

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator

March 2023

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

The theme for March is Vulnerability

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**The deadline for the April 2023
Communicator is
Monday, March 20th, 2023**

Vulnerable Love

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Service Leader:

Rev. Ren Rohe McFadyen

Service Coordinator: Cate Ziegler

One popular notion of vulnerability speaks to openness: the willingness to share authentically, etc. For some people who are disabled or elder, vulnerability is additionally a fact of life relating to barriers and risks encountered as one moves/lives in the world. Drawing from lived experience and musings captured on video chats with spouse, Shelly Rohe, Rev. Ren reflects on the complex, humorous, and frustrating reality of falling in love.

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Sunday Services cont'd

Why Weighs the Heart Heavy?

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Note: Daylight Savings Time begins this day.

Service Leader:

Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Service Coordinator:

Kelvin Seifert

Among the many statues on the grounds of the Legislative Building here in Winnipeg are two on the west lawn: the small but poignant Holodomor Memorial, commemorating the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-33, and the majestic Taras Shevchenko Monument, which was unveiled on the 100th anniversary of the poet's death. Drawing on Shevchenko's poetry, we will reflect on current events and the ongoing struggle for human freedom, independence, and peace.

Navigating the Unknown

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Service Leader:

Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Service Coordinator:

Steve Lennon

"There is no comfort or sanity except in trusting; no peace but in believing," according to Charles G. Ames. "We must walk by faith and not by sight. For always the unknown must be more than the known ..." How can we summon trust when we are most vulnerable, confidence amidst uncertainty, and the faith to move forward into the unknown?

Reflections of a UU Lay Chaplain

March 26, 2023

Service Leader: Darlene Payne

Service Coordinator: Norm Cobb

Looking back, we can see things clearly, and what formerly appeared to be challenges, now appear to be blessings. A brief reflection on lay chaplaincy.

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Introducing Unitarian Universalism and New Member Recognition



The Membership Committee will offer a three-session introduction to Unitarian Universalism in March. The sessions will be held at the church on three

Thursdays at 7:00

pm– March 16, March 30, and April 13. (We will also offer three parallel virtual sessions via Zoom at times to be negotiated with participants.) Rev. Stefan Jonasson will lead this program, which is open to both newcomers and seasoned members alike.

There will also be a **new member recognition** ceremony on **Sunday, April 16.** Please register for the Introducing UUism sessions, indicating your preference for in-person or Zoom, by sending an email to minister@uwinnipeg.mb.ca.

Thank you for Donating Books for the Women's Prison Library Service Project



The Thursday afternoon ("Book Worms") Covenant Group would like to

thank everyone who responded so quickly with book donations for our service project. The books will go to the library at the Women's Correctional Centre.

There's still time to donate. The Prison Libraries Committee is especially grateful for Indigenous materials (fiction and non-fiction), graphic novels and memoirs. They also welcome newer general fiction paperbacks, books about parenting/childcare, inspirational stories about dealing with addictions and other obstacles, spirituality, dreams, astrology, beading and drawing, poetry and language learning.

A book donation box will be available at Sunday services. During the rest of the week, there will be a box marked for Women's Prison book donations, located under the coat rack.

If you have questions, please send an email message to dpshubaly@mts.net.

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Board Notes

by Peter Miller, Treasurer



Greetings from the Board!

We are thrilled with the ferment of ideas and activities bubbling in the congregation.

Here are a few updates from the Board.

- Annual stewardship canvass – targeted for the month of April. Planning continues.
- Covid protocols – we were asked, and hereby clarify, that indoor food service is permitted at church events, as has been practiced for some time now. See the updated Covid notice on the next page.
- Stefan has met with a number of clusters and committees and supported a variety of activities. He outlined his action priorities as follows.
 - ◇ About half of Stefan's allotted 12 hours/week is spent with Sunday Services – planning with the committee and delivering sermons for half our Sundays. SunServ have adopted goals to revamp and diversity services and simplify the production effort, including shortening the tech script.
 - ◇ Stefan also spends time with the Membership Committee. Plans include a three-session introduction to UUism, both as an online offering and in-person offering, followed by new member recognition in April.
 - ◇ Stefan and Carol have agreed to share responsibility for restoring Story Wisdom to Sunday Services.
 - ◇ Stefan continues to be available for advice to the Board and other areas.
 - ◇ Later this spring, Stefan will offer leadership training, including models of congregational organization, ministry and conflict management.
 - ◇ The CUC is seeking Board input for nominations to their Board. If you have questions about the CUC Board role, please send your query to president@uwinnipeg.mb.ca.

