

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg



## The Communicator

July/August 2021



Sunday Services begin at 10:30 am via Zoom

*The themes for July/August are Mindfulness/Respect*

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

**July 4, 2021**

**Confluence Talk: What if We Were Wrong? Part 1**

Coordinator : Marian Siemens

In this 1<sup>st</sup> part of a 3-part interactive series from the CUC 2021 Conference, Rev Anne Barker encourages to delve into how we have changed especially during Covid. How problems can become possibilities and how we can show compassionate imperfection.

**July 11, 2021**

**Confluence Talk: Discomfort Part 2**

Coordinator: Steve Lennon

In this 2<sup>nd</sup> part of a 3-part interactive series from the CUC 2021 Conference, Rev Anne Barker explores with us the idea of welcoming, openness and inclusion. How these concepts are more than just ideas, they are practices. That there is peril in avoiding discomfort

**July 25, 2021**

**Confluence Talk: A New Premise Part 3**

Coordinator: Marian Siemens

In this last of a 3-part interactive series from the CUC 2021 Conference, Rev Anne Barker challenges us on how we can envision a different outcome for a brighter future. How in a crisis there is potential for transformation with the power and promise of collective strength.



*We have a bunny and some irishes at church*

**All Other Services over the Summer are "To Be Announced". Check the All Church Email weekly for details.**

*Potatoes, pumpkins and rhubarb growing in our backyard*



IN THIS

*Issue*

- 1 Sunday Services
- 2 From the Minister's Study Craftivism Board of Directors
- 3 Faith Development Notes Living Our Faith
- 4 Board Notes Life Goes on at Church
- 5 A Candle to Remember
- 6 Volunteer Admin Group
- 7 Share the Plate
- 8 Endowment Fund
- 9 Church Gardens
- 10 Memorial Legacy Binder Who's Who

The deadline for the **September 2021** issue is: **Friday, August 20th.**

## From the Minister's Study

by The Reverend Meghann Robern



Rev. Meghann's column will return in the September Communicator.



## UU Craftivism - Drop off your Stitch Circle Creations

by Liz Redston

If you have been working on a square for the Stitch Circle wall banner project it is now time to get these finished. Please drop off at church in the mail box. Be sure to put in an envelope clearly marked with Stitch Circle/Liz Redston. If you are not able to drop off, please connect with us and we will arrange for pick up.

We plan to put the squares together to create a wall banner and have a beautiful keepsake to document our collective COVID experience.

Email Liz at [eliz\\_redston@hotmail.com](mailto:eliz_redston@hotmail.com) to arrange for pick up.

## New Board of Directors

by Jim Gardiner and Lauren Bailey

To the members and friends of First UU Church of Winnipeg.

We are pleased to announce the formation and roles of your Board of Directors for the 21/22 year. We are all looking forward to working with you, our congregation.

We have had the first two meetings since the board members were selected by the nominating committee and voted on at the AGM. Within those two meetings we have chosen executive positions, matched our strengths and interests within the liaison positions, and have started working on plans to help us be more efficient and to effectively connect with all of you. Here is how your Board Of Directors looks.

- **Jim Gardiner, President**
- **Lauren Bailey, Vice-President**
- **Peter Miller, Treasurer, and Liaison for Finance Cluster**
- **Marjorie Doyle, Secretary**
- **Marlene Schellenberg, Member at Large, and Liaison for Ministry Cluster**
- **Tanya Brothers, Member at Large, and Liaison for Facilities Cluster**
- **Esther Kathryn, Member at Large**
- **Janine Reid, Member at Large, and Liaison for Justice Cluster**
- **Ryan Spies, Member at Large, and Liaison for Congregational Services Cluster**

This past year and a half have been tremendously difficult in terms of program delivery, finance, relationships, and connectedness within our church community and that has put a strain on all of us. Our congregation is resilient, and we look forward to coming out of this pandemic with new tools and skills that will do well for us as we continuously evolve; developing and deepening our commitments and our relationships. We are looking forward to working within this team on your behalf.

Sincerely, with gratitude and care.

*Jim Gardiner,  
Marlene Schellenberg,  
Marjorie Doyle  
Janine Reid  
Ryan Spies  
Tanya Brothers  
Peter Miller  
Esther Kathryn  
Lauren Bailey*

## Living Our Faith

by Andrea James, Director of Lifespan Faith Development



Due to budget timing, pandemic considerations, and the need for me to do some

thinking about capacity and sustainability, I have not yet mapped out the coming year for adult faith formation. Expect that Covenant Groups and Wellspring programs will return. In addition...

