

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg



The Communicator

July/August 2020



Sunday Services and Religious Exploration begin at 10:30 am (via Zoom)

The theme for July/August is Spiritual Practice

All services are streamed via Zoom; please check our website for the link/dial-in information: uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

July 5, 2020

There Is a Place for Us

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: Odell Havsdotter

Many know the name P.T. Barnum, but few are also aware that he was a lifelong dedicated Universalist.

On July 5th, his birthday, we will explore his nuanced and complicated life. What lessons we can learn about ourselves and the difference between our best intentions and our actual impact? Hymns: 66 *When the Summer Sun is Shining*; 112 *Do You Hear?*; 95 *There is More Love Somewhere*

July 12, 2020

Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: Steve Lennon

Join us the morning after the Winnipeg Folk Festival livestream to celebrate how its legacy has inspired our lives through music and community.

Hymns: 66 *When the Summer Sun is Shining*; *Wayfaring Stranger*; *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*; *The Mary Ellen Carter*

July 19, 2020

Self Compassion to Undercut Ableism

Service Leader: Janine Reid

Service Coordinator: M.C. Ziegler

Communities which focus on action and productivity often celebrate achievement. Within achievement oriented cultures, however, it can be difficult to sustain ourselves when we are not on top. The way we value ourselves can also be projected onto others. Understanding how we are prone to this can help us truly live our first principle of respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Developing self compassion, acknowledging, and even embracing vulnerability in ourselves can help ground us in the diversity of human experience. Recognizing the value each person contributes by participating in community as they are able is important work to undercut ableism. Janine Reid discusses how wrestling with these concepts through the intersecting lenses of Unitarian Universalism, academia, and medicine has been part of her learning as a resident doctor in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Hymns: 66 *When the Summer Sun is Shining*; TBD

July 26, 2020

Chant

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: Marian Siemens

Our theme for the summer months is "spiritual practice." For many of us, singing is one of the ways we renew ourselves and deepen our relationships with our hearts and with each other. In this service we will explore music and song as a spiritual practice. Hymns: 1009 *Meditation On Breathing*; 66 *When the Summer Sun is Shining*; 1011 *Return Again*; 1048 *Ubi Caritas*; 1003 *Where Do We Come From?*

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The deadline for the **September 2020** Communicator is **Thursday, August 20th, 2020**

Sunday Services continued

August 2, 2020

The Dog Days of Summer

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: Steve Lennon

The beginning of August is the first of the three harvest festivals of the neo-pagan year. Come join us as we delve into one of the many earth-centered holy days that teaches us lessons about how we can navigate the cycles and seasons of our lives.

Hymns: 71 In the Spring with Plow and Harrow; 73 Chant for the Seasons; 27 I Am That Great and Fiery Force; Rising For Our Lives

August 9, 2020

Bright Morning Stars

Service Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern

Service Coordinator: M.C. Ziegler

Sometimes, the spiritual practices that help us the most in our lives are things we learned in our childhood, even if we move into different sustaining beliefs as adults. This Sunday, Rev. Meghann will share pieces of her personal journey through singing and experiencing folk and bluegrass music as practice of both resilience and resistance.

Hymns: 44 We Sing of Golden Mornings, 18 What Wondrous Love; 213 Wideness in Your Mercy; Bright Morning Stars (not-hymnal version); Rising For Our Lives

August 16, 2020

Service Leader: Odell Havsdotter

Service Coordinator: Marian Siemens

Hymns: 360 Here We Have Gathered; 1002 Comfort Me; Rising For Our Lives

August 23, 2020

Service Leader: First UU Winnipeg

Camping Ministries

Service Coordinator:

For many years, our congregation has taken a group camping trip. It's one of our truly multigenerational events that also connects us to our shared values of community and the interdependent web of all life. The global pandemic has meant adjustments to this yearly tradition, but instead of defeat, our camping ministry participants will share with us the power and presence of being together.

Hymns: 1010 We Give Thanks; 342 O Slowly, Slowly, They Return; 15 The Lone Wild Bird; Rising For Our Lives

August 30, 2020

Finding Our Way Through the Complexities of Separation and Divorce

Service Leaders: Patricia Lane & Steve Lennon

Service Coordinator: Steve Lennon

In situations involving separation and divorce there continues to be many myths and misunderstandings, often based on expectations and patterns learned from family of origin and cultural custom. The outside pressures can feel overwhelming for a couple experiencing these difficulties, at a time when the disappointments and stresses are already severe. Family and friends often don't know what to do. Please join Steve and Pat as they share their thoughts on what can be helpful.

