

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator September 2021

Religious Exploration begins 10:00 am for children and Sunday Services 10:30 am
Services currently on [Zoom](#)

The theme for September is Reason

September 5: What Inspires Awe and Mystery in You?

Leaders: Multiple Speakers
Coordinator:
Odell Havsdotter

A couple members of our community will respond to the example provided in Story Wisdom and share what has inspired them to see mystery, or even sacredness, in the world around them.

September 12: The Magic of Humanism

Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern
Coordinator: Steve Lennon

We will explore the new book *The Magic of Humanism* from Dr. James Croft of the Ethical Society of St. Louis.

September 19: One Light, One Sun

Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern
Coordinator: Marian Siemens

It's the time of the equinox, when the earth is balanced in both the northern and southern hemispheres. While it's the fall equinox for us in Winnipeg, our southern neighbours are preparing for spring. Both things are true, yet there are two different experiences. What can this teach us about holding multiple truths at once for the caring of the community as a whole?

September 26: Holding One Another

Leader: Rev. Meghann Robern
Coordinator: Marian Siemens

It has been a hard year for all of us, and we've all experienced highs and lows that many of us, if not most, never expected. This service brings us together to hold all that has happened, and to hold our hopes, dreams, and expectations for what the future might bring.

What's Inside

Sunday Services	1
From the Minister's Study	2
Faith Development Notes	3
Message from Board	4 - 5
Chalk Connections	6
CUC Offerings	6 - 9
Camp Reunion	10
First UU Gardens	11
Brainstorm Rentals	12
Who's Who	12

The deadline for the October 2021 issue is
Monday, September 20th



Let me know what you think of the redesigned Communicator. Email Marjorie at communicator@uwinnipeg.mb.ca

The Communicator



by The Reverend Meghann Robern

Sometimes, in this column, I share with you something from my professional development reading that I found so powerful that I want to share it with everyone. This month, it's *Trauma Stewardship*, by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky. This book has been talked about in my clergy circles for several months now, and I finally started it a few weeks ago. I'm privileged to be a very fast reader, but there are some books, both fiction and non-fiction, that must be savoured. This is one of them.

The book itself is about secondary trauma -- what

happens to those of us who are in close proximity to and caring for those experiencing direct trauma. I started it with the assumption that I'd be reading through it with my usual speed, highlighting things I wanted to find easily later. But within the first chapter, I found passages that would hit like I'd had the wind knocked out of me. I needed to stop, and let the words roll around in my mind and heart, feeling what else was going on in my body as well. It was only then, after reflection and discernment, that I could continue reading. It described, in page after page, so much of what I felt and experienced in this last year and a half since the global pandemic arrived in our lives.

It is so easy to think that no one else has ever suffered like we have.

It's our natural reaction to believe that we are alone in holding the pain of those around us, and it makes it worse when we, too, are also in the midst of our own pain. This book helped me feel connected to all the caregivers of the past, to really understand that I am not alone.

And that means you're not alone, either, beloveds.

If you'd like to read it yourself, it's [in stock at McNally Robinson](#). If you want to get a copy, but finances are preventing you, please call or text me at (204) 809-3656 and I will make sure to get you a copy at no cost. You can also read more at the Trauma Stewardship Institute's website: <https://traumastewardship.com/>

In gratitude and faith,
Rev. Meghann

The Communicator



Living Our Faith

by Andrea James, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Last month I let the congregation know that I'll be leaving my position at the end of October. If you missed the letters that went out from me and from the Board of Directors, you'll [find them here](#).

A team has already been formed with the goal of hiring an Interim Religious Educator. Interims are experienced religious educators who have also been trained to support congregations through liminal time. Those of you who have been with us for several years will remember that we hire Interim Ministers in between our settled ministers; this is the same thing. An Interim will help you let go of your concept of what a Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD) is or should be; they'll invite you into exploration and curiosity; and they'll help you open

to someone and something new.