### Affinity groups

Would you like to gather with or simply connect with local Unitarian Universalists who share an identity or a theological perspective with you? I invite you to [complete this form](#).

### Family Ministry

The Religious Exploration (RE) Committee and I will be planning family-centred monthly gatherings open to **all** community members. We'll choose different days of the week in order to make at least some of them available to all.

We do **not** plan to run RE programs for children (born 2008-2021) next year. However, we do intend to facilitate an online youth group for those born between 2002 and 2007.

And we'll offer some programs for parents and caregivers (please see the affinity groups form above, too).

### Justice Ministries

Our UU values call us toward justice and equity for all; here are some

programs that are run externally that you can engage with. And please see the affinity groups form above as well.

[Equal Access](#) (UUs living with disabilities, our families, friends, and allies) offers [weekly online connections](#). [Sign up here](#) to receive emails.

I can't recommend highly enough [Beloved Conversations](#), which runs one program for those who've come to be called white, and another for those who are Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, or racialized in other ways. Fall session begins late September. [Find more information here](#) and [register here](#).

Our [CUC](#) offers:

[Reconciliation Through Film](#), a series of films and discussion groups. The link provided was for the 2020-21 year but a) it may be updated over the summer and b) it gives you something to consider and watch for later.

[Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour](#) (14-24 years old). This group gathers every two months for themed worship, discussions, and workshop-style activities.

[UU BIPOC Space](#) for ages 18+. A space for UUs who are Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour to gather safely to share experiences, stories, and be change-makers. Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

[Leaders Roundtables](#) on adopting the [8th Principle](#), June through October

[Black Lives Matter resources](#).

Our UUA's LGBTQ+ Ministries offers

UPLIFT: Uplifting LGBTQ+ experience within and beyond Unitarian Universalism. [Sign up for their newsletter here](#).

[UPLIFT monthly gatherings](#) focused on trans, nonbinary, and other not (completely or at all) cis UUs. Join us to connect with other trans/nonbinary UUs and co-create support and community across our faith. These events are intentionally multigenerational.

Have a pandemic-safe summer; I look forward to reconnecting in August.

Andrea

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

## Faith Development Notes

### July

DLFD Andrea James is off in July

Faith Development programs begin in the fall

### August

DLFD Andrea James return to work on August 3

Watch for information about fall Faith Development programs in the weekly email and on our website, under the Learning tab.

## Board Notes

by Jim Gardiner, President



Hello members and friends of Winnipeg First UU!

This is my first monthly check in and message to you. (Channeling my

inner Dr. Seuss)

I'll use this first one to talk a bit about myself in order for you to get to know me better.

About my personality: I love people. I joke around that I am a social worker, because I find it difficult to work without people around. I like to collaboratively dig into a project. Working on the board is very much the type of work I like. I am definitely a "feeler" - rating as an ENFP on the Myers Briggs personality test. So, that should give some insight into me.

My partner, Kay, and I have two wonderful daughters (I'm very biased). Liv is 22 and Elise is 16. We have been part of the congregation for 17 years... except for Elise - only 16 for her. We especially enjoy taking part in: the Members and Friends Summer Camp (formerly Family Camp); Coffee House (I would like to get back to having these); youth group adventures (I was a youth advisor for 12 or so years); renovations and work projects (ok, that's just me); and many of the other activities at church. I am very much looking forward to our lovely building opening up again when COVID protocols allow.

I grew up on a beef and grain farm in Clearwater, MB, with four older sisters. I was fortunate to have a very loving family environment with fairly fundamental Christian parents, even though they belonged to a relatively liberal church (United). I had wonderful ministers who were way too socially left wing for the community they served. I learned a lot from them and they were fine with me questioning the doctrine that existed within my family and church community. All in all it was a very friendly start to my religious journey.

I am a Winnipeg Fire Fighter of 29 years. I went through the ranks from rookie through to station Captain and am now teaching veteran fire-fighters to be Lieutenants, Captains, and station officers how to be Chiefs. It's challenging and very rewarding work that has taught me a lot about people, the learning process and how tender yet resilient the mind is in regards to stress, memory, and engagement. I've learned many tricks to stay in a cognitive state when the world is chaotic around you, and I like it.

