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Sunday Services

February Theme: *Love and Justice*

February 26 They Will Know We are U*Us by Our Love. CUC 2016 Confluence Lecture, Rev. Melora Lyngood. This will be an hour-long video from the last year’s CUC Conference, so please make yourself comfortable and leave when you need to.

March Theme: *Simplicity*

March 5: International Women’s Day. The CUUWA (Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women’s Association) invites all congregations across Canada to celebrate International Women’s Day in a service on one of the Sundays close to March 8, International Women’s Day. This year, Jo-Anne and Anneke, who are CUUWA Council members, will be using some of the materials from the theme package prepared for the IWD. The 2017 theme is It’s Simple: We Need Change Now.

March 12: Service Leader: Heather Lunergan. Heather will be leading the service, which will be at least tangentially related to Spring Equinox

March 19: tbd

March 26: We will be streaming a service from the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax. Reverend Norm Horofker will be leading a service, including story and hymns, on the theme of Simplicity. There will be an opportunity for Fredericton participants to share announcements and Joys and Sorrows as usual.

Note: The Multifaith Celebration will be held at STU in the afternoon)

April Theme: *Sacred Places*

April 2: Service Leader: Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes. Multi-generational, interactive Service on the theme of Sacred Spaces. Children, youth, and adults are welcome to do creative activities about home, nature, and the sense of awe and wonder.



Women’s Monthly Pot Luck

The next Unitarian Fellowship women’s pot luck will be held Friday, March 24th. Janet Crawford will host the gathering at her home, 155 Aberdeen Street. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The topic for discussion will be distributed by email before the date. For further information, contact Joan Brewer at jebrewer@rogers.com



Update on Electronic Circuit Ministry

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes
 Chair, Sunday Services

Last fall, I contacted Reverend Norm Horofker, at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, about an idea he had mentioned at our Cluster Gathering in Fall 2015. Reverend Horofker had set out some ideas about how congregations in the Maritimes could work together. Some of you may know that in the early years of our history, the lay-led Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton had visits from time to time from the minister in Halifax, who did a sort of “circuit ministry.” Later, this evolved in part-time and occasional visits from ministers, usually from Maine, sometimes from Montreal (and more recently Bouctouche), of from Halifax. And we are so grateful to be able to count on the help and support of the Canadian Unitarian Council when Reverend Linda Thomson visits us and offers a Sunday Service as well as a workshop.

What the Halifax congregation and our congregation developed, starting in the fall, is an “electronic circuit ministry” project. We changed the time of our services to start

at 10:30, as Halifax does, and that seems to be working out well for most of our members and friends. We have also coordinated our monthly themes, as Halifax follows a schedule shared with many congregations across Canada.

After meeting virtually a number of times to “rehearse” and work out some of the glitches, we are getting close to a high-quality, shared worship experience. To date, we have live streamed two Sunday Services led by Reverend Horofker on the Zoom platform, and certainly appreciate the carefully-designed services, and especially the homilies offered by the minister.

We have now scheduled three more dates for the streamed services from Halifax, close to the end of March, April, and May. This will make it easier for us to schedule speakers and topics around the Halifax service. At the time we first talked about electronic circuit ministry, we had three U*U congregations in the Maritimes outside of Halifax: ours, Saint John’s, and PEI’s. Since that time, the groups in Saint John and PEI have dwindled, and starting in March, I will be inviting people from those groups to join us on Zoom. They will be able to watch and listen, although we won’t see or hear them during the streaming. We hope that we can find other solutions to serve those U*Us who are no longer able to attend services in their own communities.



CUC Competitions

Hi everyone, The CUC board has had a team planning how to promote and celebrate our new Vision Statement. We are doing so with two contests, and hope you can get your members excited about participating. Full details of these contests is now on the CUC website at <http://cuc.ca/vision-and-mission/> In brief, here’s what they are:

- A. Interconnected Faith Sermon Contest: Write a new sermon/homily of 1,800 to 2,500 words on any aspect of the Vision Statement and its five attached Aspirations. Deliver that sermon to a Unitarian congregation sometime between today and the contest deadline of Feb. 2, 2018. Participants can be ministers or lay people and must be connected to a Canadian UU congregation. The winner will receive a \$150 prize, plus an invitation to present their sermon during the CUC 2018 ACM held in Hamilton.
- B. Canadian Unitarian Art Contest: Create a piece of art that celebrates our new Vision Statement – the statement itself, not the five attached Aspirations. The art can be in any medium – painting, sculpture, songs, videos, poems. Participants should submit their original work or, if the work can’t be mailed, send photographs of the work.

There will be three categories, based on the creator’s age range: age 12 and under; age 13-17; and age 18 and older. Group projects, such as from an RE group, are welcome. Prizes of \$50 will go to the winning piece in each category.

Deadline for submissions: Oct. 1, 2017.

Participants must be connected to a Canadian UU congregation. The winning pieces will be shared online with Canadian Unitarian Universalists.

Cheers,
Susan Ruttan
CUC board member,
Western region

Our national Vision Statement is: *As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice. These 5 Aspirations guide us in living out our faith: As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we are Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive, Actively Engaged, Theologically Alive, and Spiritually Grounded.*

This space wants your material!
Please send articles to touchstone@uff.ca