Because there don't happen to be any trained UU Interim Religious Educators hanging out in Winnipeg, this person will work remotely. And we've proven over the last couple of years that this is more than possible - I have been working remotely this whole time.

So what will happen between now and the end of October?

I'll be in the service

"What to expect between now and the end of October"

with you almost every Sunday morning, as usual, and in the pulpit a couple of times. The RE Committee and I will continue to work collaboratively to bring our families connection, care, and community. I'll work toward renewing our youth program and I'll get our adult Covenant Group and Wellspring: Sources programs up and running. And there will be at least one farewell (organized by the RE Committee) and a final service together on October 31st. I'll welcome an Interim DLFD and create

a covenant with them.

On November 1st, I'll unfriend those of you with whom I'm connected on Facebook and Instagram, and I'll be absent from FUUW for at least a year - likely more. This is standard practice for all religious professionals. This is how we make room for grief (where it's present) and for something and someone new to bloom. You'll begin new relationships with your Interim DLFD, getting to know them and supporting their work.

And you'll look after one another. And love will flourish. And all will be well.

Andrea
dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Faith Development
September
For those heading to school — we love you!

- 15** Deadline to send photos/videos of our young UUs to Debby
- 18** UU BIPOC Space, 11:00 am (see notice in this newsletter)
- 25** Chalk Connection! 1:00-4:00 pm (see notice in this newsletter)

The Communicator



Message from the Board of Directors

by Jim Gardiner, President

Lauren Bailey has made the decision to step down from the position as Director and Vice President of the Board. It is important to us to recognize the enormous amount of work that they have done, the determination and strength they provided to help get through to this point in the wake of a pandemic. They were proactive in providing knowledge and skills which assisted in the changes needed to go from a predominantly physical-based church to an online-only church.

Thank you for your leadership, Lauren

Lauren's leaving creates a vacancy within the Board (8 directors from 9). The Board plans to fill the spot and choose a new VP within the month of September.

Message from President of the Board of Directors

I thought I'd start my message off with my perspective on what makes our community strong, related to the Board, the community and communication... and how we can continue to make us better.

I believe the strength of the Board is determined by the strength of the people it serves... you, our church community. The strengths and weaknesses, success and challenges of our congregation is determined by communication: from you to the Board; to you from the Board; between and among you (within your teams and between/among members); the barriers that exist; and the resources we have. The Board's role in this is to help decrease barriers and help find ways to provide resources so we can effectively and most efficiently, live out our Mission. The more efficient and effective we get at this, the more prepared we will be to create progressive changes and

actions. We **are** getting better. We **are** sharing with and listening to each other, and we **are** starting to grow into and live through our Mission.

Examples of this at work... (there are many more):

The quick action to address filling our positions of: Music Director, since PJ's resignation and Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD) with Andrea's planned November 1st retirement. Thank you to Marlene Schellenberg (Board Liaison) and all the people who are working within the Ministry Cluster and are involved in this work.

The A-Team is working with Janine Reid (Board Liaison) within Justice Cluster and is making sure we see through an accessibility-lens and have certainly shown their ability to acquire resources. Thank you to Paula Keirstead and Diane Pearce.

The Facilities Cluster with Tanya Brothers (Board Liaison) also needed to act quickly to push for work to be done to keep our property up

The Communicator

to code, safe and sound. Thanks very much to Michael Thiessen!

Within Congregational Services (Ryan Spies, Board Liaison), work has been initiated to create a congregational survey, it is called "Connect 😊 Now" and will be coming soon... stay tuned for that. Thank you Strategy Planning Team: Peter Miller, Tanya Brothers, Bonnie Thiessen, and Liz Redston.

Finance Cluster (Peter Miller, Board Liaison) is working to make as much happen as fiscally effective as possible. And fundraising and rentals (thank you so much, Darlene Payne) are working to come up with solutions for increasing funds. Thank you to all involved.