I am looking forward to the president position within the board. The board is wonderfully engaged and is a "can do" team. I also am looking forward to meeting all of you. Don't hesitate to reach out to me at [president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

That's all for now,  
Jim Gardiner

## Life at the Church Goes On

Many people have been working on the gardens of our Church while we've been away. Thanks to Michael Thiessen and Jennifer Johnson we have photos to share.



Soon to be a butterfly

## A Candle to Remember - International Unitarian Organizations Part 2

by Gini Martin

*Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.  
The important thing is not to stop questioning.  
~ Albert Einstein*

Over this past year, we have been lighting a *Candle to Remember* each month to recognize Unitarian Universalist people and events. In April, we offered Part 1 of International Unitarian Organizations. For the summer months, we offer Part 2. This will complete regular monthly contributions. Next year, continue to look for occasional submissions.

Our congregation owes much to both the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and British and Foreign Unitarian Association (BFUA) that supported the establishment of Unitarian churches in Canada. In the 19th and into the early twentieth centuries the associations worked separately. Both had representatives at various times working in Canada.

In 1907, they decided on a joint missionary effort in Canada. Frank Wright Pratt, an American Unitarian minister was appointed as Field Secretary for Western Canada with the BFUA and the AUA each paying one half of his salary.

His first task was to respond to an appeal from Winnipeg. He arrived in Winnipeg late in 1908. In 1909 Pratt traveled in his vast territory to Brandon, Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Calgary, "grateful for his clergy pass on the railroad". Although he traveled to Vancouver and Victoria to assist in organizing groups, he was committed to work on the prairies.

Rev. Pratt left Winnipeg and moved his office to Calgary. The First Unitarian Church of Calgary was formed in 1909. With financial support from its British and American

denominational organizations, in 1911 it constructed a church building, known as Unity Hall. The title to the building was held by the AUA.



*former church at Banning & Sargent*

The last service was held in Unity Hall in 1921. The Unitarian presence in Calgary was inactive until the 1950s when there was interest in forming a fellowship, now a church. The AUA was not able to sell Unity Hall in 1946.

After working for years to establish churches in Western Canada, Rev. Pratt returned to the U.S. in 1914 as AUA field secretary in Virginia.

In 1935 when Rev. Phillip M. Petersson returned from Iceland to Winnipeg as minister to both the Icelandic and English churches, the AUA grant was discontinued but the BFUA grant continued until the closing year of World War II in 1945.

In 1962 two influential events occurred. The first was the joining of the two denominations, Unitarian and Universalist into the current Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). At the time there were only three Universalist Churches in Canada: two in Ontario and one in Halifax. The same year the Canadian Unitarian Council was established. Initially it was a part of the UUA but later became a separate organization.

On its website the CUC's Mission states the relationship of Unitarianism and Universalism in the following manner:

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is an organization of Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists acting to enhance, nurture, and promote the Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist religion in Canada. The CUC is a beacon for Unitarian Universalist communities across Canada providing them with leadership, support, and connection ..."

The many threads in the tapestry that is the history of our denomination and our congregation are woven together in the current national and international organizations.

## Volunteer Admin Team



### Keeping our Church Office running and Saving Money

#### 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 and new additions to the team Lorie Batterhill and Norm Cobb.**

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.

#### We Need a Few More People on the Team

Are you open to sharing a few hours each week to assist with some of the Administrative functions? We need some late fall coverage and quite likely a few more to assist office coverage when we are able to resume opening the building.

**Needed in the late fall for November to March - 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 neces-

sary but a comfort level with working online and familiar with simple Excel spreadsheets, banking and finances is helpful. We need coverage in this role for five months from November to end of March. 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)

## Share the Plate

by Marlene Schellenberg



Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery was founded in March

1996 and is a nationally recognized leader in Aboriginal arts programming and one of the foremost venues and voices for Indigenous art in Canada. Its focus on developing new programming and new ways of presenting art have resulted in increased exposure and the expansion of its activities.

Urban Shaman is dedicated to the Aboriginal arts community and the arts community at large.

Its connection with the Winnipeg Trails Association began in December 2020. Both organizations came together to collaborate on public projects designed to promote and preserve Indigenous languages before they become extinct.

The Speech Act Project is about Indigenous language revitalization and aims to promote the rich artistic legacy of our diverse and dynamic communities as we aim to build relationships

and partnerships with the public to encourage the use of and preservation of Indigenous languages.

Your donation will contribute to the purchase of signage, landscaping, permits, hiring youth for summer positions and toward the costs associated with implementing Indigenous designed architectural installations.