Hymns: 192 Nay, Do Not Grieve; 1053 How Could Anyone?; 183 The Wind of Change Forever Blown; Rising For Our Lives

Summer Camp

by Liz Redston

Happy 10th Anniversary to our Summer Camp Weekend - and **No** camping this year

We were hoping that summer would bring changes and allow us to gather as a group to have a camp weekend in our own backyard.

For lots of reasons we are simply not able to host a camp weekend event this year.

It is just too risky and complicated to host large group events at this time so we are deferring our 10th Anniversary Camp weekend and celebrations until next year. The good news is - we have already pre-paid our camp deposit so mark your calendars for August 27,28,29 - in 2021. We look forward to carrying on with our summer tradition and celebrate the 10+1 Anniversary of fun and good times together.

We hope you are able to find lots of fun summer adventures in your own back yards and enjoy all that is available to do in smaller groups of friends and family.



From the Minister's Study

by The Reverend Meghann Robern



I'm having a hard time believing that it's already summer. With the global pandemic, among other

things, it feels like this year is zipping by way too fast... while also feeling incredibly long at the same time.

What I do know is that the temptation to "do summer" the way we've always done it is already so strong, and will only get stronger. And, beloveds, it's too soon to stop physical distancing and to cross borders. We're already seeing rising case numbers in places that gave in to the pressure to reopen too quickly. The science is clear, and we can save lives by refusing to give in to our impulse to seek comfort over the safety of our fellow human beings.

That said, summer is still here, and there are still numerous ways for us to enjoy it for the time it is with us. I know that these temperatures and this weather is a precious gift to be treasured for many of us, and we should not let the pandemic deter us from experiencing summer. We can

combine common sense with joy and playfulness, and we should do so.

I'm also hoping that any resilience you find in resisting the urge to "go back to normal," you will bring back to our congregation and our community. This coming year we will be focusing on building new relationships with each other and sustaining the ones we already have. We'll be working on our culture of avoiding conflict and how to deeply engage with our covenant of right relationships to call each other back into relationship when the impact of our words and actions is different from our good intentions.

We're also going to need each other's creativity and innovation, and a willingness to show up and organize to try new things and create new structures of support for our community. A lot of hard work from our leadership allowed us to pass a budget this year, but we all need to be aware that it's a temporary reprieve. Our working together to find sustainability rooted in the future and in our devotion to each other is what will allow this congregation to not just survive, but thrive, into the future.

In gratitude and faith,
Rev. Meghann

Update on Dr. Niigaan Sinclair's CUC Presentation

by Bonnie Thiessen

Several from our church attended the May 24, 2020 virtual event with Dr. Niigaan Sinclair. Dr. Sinclair is from Manitoba and has much wisdom that I believe can assist us as we seek to address our concerns about Truth, Healing and Reconciliation. I have heard that several folks would like a copy of the talk.

We have been asked to direct people who would like a copy to the Canadian Unitarian Council website where they can purchase a copy for themselves for \$15 CAD. The proceeds will be split evenly between the CUC to support our decolonizing work through our Truth, Healing and Reconciliation initiative, and Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, who works tirelessly for Indigenous rights and settler education. We appreciate your support.

Here's the link to order additional copies of the talk : <https://cuc.ca/social-justice/truth-healing-reconciliation/> (See bottom of the webpage).

Finally, we would like to hear your feedback on the event and any suggestions you may have about future events.

Here's a link to the short survey: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qDs-WRQ2HjGbS2aYkgG1XP74Cnhl7KIA-njGgss20qU>

If you would like to connect with us please feel free to email us at reconciliation@cuc.ca

We'd love to hear from you,
Erin Horvath & Amber Bellmare
Canadian Unitarian Council
302-192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, M5T 2C2

Living Our Faith

by Andrea James, Director of Lifespan Faith Development



Our theme over the summer is Spiritual Practice; I want to introduce two new programs coming this fall, and ask you to consider your

justice learning and work as spiritual practices.

Covenant Groups

We're so pleased to announce that our Covenant Group program has been revived! We have *seven* different groups for you to choose from, running weekday mornings or evenings, or Saturday morning. Your options are the:

- 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00-8:00 pm
 - 2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00 am to noon.
 - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm
 - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am
 - 3rd Friday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am
 - 4th Monday of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm
- All begin in October 2020 and

meet once a month through June 2021; all will be on Zoom. For quite a bit more information, [click here](#) or visit the Learning section on our website. Registration will open over the summer.