I'm sure you have been wondering about opening of the church and Multi Platform Service. You are not alone.

Covid 19 has changed the way we "do church" ... possibly forever. The Multi Platform Team's plan is to phase in our re-opening slowly and carefully.

First and foremost, what is "Multi Platform Church Service"? Ours will consist of four distinct areas that we will work within and combine... flexibility is the key for this:

1. Live (in person),
2. Multiple digital streaming platforms (ie. Facebook, YouTube, etc.) which then enable
3. Flexible viewing (through saved services).
4. Hybrid (live/online) committees and teams.

Volunteers within the community have taken (are taking) an instruction course on-line to enable us to roll out Multi Platform Church Services. Thank you to these five-people.

Second, the plan for a phased re-opening addresses the Delta Variant and the predicted 4th wave, possibly in October. Our first phase works with this in mind. Church will still be presented online to attendees. There will be a slight change in the actual delivery from a logistics point of view in that some service leaders

will volunteer to present from within the Church. We may even have started this system by the time this newsletter is released. The intent of this adjusted delivery is to:

- Get back into using the technology within the sanctuary and
- Have "live music"
- Test out new technology that will aid in this Multi Platform approach.
- Prepare for the day when in person services are a possibility.

The subsequent phases aren't exactly known at this time. Our decisions will be based on a system of real time assessment through a process of Testing – Evaluating – Organizing – Deciding and then looping back through these four lenses again as new information presents. I believe we can become quite adept at creating the best delivery for the times.

Stay tuned for updates from the Multi Platform Team

In faith,
Jim Gardiner

The Communicator

Chalk Connections Saturday, September 25th in the church parking lot

Drop by between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Open to all.

We have a beautiful blank canvas in our recently-paved parking lot, and a whole bunch of sidewalk chalk! Come by and lend your creativity to this community art project. Photos will be taken through the afternoon and of course of the final mural.

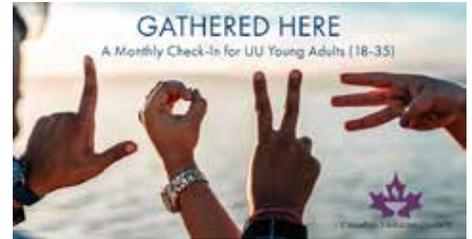
The RE Committee will supply some chalk for each family (after one

family makes use of that chalk, it will be removed), but feel free to bring your own. [This website](#) has fun ideas for images, and recipes for homemade chalk and homemade paint.

Please note: there will be no access to bathrooms. Please practice social distancing and whatever else you need to feel safe(r) during a pandemic. Masks are welcome. We value our little ones who are unable to get vaccinated.

This event will be cancelled if there is rain.

Gathered Here



Join other UU 18-35 year-olds on Zoom for sharing of joys and sorrows, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process the events of our lives with a spiritually grounded community.

Monday, September 13 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 14 1:00 pm

More information is available at <https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-sept-nov->



The Communicator

UU BIPOC Space
Saturdays, September 18, and October 16
11:00 am



A space for UUs who are Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour, ages 18 and up, to gather safely to share experiences, stories, and be change-makers. Join Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana and Vyda Ng to share what is on your minds and in your hearts.

Details [here](#).

Join on Zoom at http://bit.ly/UU_BIPOC

8th Principle Process: Forum

The CUC will hold a series of four forums to bring congregations together in respectful conversation. The forums are cumulative and each one will build on the one before it, and participants can attend these as a series or as stand-alone sessions, although we encourage you to attend all four, especially congregational leaders and delegates. The forums will focus on reflection and embracing action to prepare us for making a significant decision at the Special Meeting on November 27th.