For more information, see Urban Shaman's webpage on the [Speech Act Project](#). Also, join the Sunday Service on July 11 when Anders Swanson, Executive Director of Winnipeg Trails Association will tell us more about this exciting project.



## Endowment Fund

by Linda Henderson



We are still in Pandemic mode, anxiously awaiting for it to be over. We

want to celebrate together, once again, in person. Members of our congregation have died, and we did not have the opportunity to grieve them collectively. And we have not yet had the opportunity, shoulder to shoulder, to celebrate our Winnipeg UU existence of 130 Years in our fair City.

However, some amongst you, have taken the opportunity to demonstrate your trust that we will continue as a congregation; that you believe in our future together. We wish to acknowledge the latest individuals who have so generously donated to our Endowment Fund in

order to demonstrate their part in that future.

Since our last report, the Endowment Fund has received a total of **\$380.00** from:



- **Paul Hunter** - in honour of First UU's 130th Anniversary
  - **Valerie Van Der Vlugt (Cobb-Friesen)** - in honour of First UU's 130th Anniversary
  - **Marjorie Doyle** - in honour of First UU's 130th Anniversary
- Thank you to our most recent donors.**

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. You are invited to read our Fund history on our website - click on the "PLEDGE" button at [www.uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.uuwinnipeg.mb.ca), and scroll down to Endowment. If you have questions, please contact any of your friendly Trustees - *we're approachable.*

### Your Endowment Fund Trustees:

**Linda Henderson**  
[varadero@mymts.net](mailto:varadero@mymts.net)

**James Watson**  
[jameswatsonwpg@gmail.com](mailto:jameswatsonwpg@gmail.com)

**Douglas Wasyliv** [ret-coachdjw@yahoo.ca](mailto:ret-coachdjw@yahoo.ca)

## Gardens at Church

by Jennifer Johnson

This is the garden in June. See the photos on the front page, page four and five as well. The bed where Adina is contains butternut squash, zucchini, peas, beans, carrots, radish, chard, spinach, calendula.

The middle bed contains carrots, beets, onions, leeks, sage, parsley, basil, nasturtium and what I thought was peppers ( turned out to be Swamp Milkweed).

The third bed has tomatoes, (some of which were replaced due to deer eating them, now we have chicken wire protection), lettuce, spinach, dill, catnip, chard, and cucumber.

Closer to the riverbank are potatoes, pumpkins and rhubarb (see front page).

Photos are by Jennifer Johnson and Michael Thiessen and shared through Our Caring Community along with some beautiful poetry.



*Our back deck waiting to welcome us back*

## New: Memorial Legacy Binder

by Liz Redston



The UU Celebration Park project team have created a new Memorial Legacy binder as part of their work on developing ways to honour and memorialize loved ones. This binder will hold legacy stories, obituaries or eulogy material for our members who have died. To start the project we are beginning with the obituaries for deceased members from 2020 and 2021. We will find a nice home for the binder in the library and it will be available for viewing when we are back in our building together.

What do you want your legacy story to be? Is there a story you want to share about your connection with our faith community? Obituaries are often a lovely summary of a person's life but do not necessarily profile

the depth of connection or contribution at church or to other significant groups or projects you may be involved with.

Perhaps developing your legacy story for inclusion in our Memorial binder can be part of your end of life planning — which of course can be worked on at any age. What an interesting and life affirming activity — to create a one or two page story of your UU journey or connection to groups and causes important in your life. In the near future we hope to develop support materials for your legacy story efforts with some simple how-to guidelines and question prompts, and perhaps this could even be a mini workshop event. Future updates to our website will include information in the Memorial Legacy binder and UU Celebration Park.

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 **September 2021** issue is: **Friday, August 20th , 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.

## Who's Who

Minister

**the Reverend Meghann Robern**  
[minister@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:minister@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

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

Lay Chaplain

**Barb Shearer**

Board President

**Jim Gardiner**  
[president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

Pastoral Care Coordinators

**Bonnie Thiessen and Esmat Elhami**  
[pastoralcare@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:pastoralcare@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

Music Director

**PJ Buchan**

Choir Accompanist

**Paul Rodermond**

Caretaker

**Ray Aikens**

Webmaster

**Karin Carlson**  
[webmaster@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:webmaster@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

Rental Events Director

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

Newsletter Editor

**Marjorie Doyle**  
[communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)

Editorial Assistant

**Linda Henderson**

Office Administrator

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

The 1st 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](http://www.uuwinnipeg.mb.ca)