Wellspring: Sources

Rev. Meghann and I are sharing a program with you that we each participated in, enjoyed greatly, and benefited spiritually. *Wellspring: Sources* offers a deep exploration of our six Unitarian Universalist Sources, and how they challenge, comfort, and inspire us.

Covenant Groups, UU Sources, and Anti-racism

Participants are part of a small group that meets twice a month, preparing for each session through readings and resources for knowledge and reflection; commit to daily spiritual practice; and engage in individual work with a spiritual director.

Both groups will gather for a retreat on Saturday September 26 (10:00 am to 2:00 pm). Then Rev. Meghann will run her group on the 2nd and 4th Thursday *afternoons* of the month, while I run my group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday *evenings*.

Wellspring: Sources runs from September 26, 2020 through June 2021.

For *much* more detail, [click here](#) or visit the Learning section of our website. Registration will open over the summer.

Anti-Racism and the 8th Principle

And finally, I want to encourage you to move forward, wherever you are on your own path toward creating an anti-racist world. I'm exploring some options for faith development in this area. If you are Indigenous, Black, and/or a Person of Colour and you'd like to chat about partnering with me, please send me an email and I'll get back to you in August. And, if you don't already know about it, there is a proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. Eventually, it will be voted on at the UUA General Assembly, but in the meantime, our congregation could choose to adopt it as our 8th Principle (many UU communities already have). Learn more, at 8thprincipleuu.org.

My terms of employment dictate that I'm not at work in July, so I look forward to reconnecting in August. Have a wonderful summer, stay safe, and know that you are loved.

In faith,

Andrea

dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Board Notes

by Lauren Bailey, President



Hello everyone,
Your 2020-2021 Board of Directors appreciates your attendance and attention at the June 7 budgeting meeting. A lot of good points were raised by the congregation, and we have much work to do over the next year.

Your current Board is as follows:

- Lauren Bailey, president - liaison for the Administration Volunteer Team
- Kristin Jimmy, vice president - liaison for Congregational Services Cluster
- Peter Miller, treasurer - liaison for Finance Cluster
- Heather Emberley, secretary - liaison for Facilities Cluster
- Esther Klassen, member at large - liaison for Ministry Cluster
- Stephanie Harvey, member at large - liaison for Lifespan Religious Exploration Cluster
- Cate Ziegler, member at large - liaison for Justice Cluster

We will be meeting this summer to discuss policies and our plan for updating the church mission statement, and congregational involvement, and a whole slew of ideas we have developed over the past few months.

I can't wait to present them to the congregation for discussion - and there will be discussion! The board is looking to host post-service bi-monthly town hall meetings about topics of interest to the congregation.

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.

FUUW at Black Lives Rally



CUC Releases Statement On Police Violence Against Indigenous People

In 2020, more Indigenous people have died as a direct result of their interactions with Canadian police forces. Most recently the deaths of Chantal Moore and Rodney Levi in New Brunswick, and Eisha Hudson, Jason Collins, and Stewart Kevin Andrews in Winnipeg have illustrated the tragic results of the systemic oppressions and discrimination within our social and justice systems.

Representing a community of faith which believes in the inherent worth and dignity of all, the Canadian Unitarian Council calls on the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to implement changes to policing to better protect racialized populations. Priority should be given to implementing existing recommendations, such as those of The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and to developing police approaches which are responsive, accountable, culturally appropriate, and anti-racist.

CUC Statement continued

We again urge the federal government to issue their plan to implement the recommendations within the MMIWG report.

We call on all police forces across the country to acknowledge systemic racism and its impact on the health and safety of Indigenous people who have interactions with police. We further call on all police forces to review and revise how they interact with Indigenous, Black and other racialized people, and with those with mental health and addiction issues, making de-escalation tactics the standard. Police forces, their leaders and individual officers must be held publicly accountable for their actions. Police forces, and their oversight bodies must actively work to diversify their members by increasing the representation of racialized communities in their ranks.

Further, we encourage Unitarian Universalists to contact their police forces and all levels of government to urge the enactment of these changes that are needed, and such as those recommended by the Ontario Human Rights Commission. None of us can afford to be silent any longer. The time for change is now.