Sundays, September 19 and October 3 and 17, 6:00 pm

More information is available at <https://cuc.ca/events/8th-principle-process-fo>



Leaders Roundtable

Saturdays, September 25 and October 30
11:00 am



Join Vyda Ng and CUC Board members in reflection about accountably dismantling racism and being radically inclusive, one of our [5 Aspirations](#). These specific roundtables on this topic will run on the last Saturday of each month until October 30. After that date, other timely topics will resume. Connect on [Zoom](#).

The Communicator

Lay Chaplain Q&A

Ask Us Anything –
Lay Chaplaincy Edition!

**Tuesday, September
28 – 6:00 pm**

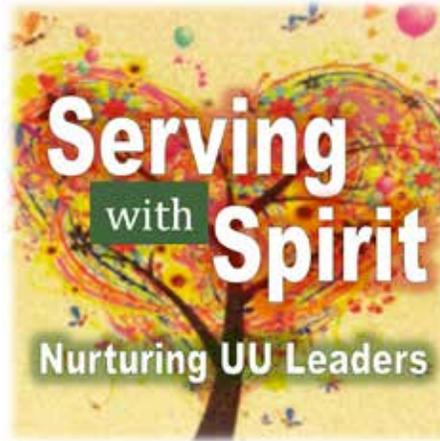
For all those interested in becoming a lay chaplain, and for continuing lay chaplains with burning questions.

More information is available at <https://cuc.ca/events/lay->



Serving With Spirit Leadership Workshop Day

**Saturday, October 2,
10:30 am - 6:30 pm**



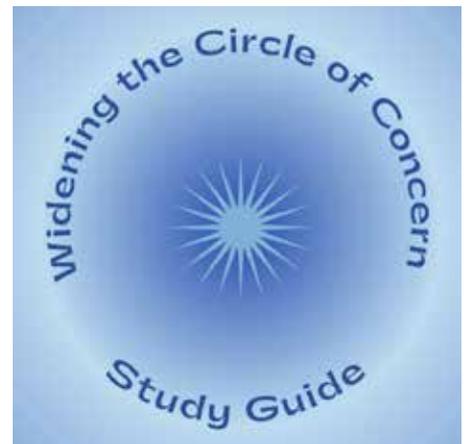
The CUC invites you to join fellow Canadian UUs as we together explore:

- identifying leadership gifts and welcoming ways to express them
- finding creative expression for UU values
- building skills so that our structures reflect our UU principles

More information is available at <https://cuc.ca/events/serving-with-spirit-leader->

Widening the Circle of Concern: Canadian Perspective

**October 16 & 30,
November 13, and
December 4, 10:30
am- 6:30 pm**



Join us for a Canadian UU exploration to broaden our understanding of social justice and its implementation within our communities.

More information is available at <https://cuc.ca/events/widening-cir>

The Communicator

Media, Racism, and Censorship with Christine Genier

Wednesday, October 20, 2021



Indigenous broadcaster Christine Genier speaks to us about her experience as a truth-teller in a predominantly white institution that promotes itself as multicultural.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/media-racism-and-censorship-with-christine-genier-tickets-164031220797>

Communicating from the Heart

**1st weekend:
October 22-24**
**2nd weekend:
October 29-31**

This webinar is a multi-part advanced communications training, with a focus on building effective listening on the first weekend, leading to

building effective speaking skills on the second weekend, with some exercises in between. We encourage active Lay Chaplains to register by September 7, and others to wait until then to register.

More information is available at <https://cuc.ca/events/communicating-he>



ComUUnities & Mental Health Matters



The CUC welcomes people to consider that mental health lies on a

continuum from health, to issues requiring professional support. We know that approximately 20% of Canadians will experience a mental health-related challenge in their lifetime. People in our congregations can be directly and indirectly, through their relationships, affected by mental health struggles. How can we provide a supportive and welcoming community while also respecting appropriate and respectful boundaries in our congregational roles?

On **November 6**, we welcome you to join us for a day long workshop considering these and other questions.

