000 to create the Scatter Garden depending on how much volunteer support versus paid labour we need to complete the work. One way to raise funds is to invite members to prepay their memorial planning similar to what many do at other private or city run

cemeteries and funeral planning services. Have you begun the process of looking at your end of life memorial planning? Have you looked at how much these services can cost?

As a member of our church community we offer the following current and newly proposed end of life celebration and memorial planning options:

- Currently offered: Memorial or Celebration of Life service in Sanctuary with Minister (or Lay Chaplain if Minister not available) – no fee for use of space or support of Minister
 - ◇ May have Event Supervision fee and Pianist fee
- New: Ability to scatter cremated remains in dedicated Scatter Garden – proposed fee \$250-\$500 (TBC)
 - ◇ As part of Memorial Service – no fee for access and use of building
 - ◇ Event fee for building access and use may apply if not part of the Memorial Service activities
- New: Memorial plaque with name and date of birth and death mounted on Memorial Wall fence – proposed fee \$250-\$400 (TBC)

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2023 – Scatter Garden Project Update cont'd

- New: Engraved patio bricks and specialized plaques to honour family and loved ones offered as a special way to raise funds to complete the Scatter Garden project – proposed fee \$150 - \$500 (TBC)
- New as of last year: Memorial Legacy Binder – Obituary or Legacy Story for posterity – no fee

We would like to complete the Scatter Garden project in the spring and summer of 2023. A professional landscaper is likely required because of the grading needed to level the area and heavy nature of the work we need to do. Of course, volunteer support and donations of materials is always a great way to help lower our costs. Do you have any of the following materials or skills to share with us and help make this project easier?

- Patio paving stones
- Access to landscaping services or bobcat for moving soil and bricks
- Experience and energy to install patio blocks

Please take a few short minutes to complete the survey on the next column and help us make good decisions on creating a Scatter Garden that our members and friends will want to use for years to come.

What is a Scatter Garden?

- An open earth garden area with limited planting around the edges
- A place to scatter the cremated remains of people (not pets)
- A benefit reserved for our members and friends and loved ones
- Families will use special tools reserved for ceremony to dig a hole in the earth and rake the ashes into soil
- There are no markers or defined locations for ashes in the Scatter Garden
- Scatter Garden likely not available for events in winter months
- If the church community were to physically move we would have the ability to relocate the earth as well.

Please share your thoughts by completing the short survey

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2D96WPS>

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Join Us for a Potluck on Saturday, April 29th at 6:00 pm - Everyone Welcome

by Liz Redston



Hello UU
Summer Campers – past, present and future!

It has been a long while since we last talked about our UU

Summer Camp.

We hope you will consider joining us for the Kick-Off Potluck at church on Saturday, April 29th at 6 pm to reconnect, talk about Summer Camp and get excited for our 10th (+3) weekend of fun on the shores of Lake Winnipeg **and** since it is not too early to plan for summer be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, August 25 - Sunday, August 27th, 2023 for our camp weekend.

Much has happened since we last gathered for the Summer Camp in 2019.

We are open to creative thinking on how to make Summer Camp happen again and need a strong core group to help pull this fun event together. Based on participant interest and ability to support the planning we can determine if we are able to go ahead with a full weekend or perhaps look at one day event on the Saturday in August.

As always everyone is welcome to join for the Potluck event even if only mildly curious (or not) about camp or just wanting to hang out and join us for friendship and a meal.

If you have questions please email Liz Redston at eliz_redston@hotmail.com

Want to learn more about our Summer Camp ?

Check out this link on our church website for more info and history about UU Summer Camp.

<https://uuwinnipeg.mb.ca/about-us/our-stories/congregation/hnausa/>



Summer Camp Weekends at Hnausa > First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

A short history of Hnausa Unitarian Centre. In 2020 we were ready to celebrate our 10th summer hosting the UU Summer Camp Weekend at Hnausa Unitarian Centre on the shores of Lake Winnipeg just north of Gimili. For the past nine years we had between...read more at uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

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Share the Plate for April

by Lynn Clark



Climate Change Connection will be our Share the Plate partner for the month of April.

The U.N Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the world may have as few as ten years for action to avert the most severe effects of a warming climate. On the Canadian Prairies, we already see more drought, fires, intense storms and heat waves. What can we expect in the future, and how can we bring about a better future?

Climate Change Connection, our Share the Plate Partner for April, provides information and resources and organizes learning and planning opportunities for Manitobans. Their goal is to educate Manitobans about climate change facts and solutions and inspire action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilient communities.

Their work is directed by an advisory committee of community organizations, including Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, Fort Whyte Alive, City of Winnipeg, Keystone Agriculture, Green Action Centre, International Institute for Sus-

tainable Development, and Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. It is chaired by Dr. Danny Blair, Professor in the Department of Geography at U of W.

Climate Change Connection operates [an information-packed website](#) focussed on the scientific research and possible actions for individuals, businesses, governments, and community groups. Here is a list of services they offer:

- Idle Free Zone signs
- Presentations to groups
- Event displays
- Youth conferences
- "Boot camp" workshops
- Connection to a network of active groups
- Climate update electronic newsletter
- Manitoba-specific resources

Curt Hull, Project Director of Climate Change Connection, will be our service leader on Sunday, April 23rd. Curt will share recent research on climate solutions. Following the service, Curt will be joined by Dudley Thompson, founder of Prairie Architects, who designed our church, and Colleen Kuruluk, CEO of Efficiency Manitoba, for a forum on **Pathways to Zero Carbon Buildings**. [Click here for a preview](#)

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 May 2023 issue is:
Thursday, April 20th, 2023

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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