~ From the CUC's National Voice

*Team: UU Ministers of Canada
President, Rev. Anne Barker; CUC
Board President, Margaret Wanlin, and
Executive Director, Vyda Ng*

Read the statement and sample letter for political and police officials

<https://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Statement-on-Police-Violence-Against-Indigenous-People.2020-06.pdf>

Volunteer Update on Church Administration and Rentals

by Liz Redston

We are so fortunate to have a terrific line up of volunteers working hard to keep our church operations and administration running smoothly. Here is the lineup of top talent- and if any of these roles interest you please be sure to let us know. It would be great to have a list of back up volunteers for future needs that may arise. The more we can manage with volunteer support over the next 6 – 12 months the greater the opportunity for us to achieve a balanced budget and keep our community financially healthy as well as physically healthy.

- **Team Coach and coordinator** – Peter Hill-Carroll
- **Accounting, Finance, Membership System and Bookkeeping** – Larry Phillips and Anne Bigelow
- **Church Email and Phone, Zoom meetings** – Marjorie Doyle (and Marjorie continues with the Communicator)
- **All Church Email Updates** – Jenni Gerbasi. **New Routine:** when submitting content for the Wednesday Email Update please send to: allchurchemail@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca Deadline is Wednesday morning by 10 am

- **Church Calendar** - Laurie Marcella
- **Church Filing:** Kristin Jimmy – this project also tackles a big back log of file organizing and could use some help.
- **Inside Plants and Gardening:** We are very grateful to Heather Emberley and Michael Thiessen who are taking care of our outdoor gardens once again this year. Marian Siemens has donated a number of perennials for around the church yard- thanks Marian. Heather and Michael are also taking on the watering of the plants inside the church. The Green Action Committee are looking at some raised planters for the back east yard and hope to grow veggies this summer.
- **Rentals:** Darlene Payne and Liz Redston who will coordinate and are working with a small group to evaluate how we can selectively manage rentals with the required COVID protocols in the coming months. We may be looking for assistance with Event Supervision – is this something you might like to volunteer at? Let us know.
Big thanks to all our volunteers – let us know if you have any questions.

Parking Lot Update

by Liz Redston

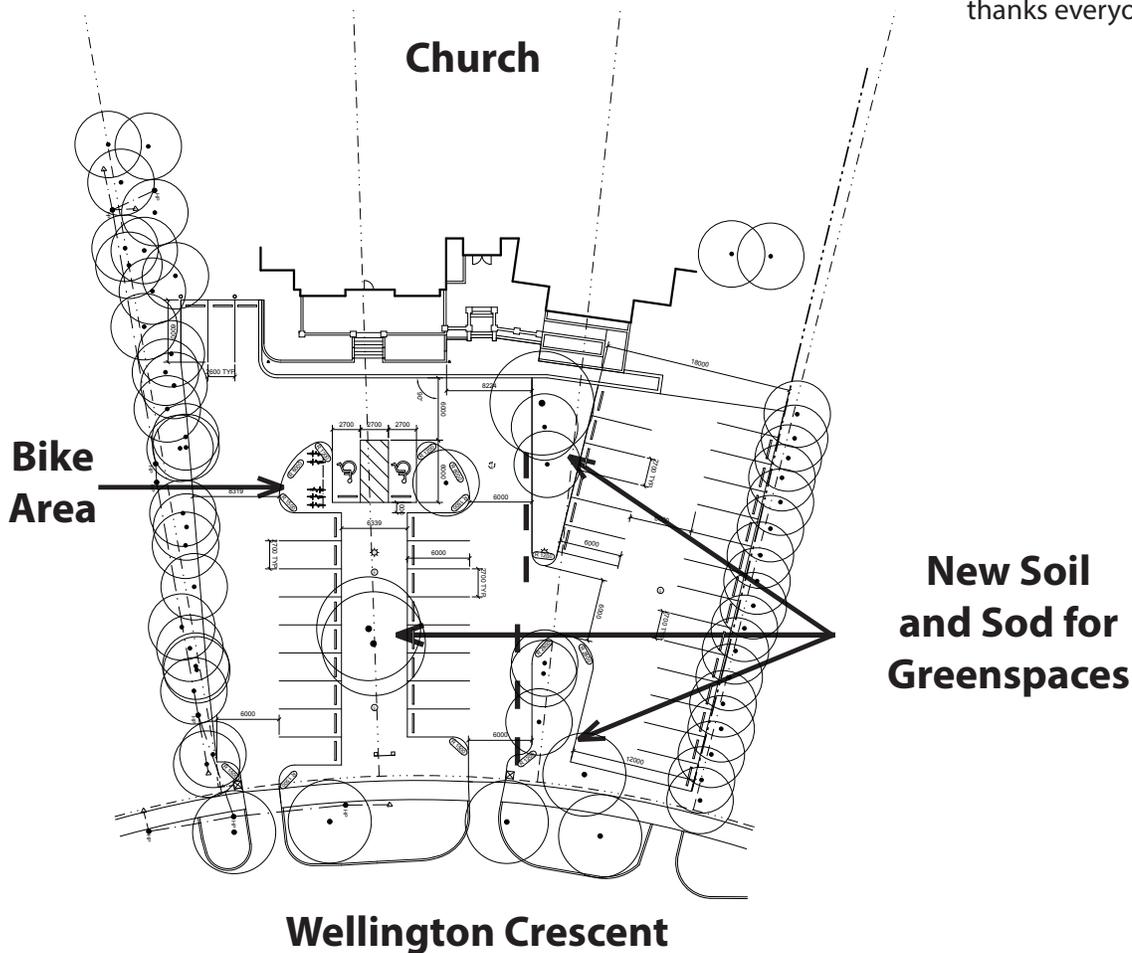
The parking lot project is almost done - or maybe by the time you are reading this Communicator it is already completed! Either way we can all do the happy dance of joy on a newly paved parking lot that has been 20+ years in the planning. Congratulations to all of us for helping to make this big (and expensive project) a completed reality.