For more information, or to register, please visit <https://cuc.ca/events/comunities-mental->

The Communicator

UU Summer Camp Reunion

by Liz Redston

Join us: UU Summer Camp Reunion - for friends new and old
Thursday, September 2, 4:00 - 7:00 pm in the Church backyard

Are you missing the annual Summer Camp weekend we have hosted at Unitarian Centre in Hnusa MB?

After 11 years of camp weekends and two years of social distancing, please know you are welcome to join in an evening of Community and Conversation. Come and reminisce, or learn more

if you are new, and help us figure out what future camp weekends might look like in coming years. Everyone is welcome - even if you have never been to camp or intend to go. Maybe you just feel like connecting and sitting in our beautiful backyard. We may even have a bonfire.

When: **September 2, 2021**, drop in between **4 and 7 pm** with our group discussion from **5:45 to 6:45 pm**

Where: at the Church in the backyard (building open for bathroom use).

Please RSVP to Odell at ziphii@gmail.com

Please plan to bring lawn chairs and your own picnic supper.

In the spirit of ensuring everyone feels safe and comfortable please ask others about social distancing preferences as we gather together and set up our chairs. People are of course welcome to wear masks outside. Masks will be required for inside the church building to use the washroom. We are following our church protocols.

Rain date to be announced if needed.



The Communicator

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg Gardens

by Jennifer Johnsen

Adina and I took this donation of beets, tomatoes, parsley, basil and dill to Fred Tipping Place. They are very happy to receive any produce. Beci says it goes very quickly. If anyone has extra produce this is a good place to take it.

Also Beci asked if anyone would be interested in volunteering at Fred Tipping to organize a few gardens for the residents to tend. She said this would be mainly a spring

time job planning gardens and organizing tenants. If you are interested you could contact Beci at Fred Tipping.

We had some challenges this summer with the garden. Primarily we have had problems protecting the plants from deer and ? We have contrived fencing with chicken wire which has helped but is a nuisance to remove and replace. We lost plants that could have been big producers — cucumber, tomatoes (Michael replaced),

squash, potato, pumpkin and rhubarb!

The rain barrels have worked well as far as placement and ease. Lack of rain has been a problem of course.

The riverbank has noticeably less burdock and Canada thistle I am happy to report. The swamp milkweed and sage planted there is settling in well.

We will continue to take what the garden provides to Fred Tipping for this season.



The Communicator

Help Us Brainstorm Ideas for Rental Recovery Planning

Do you have ideas that will help to grow or enhance our rental revenue?

Our rental revenue helps us to sustain our community and cover much of the operating costs of our physical building.

The link below is an open collaboration document — a way to join an online brainstorm without a meeting!

Please open the document link and simply add your ideas to the various topic headings — or create a new topic heading if needed.

Simply close the doc when done - no need to save or email.

We know you have many great ideas that will help us to ...

- find new groups to connect with for on going rental partnerships
- ways to enhance the rental opportunities
- where to advertise or reach key groups
- improvements to our space that will grow rental revenue
- improvements to website and social media profile

We need all your suggestions and ideas — help us to develop new plans for growing rental revenue in the coming years.

If you have questions please email: rentals@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Thanks everyone.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W3R0AZB-jgWWhrqA5s-YIsLAGF-8wDW2hYMIAVvEBSrf1k/edit?usp=sharing>

Who's Who

Minister

the Reverend Meghann Robern
minister@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Andrea James

dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Lay Chaplain

Barb Shearer

Board President

Jim Gardner

president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Bonnie Thiessen and Esmat Elhami

pastoralcare@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Music Director & Choir

Accompanist

Paul Rodermond

music@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Caretaker

Ray Aikens

Webmaster

Karin Carlson

webmaster@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Rental Events Director

rentals@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Newsletter Editor

Marjorie Doyle

communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Editorial Assistant

Linda Henderson

Office Administrator

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

Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to:

communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

The **deadline** for the **October** issue is:

Monday, September 20th

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.