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Covid Protocol

In line with practice in other public spaces, the Board has authorized a shift from a mask mandate to a **mask strongly recommended for in-person church functions**. Serving food indoors, as we have been doing, is also permitted. But remember that Covid is still with us, so continue to protect yourselves and one another. Provincial guidelines on Covid prevention are <https://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/info-and-prevention.html>. They include:

- Get vaccinated. And get the bivalent booster, if eligible.
- Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently.
- Cover your cough/sneeze.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Assess your risk.
- Make decisions about additional measures based on personal risk and preference.

UU Community Outreach

by Heather Emberley

Two former Share the Plate recipients (Bear Clan Patrol & Little Stars Playhouse) teamed up for I Love to Read Month and shared the story of Who Hid the Raisin Bread?



Michael Thiessen at Little Stars Playhouse

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Share the Plate for March

by Sara Allen

Each month, we support the work of caring for our wider community by doing our own 50/50. We share half of our undesignated cash or online offering each week with a local charitable organization serving community needs or working to protect the environment. Our Share the Plate partners are chosen based on the criteria that they are local, share our Unitarian Universalist values, and be small enough to benefit from the support we can offer. As part of our partnership, we hope as individuals and as a church community, to learn more about their work and engage with them in helping to make our city a better place for everyone.

Share the Plate Program



For March, our Share the Plate partner is the Manitoba League of

Persons with Disabilities (the MLPD).

Established in 1974, The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) is a provincial not-for-profit organization that promotes accessibility and inclusion for people of all abilities.

The MLPD is a united voice of people with disabilities, and their supporters, that promotes equal

rights, full participation in society, and facilitates positive change through advocacy and public education.

The organization works locally, provincially, and nationally by contributing to other community initiatives and organizations.

This winter, the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities has been bringing attention in the media to issues that are important to the disability community such as the wait times for Winnipeg Transit Plus and sidewalk snow clearing.

Some of their current projects are improving access to accessibility information on City of Winnipeg websites, a resource handbook entitled "The MLPD Resource Guide for Seniors Living with Disabilities" that is intended for seniors with either a new or pre-existing disability, delivering workshops and resources on behalf of Elections Canada focusing on the accommodation of persons with disabilities in the election process, and the creation of educational programs for National Accessibility Week in 2023 and 2024 together with the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and the National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS).

Their website is <https://mlpd.mb.ca/>

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A Brief Overview of the History of Our Congregation Part Two

by Gini Martin

The Icelandic church in Winnipeg was founded in 1891. The English church was founded in 1907. The two churches although separate shared a minister and both met in the building of the Icelandic church at Sargent and Banning. The two congregations joined in 1944. The name was changed to First Unitarian Universalist church in 1993.

The church at Sargent and Banning was sold. The congregation purchased the house and land at 603 Wellington Crescent and made plans for the addition and renovation. Members/friends pledged both money and sweat equity. Much of the work was done by volunteers from the church.

Once the building was enclosed, volunteers assembled most Saturdays and took on tasks. A volunteer was in the kitchen making lunch for the workers.

If one looks very closely the stone on the sanctuary is slightly different from the stone on the house but a very close match. That stone is artificial, manufactured by a plant in Ontario to match the original stone.

Some highlights in the history of our congregation:

- From the late nineteenth century, members were active in the

suffragist movement in the province.

- In the 1920s the English church helped unemployed men by allowing them to sleep in the basement. The congregation provided breakfast and new clothes for job interviews.
- In 1961 the Canadian Unitarian Council was founded as a national organization for Canadian churches who belonged to the UUA.
- That same year the Unitarian and Universalist national churches amalgamated and the names changed from the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). At the time in Canada there were three Universalist churches with 68 members and three Icelandic and 11 English speaking churches with 3,436 members and 22 Unitarian Fellowships with 773 members.
- The Winnipeg Harvest depot was launched in 1991. Founded by June Gislason, it continues to reflect her founding principles in the current church.

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A Brief Overview cont'd

- The first Lay Chaplin was appointed in 1971. Unitarian Lay Chaplins are unique to Canada.
- In 1974 a same sex marriage was performed in the church. The marriage certificate is on display at the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg.
- In 1978 the massive research project *Unitarians In Canada* was published, by Phillip Hewett.
- In the early 1990s the choir was re started by Karin Carlson for two years. Esther Kathryn led the choir for ten years from 1995 to 2005.
- We became a Welcoming Congregation in 1996.
- We moved into the new building in October 2000 singing "Enter, Rejoice and Come in". Most of the marchers could identify a room they helped paint or a portion of carpet they helped lay or workers they helped make lunch for.
- The Green Action Committee was founded in 2007.
- In 2011 ***Invisible Influence: Claiming Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's History*** - edited by Jean Pfleiderer, Heather Fraser Fawcett, and Kathy Sage was published. The book included two chapters by Winnipeg UU authors Rev. Stefan Jonasson and Virginia Martin.
- The congregation became a signatory to Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord in 2021. Our proud history of social action includes contributions and contributors too many to list here and will continue into the future.



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 April 2023 issue is:
Monday, March 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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