The image included helps to show you the few differences in layout that we now have. There are 38 official parking spots, as well as three more for staff. We have two designated handicap spots and can install signage for two additional spots closest

to the main walk way to indicate for reserved for people with mobility limitations. The parking lot will have painted lines to help get us used to the new configuration. Bike parking is on a paved space close to the front door area and overflow could be on the grass area as well. Our contract includes new soil and sod so this will help reduce the weeds we have seen over that last number of years. With the changed alignment we now need to ensure no parking in the driveway loop especially at the entrance area. This area has always been the fire lane with signs to indicate no parking. As before we still have overflow

parking options along Wellington Crescent and next door at the empty Children's Rehab Centre.

An extra big thank you to Peter Hill Carroll and Larry Phillips who have been shepherding this project in a very hands-on way for the last 3+ years. There has been a lot of follow up with architects, contractors, engineers, and City of Winnipeg permits and zoning. We are so pleased to finally have a completed front yard for our property - well almost completed - we should probably look at replacing our church sign sometime in the not too distant future. Enjoy the new parking lot and thanks everyone for your support.



Endowment Fund

by Linda Henderson



The Fergusons were dear members of our congregation, joining the membership rolls in 1959. They each lived well into their 90's. Bob died on January 18, 2015, and Margaret followed him on April 27, 2019.

Each in turn loved their congregation to the "Nth" degree, and both were devoted volunteers who always, Always, ALWAYS! supported their membership and church home, first on Banning St, and then on Wellington Crescent. In turn, each provided leadership through all their years amongst us. Together they faithfully attended Sunday Services, and during the week, throughout those years, they served on The Board, on Committees of all sorts; attended, hosted and volunteered at countless Fundraisers; and were willing participants in every facet of First UU congregational church life.

Bob took on the responsibility of restoring and bringing our stained glass windows from Banning Street, to be included in our newly built Sanctuary at our present address. He took his turn at serving as Board President. Margaret served on the New-Building Committee, and afterwards on the House Committee for 10 years.

To honour their presence amongst us, Bob and Margaret's children have made sure that our church was acknowledged after their passing.

The Endowment Fund has received a donation in the name of **Robert and Margaret Ferguson** in the amount of **\$15,466.30**.

We, the Trustees of your church's Endowment Fund, gratefully acknowledge receipt of this generous gift.

Will you join us in contributing to our UU future? No contribution too large or too small. Please make your cheque to **First UU Church of Winnipeg**, with **Endowment Fund** in the re line. If you have questions, please contact any of your friendly Trustees - *we're approachable!*

Your Endowment Fund Trustees:
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James Watson - jewatson@mymts.net
David Livingstone - dystone@shaw.ca

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The **deadline** for the
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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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